

# Welcome to the Eastpoint Core Values Class!

Today we are going to look at three core values of being a Christ follower. Jesus consistently emphasizes these principles and it is important for us to put these values into practice on a regular basis. Christians everywhere have devoted themselves to practicing these essential elements and have experienced amazing growth in their relationship with the Lord. Our hope is that you will choose to join us in embracing these three values, and together, we will experience the wonder of the Kingdom of God.

## CORE VALUES OF A DISCIPLE OF JESUS

### LOVE GOD

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus teaches, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment.” (*Matthew 22:37–38, NIV*). All other commandments in the Bible rest on this important foundation so we will spend extra time exploring this vital element of our faith. Jesus came so that we might know God, the Father, and love Him deeply.

*“Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.”*

*John 17:3–5, NIV*

### **Jesus Came that We Could Know God and Have a Relationship with Him**

*“In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.”*

*Hebrews 1:1–2, NIV*

Jesus came so that we could learn to love our Heavenly Father and have a relationship with Him. Learning to love God begins with following Jesus.

*“Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.”*

*John 14:10–12, NIV*

## **Jesus Desires for Us to Become His Disciples**

Jesus uses the term **disciple** to describe his followers. The word **Christian** appears only three times in the Bible, but the word disciple appears almost 300 times. Consequently, we learn how to follow Jesus by examining what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

*“Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’”*

*Matthew 28:18–20, NIV*

Would you describe yourself as a disciple of Jesus? If not, what needs to change for you to consider yourself a disciple? Many people have never made a conscious decision to become a follower of Jesus. Let’s take a look at some of the key convictions that people embrace as they make the decision to be a disciple of Jesus.

*For further study see: Luke 9:23-26; 14:25-33, Acts 11:19-26*

## **A Disciple of Jesus Recognizes the Depth of God’s Love**

At the very beginning of creation God desired a relationship with man. It was perfect. God made us to love Him and to be loved by Him.

*“The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.”*

*Zephaniah 3:17, NIV*

*“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!*

*1 John 3:1a, NIV*

It is difficult to imagine the depth of God’s love for us. Throughout the Bible, God strives to express His passionate affection for us. God’s love is perfect and never ending. He has always wanted to “lavish” His love on us.

*For further study see: Jeremiah 31:3, Exodus 34:14, Psalm 100:3-5*

### **A Disciple of Jesus Realizes the Brokenness Caused by Sin**

Sin is devastating because it harms our relationships (see *Genesis 3*). Many of us have experienced the pain of broken relationships, but the terrible truth is that sin separates us from God. Sometimes our hearts become hardened to the effects of sin and our consciences can become calloused. God often uses extreme language to remind us that sin is a spiritually deadly poison. It initially tastes sweet, but its consequences are bitter. These reminders help us appreciate our need for our savior, Jesus Christ.

*“The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.”*

*Galatians 5:19–21, NIV*

We all sin and are subject to its effects on our lives.

*“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.”*

*Romans 3:23–24, NIV*

The bad news is that sin separates us from God and others, but the good news is that Jesus came to bring forgiveness of sins, grace, and healing to relationships: first in our relationship with our heavenly Father, then in our relationships with others.

*For further study see: Isaiah 59:2, 2 Timothy 3:1-5, James 2:10, Ephesians 2:1-10*

## A Disciple of Jesus Believes that our Lord Restores Broken Relationships

The sacrifice, love, and grace of Jesus restores our broken relationship with God. Let's take a look at some scriptures that illustrate this.

*“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”*

*John 3:16–17, NIV*

*“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”*

*Luke 19:10, NIV*

*“This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.”*

*1 John 4:9–10, NIV*

*“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

*Romans 5:8, NIV*

*“Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.”*

*Hebrews 7:25, NIV*

Jesus cleanses us of sin through His loving sacrifice. He redeems us and repairs our brokenness. The cross and the resurrection are God's plan to bring us back into relationship with the Father and with one another.

