



CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR
**NEW
BEGINNING**



LAKEWOOD
CHURCH



THE LAKEWOOD **STORY**

Its origins were humble. Lakewood Church began in a converted feed store on the outskirts of Houston, TX on Mother's Day, 1959, founded by John and Dodie Osteen. From its earliest days, Lakewood was marked by a caring atmosphere, strong leadership, and a heart to bring hope to the world.

John and Dodie reached millions through television, books, and worldwide ministry. Together they hosted a weekly television program, which could be seen in 100 countries worldwide. John Osteen was author of 45 books and numerous teaching materials and audiotapes, making a historic mark on the landscape of Christianity. After Dodie's healing from cancer, her book *Healed of Cancer* and her testimony inspired countless people to believe God for the

miraculous. Dodie Osteen was known as a powerful woman of prayer, in fact, she was seen praying for others on her last Sunday just days before her homegoing in 2025. Both John and Dodie's legacy and life continue to remind us of Lakewood's mantle: to bring HOPE to the world.

Before stepping into the role of Senior Pastor in 1999 after his father's passing, Joel Osteen faithfully worked behind the scenes as Lakewood's television producer, developing his father's broadcast into a global outreach and building KTBU-TV55 into a premiere Houston station.

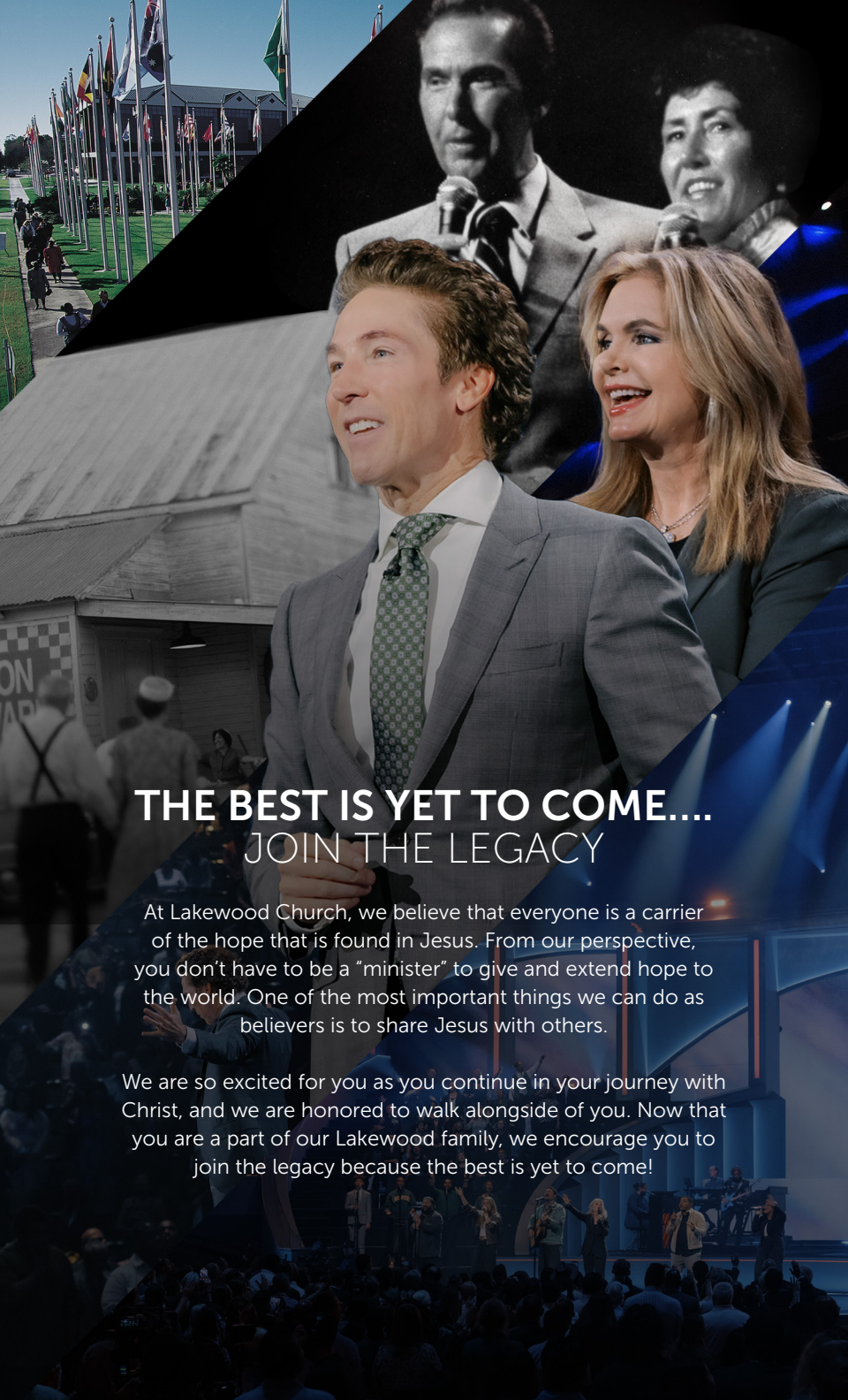
John Osteen quoted often, "the light that shines the farthest shines the brightest at home."

