



NBJ 101

**Nothing But Jesus
In My Church Family**

PARTICIPANT GUIDE

Welcome

Reach 101: Nothing But Jesus in my Church Family is the first class in Reach's Membership Track. You were designed to be a part of a church family, and that's exactly what Reach is intended to be—your family. A healthy family has common beliefs, purposes, and commitment. That's why we want to share with you what we believe and what unites us as a church.

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**SESSION
ONE**

Our Purpose

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CHRISTIAN?

Most people live their entire lives without ever knowing “WHY?” They exist year after year with no idea of why they live or God’s purpose for their lives. The most basic question a person asks is, “What is the meaning of life?”

Everyone wants to be happy. People try many ways.

- Some look for happiness by acquiring possessions.
- Some look for happiness by experiencing pleasure.
- Some look for happiness by gaining prestige and power.

But real happiness comes from understanding my purpose in life.

Why Am I Here?

1. God created me to _____ me.

The LORD appeared to us in the past saying: “I have loved you with an everlasting love.”

JEREMIAH 31:3 (NIV)

Even before the world was made, God had already chosen us to be his through our union with Christ. . . Because of his love God had already decided that through Jesus Christ he would make us his children—this was God’s pleasure and purpose.

EPHESIANS 1:4-5 (GNT)

2. We were created to _____ a personal relationship with God and to _____ all of the rest of God’s creation. This makes us special.

So God created human beings, making them to be like himself. He created them male and female, blessed them, and said, “Have many children, so that your descendants will live all over the earth and bring it under their control. I am putting you in charge of the fish, the birds, and all the wild animals.”

GENESIS 1:27-28 (GNT)

[Jesus said,] “I have come in order that you might have life—life in all its fullness!”

JOHN 10:10 (GNT)

3. When we know and love God and live in harmony with his purpose for our lives, it produces tremendous benefits in our lives.

CLEAR CONSCIENCE Romans 8:1	LIFE AND PEACE Romans 8:6	HELP WITH WEAKNESS Romans 8:26
PURPOSE Romans 8:28	CONFIDENCE Romans 8:31	SECURITY Romans 8:39
POWER AND STRENGTH Philippians 4:13	FULFILLMENT Philippians 4:19	FREEDOM John 8:32, 36

What's the Problem?

1. People have a natural desire to _____ and to ignore God's principles for living.



2. The Bible calls this attitude _____.

All of us like sheep have gone astray; each of us has turned to his own way.

ISAIAH 53:6 (MEV)

If we say that we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and refusing to accept the truth.

1 JOHN 1:8 (TLB)

Sin breaks our close relationship with God. It causes us to fear God and try to live our lives outside of his will.

The trouble is that your sins have cut you off from God.

ISAIAH 59:2 (TLB)

Yes, all have sinned; all fall short of God's glorious ideal.

ROMANS 3:23 (TLB)

When our relationship with God is not right, it causes problems in every area of our lives—marriage, career, relationships, finances, etc.

“WHEN PEOPLE HAVE PROBLEMS, THEY OFTEN TRY MANY DIFFERENT WAYS OF COPING BEFORE TURNING TO GOD.”

There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.

PROVERBS 16:25 (NIV84)

Even when we know that our deepest need is God, we often try wrong ways of getting to know him.



What's the Solution?

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

JOHN 14:6 (NIV)

God himself came to earth as a human being to bring us back to himself. If any other way would have worked, Jesus Christ would not have had to come. The way is in the person of Jesus Christ.

"JESUS HAS ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF YOUR SIN PROBLEM."

The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ROMANS 6:23 (NIV84)

God did this for us because he loves us and wants us to know him. God demonstrated his love for us in that while we were still separated from God by sin, Christ died for us.

ROMANS 5:8 (AP)

God is on one side and all the people on the other side, and Christ Jesus, himself man, is between them to bring them together, by giving his life for all mankind.

1 TIMOTHY 2:5 (TLB)

What Does God Want Me to Do?

1. _____ that God has not been first place in your life and ask him to forgive your sins.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from every wrong.

1 JOHN 1:9 (AP)

2. _____ that Jesus died to pay for your sins and that he rose again on Easter and is alive today.

If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is your Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

ROMANS 10:9 (NIV84)

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name [Jesus] . . . by which we must be saved.

ACTS 4:12 (NIV)

3. _____ God's free gift of salvation. Don't try to earn it.