*For further study see: Mark 16:16, Acts 4:12, Romans 1:16, Romans 8:38-39, Romans 10:9-10, 1 Timothy 2:3-6, 2 Timothy 1:9, Titus 2:11-12, and Hebrews 9:28,*

## A Disciple of Jesus Responds to God's Incredible Love

### 1. ***Our Hearts Are Moved and We Believe***

When our hearts are moved to pursue a relationship with Jesus, and we believe that He is our Lord and Savior, we are motivated to change the way we think about life. We are transformed from the inside out. The Bible calls this *repentance*, and this change of mind is a reflection of a change in our relationship with God.

*“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.” When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”*

*Acts 2:36–38, NIV*

### 2. ***Our Belief Leads to Repentance***

Repentance has more to do with changing our master than changing our behavior. It's about making Jesus Lord- not so much changing from bad to good, but aligning ourselves with Jesus. Repentance involves dying to ourselves and living for Christ.

*“Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self? Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.”*

*Luke 9:23–26, NIV*

*“For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.”*

*2 Corinthians 5:14–15, NIV*

These scriptures describe the response to a loving relationship with Jesus. We don't approach life the same way once we understand what Jesus has done for us. His love motivates us to change the way we live.

### **3. We are Baptized**

At baptism, we identify with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.

*“What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”*

*Romans 6:1–4, NIV*

*Jesus died and was buried and resurrected.  
Our old life “died with Christ” (through baptism), but we are raised to new life.*

Baptism symbolizes the death of our old life and the beginning of our new life in Christ. We participate in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus during baptism. Baptism is also associated with conversion.

*“And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.”*

*Acts 22:16, NIV*

Baptism is an act of faith.

***At Eastpoint we baptize people as part of their decision to follow Jesus. For this reason, we do not baptize infants, and we ask those baptized as infants to be baptized again as an expression of their faith.***

*For further study see: 1 Corinthians 15:3, Galatians 2:20, Mark 16:16, Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:16, Romans 10:13, Colossians 3:1-17*

### **4. We Enjoy Life in the Spirit through Grace, Freedom, and Discipleship**

*“To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?” Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”*

*John 8:31–36, NIV*

*Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."*

*Colossians 3:1–17, NIV*

## **Summary:**

### ***A Disciple of Jesus...***

- ***Recognizes the Depth of God's Love***
- ***Realizes the Brokenness Caused by Sin***
- ***Believes that Jesus Restores Broken Relationships***
- ***Responds to God's Incredible Love***

# LOVE THE CHURCH

Many of us think of the church as a building, but this is far from what the Bible teaches. The original term for the church, *ekklesia* (Biblical Greek), is better translated as “those who are called to gather.”[i] It is a term used for the people of God in both the Old and New Testament.[ii] When we view the church as the God’s people, the biblical images used to describe the church take on a new perspective.

## **The Church is Like a Family**

Throughout the New Testament, the church is described as a family. Just like a family, the church is relational and sometimes imperfect.

*“For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.”*

*Romans 8:15-17, NIV*

We are children of God by our adoption through Christ. Our inheritance; Jesus is our brother- we are co-heirs with Christ. We gain a brand-new chance to start over and learn about a healthy family.

## **We Are Adopted into God’s Family- Ephesians 2:19-21**

Our family is built on the apostles and prophets with Jesus the Cornerstone. This is a place of closeness, as well as conflicts, hardship as well as celebration, births and deaths. We have spiritual sisters and brothers and we treat everyone with respect.

*For further study see: Ephesians 2:19-21, 1 Timothy 5:1-2*

## **The Church is Like a Body**

*“And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.”*

*Colossians 1:18*

The church is the body and Christ is the head. Jesus leads his church, and we follow his lead. The church is the presence of Jesus on earth and does his work. Each person within the church has been given special abilities or gifts.

*“Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.”*

*Romans 12:4-5, NIV*

The body has different parts and these parts are interdependent. We all have special gifts from God and are called to use those abilities to love and serve Jesus and others. Though we may feel dispensable at times, every one of us is an important part of Christ’s work. Each part belongs to all the others.