Lakewood reaches thousands of people in Houston and the surrounding areas through worship services, classes, and local missions. Lakewood's heart for serving makes a tangible impact on the surrounding community through its outreach programs for hospital patients, prisons, nursing home residents, various shelters, community organizations & partners and will continue through our newly expanded Relief & Outreach Department.

Today, Joel and his wife Victoria lead Lakewood with a vision to reach a new generation. Lakewood's message now spans the globe, through broadcasts into over 200 million U.S. households, international coverage across six continents, SiriusXM radio, podcasts, social media platforms, and through the Joel Osteen Network. Each week, Lakewood continues to impact thousands locally and millions worldwide with the message of hope found in Jesus.

**NEW TO
LAKEWOOD?**
SCAN HERE





THE BEST IS YET TO COME.... JOIN THE LEGACY

At Lakewood Church, we believe that everyone is a carrier of the hope that is found in Jesus. From our perspective, you don't have to be a "minister" to give and extend hope to the world. One of the most important things we can do as believers is to share Jesus with others.

We are so excited for you as you continue in your journey with Christ, and we are honored to walk alongside of you. Now that you are a part of our Lakewood family, we encourage you to join the legacy because the best is yet to come!

APPENDIX - STATEMENT OF FAITH

At Lakewood, we base all of our beliefs on the authority of Scripture. In every way, we strive to maintain biblical standards of living and leadership. We believe that living life according to God's Word is the way to an abundant, fulfilling life. WE BELIEVE:

In Jesus

Jesus Christ is the Way to God. He is His Son, fully human and fully Divine. He was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, performed miracles, died on the cross, shed His blood for our sins, and rose again on the third day. Out of His great love for us, Jesus Christ died so that each one of us might have a personal relationship with God the Father. If we believe in Him, we are saved!

"Jesus explained, 'I am the Way, I am the Truth, and I am the Life. No one comes next to the Father except through union with me. To know me is to know my Father too.'" JOHN 14:6 TPT

In the Father

Our Father just happens to be God, the Creator of the universe. And some very good news is: He is not mad at us; He is madly in love with us. Out of His great love for us, He was willing to sacrifice His beloved Son, Jesus, to die for our sins so that we can be reconciled with Him and adopted into His family as His very own children.

"For this how much God loved the world—he gave his one and only, unique Son as a gift. So now everyone who believes in him will never perish but experience everlasting life."

JOHN 3:16 TPT

In The Holy Spirit

Jesus said He had to leave the earth so that the Holy Spirit could come in and be with us. If you believe in Jesus, the Holy Spirit is your God-guide, your Comforter, your Counselor, and anything else you need. The fruit of His work in our lives is evidenced by growing amounts of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness and self-control as we grow in Him.

"And I will ask the Father and he will give you another Savior, the Holy Spirit of Truth, who will be to you a friend just like

me—and he will never leave you. The world won't receive him because they can't see him or know him. But you will know him intimately, because he will make his home in you and will live inside you.” JOHN 14:16-17 TPT

The Trinity

We believe in one God who exists in three distinct persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We believe that God the Father is the Creator of the world and is actively involved in humanity. We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God who came to this earth as Savior of the world. We believe that the Holy Spirit is continuing the work of Jesus upon the earth.