For it is by grace you are saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

EPHESIANS 2:8-9 (NIV84)

4. _____ Jesus Christ to come into your life and be the director (Lord) of your life.

To all who received him, he gave the right to become children of God. All they needed to do was to trust him to save them. All those who believe this are reborn!—not a physical rebirth resulting from human passion or plan—but from the will of God.

JOHN 1:12-13 (TLB)

[Jesus says,] "Listen! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in."

REVELATION 3:20 (HCSB)

**SESSION
TWO**

Our Beliefs and Values

OUR MOTTO

The Great Commandment

Love the Lord your God with all your heart . . . soul and . . . 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)

The Great Commission

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.

MATTHEW 28:19-20 (NIV)

TO LIVE (THE GREAT COMMANDEMENT)

TO REACH ALL PEOPLE (THE GREAT COMMISION)

WITH NOTHING BUT JESUS!

What does "Nothing But Jesus" Mean?

"What if there is a simple way of living that draws us so close to Jesus that our lives truly are about Nothing But Jesus? During the time of Jesus, it was commonly held that there were 613 commands in the Scriptures. 248 positive ("do this") commands, and 365 negative commands ("don't do this"). There are an additional 1050 commandments in the New Testament. Together, these commandments comprise the Law of God. What if we replaced these 1663 commands of the Christian life with only one thing? What if our one and only focus was Jesus? Nothing But Jesus. It is only when our mission in life is to live to be about Nothing But Jesus that we begin to not only keep the commandments in Scripture, but even exceed their requirements (Matthew 5: 20), and move on to loving God with all our hearts, minds, and souls, and loving our neighbor as ourselves (Matthew 22: 36-39). It is when our mission is to live to be about Nothing But Jesus that we actually start reaching all people with Nothing But Jesus."

OUR VALUES

1. All _____

Demonstrated by environments that communicate the Gospel to all people – the churching, unchurching, and de-churching, across all races, classes, generations, and stages of spiritual journeys

I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the Gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings

1 CORINTHIANS 9:22-23 (ESV)

2. Depth in _____ and Spiritual _____

Demonstrated by seeking deep-seated gospel truths that shape our relationships and response to culture across all generations, leaving a rich impact

But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. So, being affectionally desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us

1 THESSALONIANS 2:7-8 (ESV)

3. Unique _____

Demonstrated by recognizing and empowering individuals to make an impact in their suitable spheres of influence with their time, treasures, and talents

For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one another

ROMANS 12:4-8 (ESV)

4. Kingdom _____

Demonstrated by inviting and welcoming those without a church home, developing risk-taking disciples, and embracing world missions

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth

ACTS 1:8 (ESV)

WHAT WE BELIEVE

1. We believe in majoring on the _____ and minoring on the _____

2. We believe that in the essentials, there must be _____ and in the non-essentials, there must be _____

3. We believe in the _____ of Scripture

Scripture is Inspired – the Bible is God’s Word but he providentially used human authors

Scripture is Infallible – incapable of making mistakes or being wrong

Scripture is inerrant – flawless, without error

Scripture is authoritative – full and final authority, authenticated, confirmed

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness

2 TIMOTHY 3:16 (ESV)

4. We believe in the _____ of God

Remember for former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me

ISAIAH 46:9 (ESV)

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will

EPHESIANS 1:11 (ESV)

5. We believe in a Christian _____ and _____ view

So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God

1 CORINTHIANS 10:31 (ESV)

We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ

2 CORINTHIANS 10:5 (ESV)

When Christians begin to see that it is as godly to be a businessperson, lawyer, homemaker, artist or doctor as it is to be a missionary, pastor or church leader, they will once again become salt and light. When all believers become priests once again, we will see the end of full-time Christian ministry as a separate and superior calling.

6. We believe in a doctrine of salvation that emphasizes both the _____ of man and the _____ of God

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life

JOHN 3:16 (ESV)

This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth

1 TIMOTHY 2:3-4 (ESV)

But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring

ROMANS 9:6-8 (ESV)

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience - among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind

EPHESIANS 2:1-3 (ESV)

7. We believe in a _____ understanding of Scripture

Old Testament Israel is now the Church

And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise

GALATIANS 3:29 (ESV)

Old Testament Passover is now the Last Supper

Matthew 26:19-29

Old Testament Circumcision is now Baptism

In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead

COLOSSIANS 2:11-12 (ESV)

8. We believe in the doctrine of _____ baptism and a _____

understanding of the Lord's Supper

Genesis 17: 12-13

Acts 2: 38-39

Acts 16:15

1 Corinthians 11:23-29

**SESSION
THREE**

**Our Reach
Family**

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

WHY BECOME A MEMBER?

“THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BEING A MEMBER AND AN ATTENDER MEANS BEING A PARTICIPATOR, NOT JUST A SPECTATOR, A BELONGER, NOT JUST A BYSTANDER, A CONTRIBUTOR, NOT JUST A CONSUMER.”

1. It's an act of obedience to Christ's commands.

God expects every believer to join a local church. In fact, there are over 50 commands in the New Testament you cannot follow unless you commit to joining a local body of believers. Without a church family, you're a spiritual orphan.

Be devoted to each other like a loving family.

ROMANS 12:10 (GW)

You are members of God's very own family, citizens of God's country, and you belong in God's household with every other Christian.

EPHESIANS 2:19 (TLB)

2. It's a counter-cultural choice that shows maturity.

Immaturity is the inability to make and keep commitments. Today's culture promotes immaturity everywhere: "Keep your options open. . . don't commit to a job, a marriage, a church. . . anything." Even many believers have a superficial consumer's attitude of "shopping and hopping"—attending different churches each week without being dedicated or loyal to any specific church family. You cannot build character without making commitments.

My friends, stop thinking like children. Think like mature people and be as innocent as tiny babies.

1 CORINTHIANS 14:20 (CEV)

Christ loved the church, and he gave his life for her.

EPHESIANS 5:25 (NLT96)

3. It's a necessary step in your spiritual development.

First they gave themselves to the Lord; and then, by God's will they gave themselves to us as well.

2 CORINTHIANS 8:5 (GNT)

They helped the believers grow in love for God and each other.

ACTS 14:22 (TLB)

4. It provides spiritual protection.

TO PASTORS:

Guard and [protect] the whole flock of God over which the Holy Spirit has appointed you overseers [and guardians]. [Care for and] shepherd the Church of God which He bought with His own blood.

ACTS 20:28 (AMP)

TO MEMBERS:

Obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit.

HEBREWS 13:17 (NLT)

WHAT IS OUR STRUCTURE?

1. The two permanent offices within the church are _____ and _____
2. There are two types of elders - _____ elder and _____ elder. They are one class of office

Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcomes of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

HEBREWS 13:7,17 (ESV)

Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain," and, "the laborer deserves his wages."

1 TIMOTHY 5:17-18 (ESV)

3. The office of deacon oversees the ministry of _____

And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables

ACTS 6:2 (ESV)

ANSWER KEY

SESSION ONE: OUR PURPOSE

What Does It Mean to Be a Christian?

Why Am I Here?

1. God created me to LOVE me.
2. We were created to ENJOY a personal relationship with God and to MANAGE all of the rest of God's creation. This makes us special.

What's the Problem?

1. People have a natural desire to BE THE BOSS and to ignore God's principles for living.
2. The Bible calls this attitude SIN.

What Does God Want Me to Do?

1. ADMIT that God has not been first place in your life and ask him to forgive your sins.
2. BELIEVE that Jesus died to pay for your sins and that he rose again on Easter and is alive today.
3. ACCEPT God's free gift of salvation. Don't try to earn it.
4. INVITE Jesus Christ to come into your life and be the director (Lord) of your life.

SESSION TWO: OUR BELIEFS AND VALUES

Our Values

1. All PEOPLE
2. Depth in RELATIONSHIPS and Spiritual GROWTH
3. Unique GIFTEDNESS
4. Kingdom EXPANSION

What We Believe

1. We believe in majoring on the MAJORS and minoring on the MINORS
2. We believe that in the essentials, there must be UNITY and in the non-essentials, there must be LIBERTY

3. We believe in the AUTHORITY of Scripture
4. We believe in the SOVEREIGNTY of God
5. We believe in a Christian WORLD and LIFE view
6. We believe in a doctrine of salvation that emphasizes both the RESPONSIBILITY of man and the SOVEREIGNTY of God
7. We believe in a COVENANTAL understanding of Scripture
8. We believe in the doctrine of INFANT baptism and a BIBLICAL understanding of the Lord's Supper

SESSION THREE: OUR REACH FAMILY

What is Our Structure?

1. The two permanent offices within the church are ELDER and DEACON
2. There are two types of elders - RULING elder and TEACHING elder. They are one class of office
3. The office of deacon oversees the ministry of MERCY