*For further study see: Ephesians 4:4-16, 1 Corinthians 12:12-16*

## **The Church is a Community**

*“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”*

*Acts 2:42-47, NIV*

### **Community is Part of our Spiritual Formation**

We are formed by the Holy Spirit as we live in Christ-centered community, loving and serving the Lord.

### **Community is Multi-faceted**

The Bible continually encourages us to experience Christian community on two levels: in a large group and a small group setting. We are probably attracted more to one or the other, but both are important.

### **Living in Community Helps Us Care for One Another**

The *large group* helps us to muster resources to meet substantial needs, while the *small group* provides the time, intimacy, and attention needed to build a foundation of deep caring relationships. The two go hand-in-hand.

## Living in Community Requires Generosity

“... the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

*Acts 20:35 NIV*

Maybe your journey with Jesus is just beginning or perhaps this is the first time you are giving back to God through His church here at Eastpoint. What an exciting time to begin! Maybe you are a seasoned Christ follower and Jesus has been calling you to be faithful in giving financially. We are in the middle of a special generosity initiative and we invite you to join us. It is called All In, and it is a two year project to launch The Point Community Center and reach the people of Greater Portland for Jesus.

To find out how you can be part of this great opportunity, check out [eastpoint.church/allin](http://eastpoint.church/allin).

## The Church is a Light that Shines in a Dark World

*“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”*

*Matthew 5:14-16*

Jesus desires for his people to bring light and warmth into this dark, cold world. This is part of our vision in building a community center.

*For further study see: Acts 8:8, Philippians 2:14-16, 1 Timothy 2:3-4*

## Christ Continues to Build His Church

### Elders Oversee the Spiritual Health of the Church

*“Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God’s church?) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil’s trap.”*

*1 Timothy 3:1-7*

## Pastors and Staff Help Shepherd, Train, and Organize God's People to do His Work

*It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*

*Ephesians 4:11-13, NIV*

## We are all Called to be Servants of Christ

We are called to function like a healthy family; when we all chip in and serve, God is glorified and we are more productive and fruitful. Consequently, every disciple of Jesus is called to be generous and serve according to the grace that God has given to them.

## Summary:

- ***The Church is a Family—We are called to be brothers and sisters in Christ.***
- ***The Church is a Body— We are interdependent.***
- ***The Church is a Community—We are called to share life with each other.***
- ***The Church is a Light—We are called to be a beacon of Christ's love to the world.***

# LOVE YOUR NEIGHBORS

## Jesus Teaches that We Should Love Our Neighbor

*“One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, ‘Of all the commandments, which is the most important?’ ‘The most important one,’ answered Jesus, ‘is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.’”*

*Mark 12:28-31, NIV*

## Who is My Neighbor?

“On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. ‘Teacher,’ he asked, ‘what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ **‘What is written in the Law?’** he replied. **‘How do you read it?’** He answered, ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ **‘You have answered correctly,’** Jesus replied. **‘Do this and you will live.’** But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbor?’ In reply Jesus said: **‘A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’ ‘Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?’ The expert in the law replied, ‘The one who had mercy on him.’ Jesus told him, **‘Go and do likewise.’”****

*Luke 10:25-37, NIV*

## Praying for Our Friends and Neighbors

One of the simplest, yet profoundly powerful ways that we can love our neighbors is to pray for them. At Eastpoint we strive to **Pray For One**. As you enter Sunday service you will receive a connect card with a section entitled “Pray for One.” We encourage you to write the name of a friend or neighbor that needs to know Jesus. The staff and prayer team will join you in praying for this person.