“Now go in my authority and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.” MATTHEW 28:19 TPT

The Bible

The Bible is God's written word to humankind. God breathed, and the Holy Spirit inspired men to write the Bible. That is why we believe it is the Truth and does not contain errors. It is as relevant today as it has ever been to help us live our best lives, and it is alive!

“Every Scripture has been written by the Holy Spirit, the breath of God. It will empower you by its instruction and correction, giving you the strength to take the right direction and lead you deeper into the path of godliness.” 2 TIMOTHY 3:16 TPT

Relationship with God

We believe that every believer should be in a growing relationship with Jesus by obeying God's Word, yielding to the Holy Spirit and being conformed to the image of Christ.

“I'm not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me. Friends, don't get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us on onward—to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back.” PHILIPPIANS 3:12-13 MSG

Salvation

We believe that Jesus died on the cross and shed His blood for our sin. We believe that salvation is only found by placing our faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We believe that Jesus rose from the dead and is coming again.

"Our faith in Jesus transfers God's righteousness to us and he now declares us flawless in his eyes. This means we can now enjoy true and lasting peace with God, all because of what our Lord Jesus, the Anointed One, has done for us."

ROMANS 5:1 TPT

"But Christ proved God's passionate love for us by dying in our place while we were still lost and ungodly! And there is still so much more to say of his unfailing love for us! For through the blood of Jesus we have heard the powerful declaration, 'You are now righteous in my sight.' And because of the sacrifice of Jesus, you will never experience the wrath of God." **ROMANS 5:8-9 TPT**

Water Baptism

We believe that water baptism is a symbol of the cleansing power of the blood of Christ and a testimony of our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

"And that water is a picture of baptism, which now saves you, not by removing dirt from your body, but as a response to God from a clean conscience. It is effective because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ." **1 PETER 3:21 NLT**

Communion

We believe in regularly receiving Communion as an act of remembering the sacrifice that Jesus made for us through dying on the cross.

"...The Master, Jesus, on the night of his betrayal, took bread. Having given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body, broken for you. Do this to remember me.' After supper, he did the same thing with the cup: 'This cup is my blood, my new covenant with you. Each time you drink this cup, remember me.'" **1 CORINTHIANS 11:24-26 MSG**

OUR VALUES

We have a few core values here at Lakewood, and these values are the things we want to commit to as a church. These core values are from the life of Jesus and allow us to live in a way that honors God, and that is why we believe they are so important to imitate. We commit to:

A growing relationship with God

Rather than a commitment to religion, we should each be personally and continually developing our relationship with God.

Being planted in the house

This simply means, at a minimum, attending services at Lakewood on a weekly basis and tithing to this church. It can also mean volunteering your time in a ministry or various ministries.

Flourishing faith is connected to consistent attendance and faithfulness to church.

Excellence

All of our work matters, regardless if the work is noticed or not, or whether it's large or small tasks. We believe everything we do should be done in excellence unto God. As a church, we commit to executing excellence, having great work habits, being on time, reliable, professional, ever learning, and consistently improving our minds, our spirits, and our health and wellness.

Character and integrity

Simply put: do the right thing. When people are watching and when they are not, we strive to shrink the gap between our words and our deeds.

Generosity

It is better to give and live generously. We believe in giving our time, talents, and treasure to serve those around us. This is a lifestyle we choose, and we believe it's a byproduct of true spiritual growth. The world of the generous grows larger and larger.

Diversity

We are proud of our diversity at Lakewood. We are multi-generational and multi-ethnic/racial church. There is great

strength in our diversity, and we will continue to celebrate it and be intentional about cultivating it.

Honor

We will be a church that honors one another: those above, beside, and below us. We will honor government and city officials, first responders, and God-appointed leadership. We will always attempt to honor when we have the opportunity.

Unqualified kindness

Unqualified kindness looks like respect, forgiveness, making room for each other's faults, preferring others over ourselves, and giving each other grace.

Unity

We want to proactively be working toward ever increasing unity; a unity so visible and so attractive that others will see God at work in the middle of us.

Healthy Relationships

We commit to healthy relationships. We desire to honor God in all of our relationships including but not limited to marriage, singleness, family and more.

We want the members of Lakewood to have STRONG MARRIAGES AND FAMILIES—to have GODLY AND HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS.

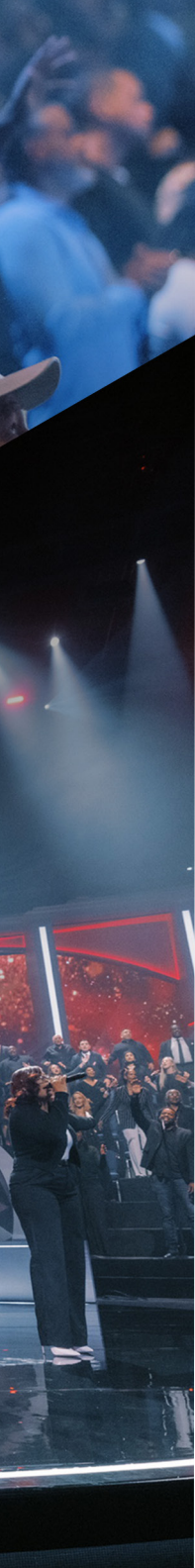


OUR **MISSION**

"Giving Hope to the World."

This includes at home here in Houston and to the ends of the earth. We believe hope is a powerful force, and we work daily to love, encourage, and lift people.





OUR FAITH JOURNEY

SESSION ONE:

A New Beginning

Discovering Your New Life in Christ

SESSION TWO:

Developing Your Relationship with Christ

Quiet Time and Prayer

SESSION THREE:

Our Relationships are important to God

Connecting with others

SESSION FOUR:

The Best is Yet to Come

Discover Your Strengths and Join the Legacy

A woman with long blonde hair, wearing a grey turtleneck sweater, is singing into a black microphone on a stage. She has her hands clasped over her chest. In the background, a crowd of people is visible, with one person in the foreground wearing a white t-shirt and a white baseball cap, raising their hands. The scene is lit with blue and purple stage lights.

DISCOVERING
YOUR NEW LIFE
IN CHRIST

A New Beginning

Welcome to your new beginning in Christ! You are now a new creation in Jesus.

God loves YOU! God – the Creator of the universe – loves you deeply and wants to be in relationship with you. Through His son, Jesus, God offers us the gift of salvation as the way into relationship with Him.

To be saved, or to be made whole, is to say yes to God and His plan and purpose for our lives. It is turning from our old ways and turning to Jesus, asking Him for forgiveness from our sins and giving us new life in Him.

NEW LIFE: YOU HAVE A NEW IDENTITY

The moment we accept Jesus' sacrifice for our sin and receive the gift of His salvation, we receive a new identity in Christ. The Bible says that we are now a new creation. We are now what God says about us – we are His children!

"This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17 NLT

"Look with wonder at the depth of the Father's marvelous love that he has lavished on us. He has called us and made us his very own beloved children..."

1 JOHN 3:1 TPT

OLD LABELS	vs	NEW LABELS
UNWORTHY		LOVED JOHN 3:16
UNWANTED		CHOSEN COLOSSIANS 3:12
SINNER		FORGIVEN EPHESIANS 1:7

Learning to live in our new identity is a process. Even though we experience new life with Christ, we can still get tripped up by old habits and mindsets at times. However, we can be confident that regardless of our past, our mistakes, or even how we feel now, God is at work inside of us creating new life.

WATER BAPTISM - ANOTHER STEP TO EMBRACING OUR NEW IDENTITY

*"And that water is a picture of baptism, which now saves you, not by removing dirty from your body, but as a **response to God** from a clean conscience. It is effective because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ."* **1 PETER 3:21 NLT**

Jesus asks everyone who believes in Him to be baptized in water as a public declaration of faith in Him. Being lowered into the water represents our old identity, and being raised out of the water represents Jesus' resurrection and our new identity that's found in Him.

Note: For more information about water baptism please email waterbaptism@lakewoodchurch.com.

Pastor Joel always says, "Give us a year of your life, and you will never be the same." We encourage you to attend Lakewood services as often as you can. Come to our New Beginnings class and other classes that we offer in our ministries.

As you begin to learn more about who God is, your relationship with Him will begin to deepen.