## Spend Time Encouraging and Caring for Unchurched Family and Friends

Remember to give unconditional love to those around you. As we say at Eastpoint, “We don’t love our neighbors to convert them, we love our neighbors because we have been converted.”[iii]

## Care for those in Trouble

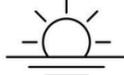
Jesus wants us to spend our time and resources to help those who are troubled, desperate, needy, and infirmed. Disciples of Jesus are called to be active in helping those who may need additional resources or help within their communities. Eastpoint is blessed to partner with many local groups that focus on meeting needs in the Greater Portland Area.

## Summary:

- ***Jesus places a high priority on loving our neighbor.***
- ***Loving our neighbor means caring for the desperate, troubled, and marginalized.***

# CORE ACTIONS OF A DISCIPLE OF JESUS

Our core actions demonstrate ways to express our core values. These are practices that help us cultivate a close relationship with God and others. As we pursue these actions, they serve to strengthen our faith and produce the fruits of the Spirit that glorify God.

		CORE ACTIONS		
		CELEBRATE	CONNECT	SERVE
CORE VALUES	LOVE GOD	 PERSONAL WORSHIP	 CHAIR TIME	 SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES
	LOVE CHURCH	 CORPORATE WORSHIP	 SMALL GROUPS	 SERVE IN CHURCH
	LOVE NEIGHBORS	 INTENTIONAL LIVING	 RELATIONSHIP BUILDING	 SERVE IN COMMUNITY

## CELEBRATE: EXPRESSING THE JOY OF JESUS THROUGH WORSHIP

- Personal Worship: praising God throughout the day.
- Corporate Worship: praising God together on Sunday mornings.
- Intentional Living: living out the Gospel in our actions.

## CONNECT: LEARNING TO LOVE LIKE JESUS THROUGH RELATIONSHIPS

- Devotional Time: spending time alone with God, in Bible study and prayer.
- Small Groups: growing and learning with other believers.
- Relationship Building: spending time with friends and neighbors who aren't walking with Jesus.

## SERVE: SHARING THE HOPE OF JESUS THROUGH GENEROUS LIVING

- Spiritual Disciplines: maturing in faith through prayer, giving, fasting, resting, meditating and more.
- Serve in the Church: volunteering at Eastpoint.
- Serve in the Community: volunteering with a local organization.

*It is important to understand that these core values are not an end in and of themselves. Applying these core values should lead us to a greater devotion to Jesus and to his church.*

### Becoming a Core Values Partner:

Core Values Partner is the term that we use for membership at Eastpoint. We prefer the word *partner* because it is used multiple times in the scriptures (Rom 12, 1 Cor 12, Eph 4:16) and captures the sense of unity and teamwork that is important to Jesus. Eastpoint Core Values Partners earnestly strive to...

1. Pursue a relationship with God through a daily time of prayer and Bible reading. We call this “Chair Time.”
2. Attend a weekly worship service at Eastpoint.
3. Connect with a Life Groups or a Ministry Class regularly.
4. Serve in an Eastpoint Ministry regularly.
5. Apply your time and resources to help meet needs within our community.

Whether you are ready to become a Core Values Partner or not, we are committed to helping everyone grow in their walk with Jesus. If you are ready, we welcome you with open arms and will actively help you make connections in a small group and a ministry that is right for you. If you need more time we invite to take things at your own pace. Here are a few next steps that may help you on your faith journey.

## Next Steps:

### **Take the Starting Point Class**

Starting Point is a conversational environment where you can explore faith and experience community. If you are new to Christianity or coming back to church after being away for a while, this 8-week class is a great place to begin.

### **Meet with a Pastor or Ministry Leader**

If you want to find out more about Eastpoint, setting up a meeting with a pastor or ministry leader is a great way to get started. You can get to know the heart of our ministry through time and conversation with those who serve here every day. We also love to meet to talk about what it means to follow Jesus and plans for baptism.

### **Join a Life Group or Ministry Class**

We encourage people to join a Life Group as soon as possible. Life Groups are small groups of 8-16 adults who meet in homes throughout the week to grow in their faith and encourage one another. Experiencing community is essential for continued growth in loving God and others.