A photograph of a group of people, likely in a church or community setting, during a quiet time or prayer session. In the foreground, a woman with dark hair tied in a bun and wearing glasses and a white lace dress is clapping her hands. To her right, another woman with glasses and a pink shawl over a floral dress is also clapping. In the background, other people are visible, some with their hands clasped in prayer. The text "QUIET TIME AND PRAYER" is overlaid in the center of the image.

**QUIET TIME
AND
PRAYER**

Developing Your Relationship with Christ

God longs to spend time with us and connect with us in relationship. Like any relationship though, it takes time and effort to nurture and grow. One of the most important ways we can connect to God is through His Word.

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

The Bible is one of God's GREATEST gifts to us! The words recorded in the Bible are God's very own words, and they tell us of God's faithfulness throughout history and His promises and plans for our lives and future.

Through Scripture, we learn how to live out Christianity in our day-to-day life and in relationship with God and each other.

"Every Scripture has been written by the Holy Spirit, the breath of God. It will empower you by its instruction and correction, giving you the strength to take the right direction and lead you deeper into the path of godliness." **2 TIMOTHY 3:16 TPT**

Maybe you're unsure of where to start reading your Bible. The four Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are filled with the words and stories of Jesus, and Psalms and Proverbs provide incredible wisdom

and instruction. These books of the Bible are a great place to start as you begin spending quiet time with the Lord.

*Note: if you do not have a Bible, please let us know. We'd love to provide one for you.

PRAYER IS TALKING TO GOD

One of the greatest gifts we have received as believers is the ability to talk to God through prayer. There's no eloquent speech or formula that we need to have; we can simply talk to God as if we're talking to a friend.

"...And how bold and free we then become in his presence, freely asking according to his will, sure that he's listening. And if we're confident that he's listening, we know that what we've asked for is as good as ours." **1 JOHN 5:14 MSG**

The best way to get to know someone – including God – is through conversation and communication.

WHERE TO START: THE FIRST FIFTEEN

The daily habit of spending time with God is an important part of growing with God. A simple way to do this is by setting aside the first 15 minutes of your day to spend quiet time in God's presence through prayer and reading His Word. He wants us to talk to Him, and He wants to talk back!

When we begin to study God's Word and spend time with Jesus, we begin to learn more about who He is, and we grow in our relationship with Him. We also begin to learn more about who God says we are.

"I will study your commandments and reflect on your ways. I will delight in your decrees and not forget your word." **PSALM 119:15-16 NLT**

CHALLENGE: Start setting aside the first 15 minutes of your day to spend time with Jesus. During this time, keep a journal of what you are praying for and what you feel God is speaking to you.

THE POWER OF DECLARATIONS

God wants us to see ourselves the way He sees us. And one of the ways we can do that is through powerful declarations. The Bible says that words have the power of life and death!

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.” **PROVERBS 18:21 NKJV**

Here are some powerful declarations – and Scriptures – that we encourage you to begin speaking over yourself:

*I am not a victim of my past but an overcomer
through Jesus. (1 CORINTHIANS 15:57)*

I am a new creation in CHRIST. (2 CORINTHIANS 5:17)

*I have been strategically designed and equipped
for my unique purpose. (PSALM 139:14)*

*I am free from all strongholds, addictions, and bad habits
that have held me back. (2 CORINTHIANS 3:17)*

I am completely loved and accepted by God. (ROMANS 8:38-39)

Write a few of these declarations on sticky notes and put them in your house, your car, and your workspace. As we constantly keep what God says about us in focus, our thoughts will begin to align with the truth of God's Word.

DECLARATION OF FAITH

*I am blessed, I am prosperous, I am redeemed, forgiven,
talented, creative, disciplined, focused, confident,
secure, prepared, qualified, motivated, valuable, free,
determined, equipped, empowered, anointed, accepted,
and approved. Not average, not mediocre, I am a child of
the Most High God.*

A group of five diverse people are gathered in an outdoor setting, possibly a rooftop or patio, with a city skyline in the background. A woman with short blonde hair and glasses, wearing a white turtleneck and a plaid skirt, is seated and gesturing with her hands while speaking. To her left, a man with dreadlocks in a blue t-shirt is partially visible. In the foreground, a person in a light blue jacket is reaching out towards a man in a brown hoodie who is smiling and gesturing. A woman with long dark hair is seated between them, looking down at a tablet. The scene is bright and casual, suggesting a collaborative meeting or social gathering.