### **Take S.H.A.P.E Class**

S.H.A.P.E. is an acronym that stands for Spiritual Gifts, Hearts Passion, Abilities, Personality, and Experience. This class explores how God has uniquely gifted you in these areas so that you can serve within His Kingdom. If you are a seasoned Christian changing churches, this 8-week class will help you look at God's purpose for your life with fresh eyes.

### **Serve in the Church**

When we offer our gifts and talents by serving in the church, we glorify God, strengthen our brothers and sisters, and empower the church to meet the needs within our community. You can serve at Eastpoint in many ways- helping at the coffee bar, greeting people before church, volunteering in the nursery, etc. You can find more about how to help serve by going to [eastpoint.church/volunteer](http://eastpoint.church/volunteer).

### **Join an Outreach Team**

God calls us to share our hope with the world. From joining a community organization to participating mission trips, there are many opportunities for outreach at Eastpoint, both locally and across the globe.

# Commitment to Eastpoint's Core Values

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and been baptized as a believer, I now make a commitment to becoming an Eastpoint Core Values Partner. In doing so, I commit to partner with others to do the following:

## I COMMIT TO LOVE GOD

*“Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’”*

*Matthew 22:37, NIV*

***By pursuing a relationship with God through Jesus Christ and by developing a heart of praise, adoration, and gratitude.***

- We ask new believers to express their devotion to Jesus by being baptized (Matthew 28:18-20, NIV).
- If you were christened as an infant and have never been baptized as an expression of your faith and commitment to follow Christ, we ask that you get baptized as a believer (Galatians 3:26-27, NIV).

***By seeking to know and connect with God by praying and reading the bible regularly.  
By developing healthy spiritual habits that benefit my relationship with God and help me to become more like Jesus.***

## I COMMIT TO LOVE THE CHURCH

*“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”*

*John 13:34–35, NIV*

***By worshiping with the Eastpoint Christian Church family on Sundays.***

***By participating in a small group on a regular basis.***

***I am currently involved in \_\_\_\_\_ (Life Group, Ministry, or Class).***

***I am interested in joining a Life Group.***

***I am interested in joining the next Starting Point Class.***

***By volunteering my time and energy to serve within the church.***

***I am currently volunteering with \_\_\_\_\_ Eastpoint Team (examples: Greeter, Café, Student Ministry, Children's Ministry, Administration, etc.)***

***I'd like to join a volunteer team.***

## I COMMIT TO LOVING MY NEIGHBOR

*“Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”*

*Matthew 22:37-40, NIV*

***By living in obedience to the teachings of Jesus as put forth in the Bible and to share Jesus with my friends and family.***

*“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.”*

*1 Timothy 4:12, NIV*

***By taking the time to build relationships with friends and family who do not yet know and follow Jesus.***

***By volunteering my time and resources within my community outside of Eastpoint Christian Church.***

***I am currently volunteering in my community with \_\_\_\_\_.***

***I’d like to join an Eastpoint Outreach Team.***

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Check appropriate boxes below)*

- I was baptized as a believer at age \_\_\_\_\_.***
- I would like to be baptized as a believer in Jesus Christ.***
- I am ready to commit to the core values of Eastpoint Christian Church.***
- I am not yet ready to commit to the core values of Eastpoint Christian Church.***

## ***Resolving Relationship Issues***

*“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”*

*John 17:20–21, NIV*

*“If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.”*

*Matthew 18:15–17, NIV*

## ***Choosing to Leave Eastpoint After Becoming a Core Values Partner***

There are many good reasons that people may move to another ministry, and there are also unfortunate reasons. Either way, we would like to know if you choose to leave our church family. You can do this in writing or verbally with any member of our staff or any of our elders. If Eastpoint isn't the right church for you, we will be glad to make suggestions of other healthy churches in the Greater Portland area. If you are moving to another location, we would also like to help you find a church where you can connect.

# Additional Resources

## How to Get Started with Chair Time

*Spending time daily with God is the most important thing you can do to grow in your love for Him, learn to hear His voice, strengthen your faith, and experience His abundant presence, peace, and grace.*

Chair time is simple to get started. God is always waiting for you with open arms, so any time of day is fine, but many people prefer to start their day with chair time. When you begin your morning with God, you immediately tune your spirit and mind to His leading so that your perspective, attitude and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit are more aligned to be like Jesus throughout the day. Here are a few simple steps and ideas to get you going!

1. **Find a place** where you can be alone with God. Get creative if necessary. Some people even put a pillow on the floor in a closet. The important thing is to find a place where you can feel safe and undisturbed to pour your heart out before the Lord and listen to Him.

2. **Open with a simple prayer** by asking God to open your heart, tune your spiritual ears to listen, and to draw you closer to Him.

3. **Spend at least 10 minutes reading the Bible** by using a reading plan in an App on your phone or tablet, like YouVersion, or with a devotional book that includes a portion of scripture reading. See the reverse side for suggestions. While you read, think about the passage and why God might be bringing it to your attention right now. Most importantly, read with an expectant heart and an open ear. God will speak to you through His Word as you grow in your relationship. You may want to keep a notebook handy so that you can write down what you are learning and how God is speaking to you.

4. **Pray, meditate and listen.** When you finish reading, spend time conversing with God. Speaking out loud to Him is best. While there is no formula for prayer, some people find it helpful to follow this outline when first getting comfortable with prayer. To help you remember, the first letter of each step spells the word “Acts.”

- **Adoration** - praise God for who He is and what He’s done; marvel upon His glory and power as King of your life
- **Confession** - ask the Holy Spirit to reveal your sins to you and then confess, repent and ask for strength to resist in the future
- **Thanksgiving** - thank Him for the blessings in your life, as well as the trials, and ask Him to make you more dependent on Him

- Supplication - bring your burdens and requests before Him. Remember to pause and listen frequently throughout your prayer time. It may seem awkward at first, but with practice, you will learn to hear His voice and crave His presence.

### ***Suggested Resources for Chair Time***

#### ***Bible Types and Uses:***

Which version? There are many different versions, or translations, of the Bible for a variety of reasons. We recommend you start with either the ***New International Version*** or the ***English Standard Version***. These versions use today's language but closely retain the word-for-word meaning of the original scriptures. For additional insight and cultural context, but not as a primary text, you might want to check out the New Living Translation or The Message version, which are paraphrased version that strive to capture spirit and heart of the message.

Which type? If you want additional commentary from Biblical scholars, study bibles include extensive notes and historical context. We suggest the Life Application Study Bible. If you want to read through the Bible in a year, along with devotional content, we suggest the Daily Walk Bible.

***Bible Apps for Smartphones and Tablets:*** These Apps are completely FREE and offer a variety of reading plans based on topics, books of the Bible, or specific goals. Access and read the entire Bible in any version, including some available for download. Also available FREE online.

#### ***Suggested Daily Devotional Books (e-Books or hard copies):***

*Jesus Calling*, by Sarah Young

*Jesus Today*, by Sarah Young

*My Utmost for His Highest* (Updated Edition in Today's Language), by Oswald Chambers

*The Songs of Jesus: A Year of Daily Devotions in the Psalms*, by Timothy Keller

#### ***Supplemental Reading for Exploring and Deepening Your Faith:***

*The Case for Christ: A Journalist's Personal Investigation of the Evidence for Jesus*, Lee Strobel

*How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*, Gordon D. Fee

*The Purpose-Driven Life: What on Earth Am I Here For?*, by Rick Warren

*Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis (Best-selling classic of Christian faith)

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[i] C. Marvin Pate, "Church, The." *Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology*, Baker reference library (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1996). Np.

[ii] Ekklesia is used in the LXX to refer to the assembly of Israel.

[iii] Jay Pathak and Dave Runyon, *The Art of Neighboring: Building Genuine Relationships Right Outside Your Door* (Baker Books, 2011) 99-101.