**CONNECTING
WITH OTHERS**

Our Relationships are important to God

Jesus knew the value of relationships. While He was carrying out His work on the earth, He chose a core team of 12 people—his Disciples—who each had different personalities and strengths to be with Him and minister alongside of Him. If Jesus placed a high value on relationships, how much more should we?

“Encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.” 1 THESSALONIANS 5:11 NLT

A great way to assess our current relationships is to take inventory. This can help us to see which ones we need to focus on developing and which ones we might need to separate ourselves from.

Some helpful “inventory” questions to ask yourself:

- Do I feel encouraged or inspired to know God more after spending time with this person?
- Do I feel weighed down with negativity or encouraged after being with this person?
- Is this a person I can trust with things that are important to me?

Answering these questions will probably give you a good idea if the relationship is worth investing your time and energy. Healthy relationships are the context for which our God-given needs for love, comfort, support, understanding and accountability are met.

FORGIVENESS IS VITAL IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

As Christians, we know that God has forgiven all of our sins and our past mistakes. Forgiveness is a powerful thing, and God asks us to forgive others the way Christ has forgiven us.

"...Be gentle with one another, sensitive. Forgive one another as quickly and thoroughly as God in Christ forgave you."

EPHESIANS 4:31-32 MSG

The reality of life is that people, our friends, and our loved ones will disappoint us and hurt us. One of the hardest challenges we face in our relationships is holding onto unforgiveness, especially when the wound feels too deep to forgive. However, unforgiveness really only hurts us because it turns into bitterness that can continually affect our lives.

When we forgive others and choose to overlook offenses, we begin to build healthier relationships.

A prayer to release forgiveness:

"Lord, I release _____ for _____."

I need your strength to walk in forgiveness, and I ask that You would heal the heartache and pain I have experienced. I trust You to be my Defender. In Jesus' Name, Amen."

COMMUNITY IS IMPORTANT FOR A BELIEVER

One of the most important things in the life of a Believer is getting connected to community. Our community is our church family – the people who will encourage us, pray for us, and walk alongside of us in our faith journey.

One of the primary ways that we do Community at Lakewood Church is through our life Groups and Serving by joining a team.

WHAT ARE LIFE GROUPS?

Lakewood LifeGroups are groups that meet in homes, coffee shops virtually. LifeGroups are all about community and connection.

LIFEGROUPS PROVIDE TWO THINGS:

1. A place to CONNECT with others.

"This is not the time to pull away and neglect meeting together, as some have formed the habit of doing, because we need each other! In fact, we should come together even more frequently, eager to encourage each other." **HEBREWS 10:25 TPT**

2. A place to GROW together.

"As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend."

PROVERBS 27:17 NLT

We want to help you find community and feel connected to your church family. To join a LifeGroup, text **LIFEGROUPS to 77377** or visit **LakewoodChurch.com/lifegroups** to receive information about our Lakewood LifeGroups.

HOW CAN I SERVE?

Do you know you have skills and gifts that can be used to help others? Later in this book, we will help you discover your gifts and we encourage you to use them to serve others! We're looking for passionate volunteers who want to connect with others and serve, whether that's welcoming people, ushering, greeting, serving families. Every role matters, and together we get to build make a significant impact in the lives of others.

To find out more ways to serve, text **TEAM to 77377** or visit **LakewoodChurch.com/connect**.

A man with short brown hair, wearing a dark blue blazer over a light blue and white striped shirt, is smiling and clapping his hands. He is standing on a stage. In the background, a large audience is visible, some of whom are also clapping. A young girl in a white dress with a pink collar is in the foreground, looking up and clapping. A man with glasses and a beard is also visible, looking up and clapping. The scene is lit with blue stage lights.

DISCOVER
YOUR STRENGTHS
AND USE **YOUR**
GIFTS TO BRING
HOPE TO THE
WORLD

The Best is Yet to Come

THE PROMISE IN BEING PLANTED

The Bible says that when we are planted in the House of the Lord, our lives will flourish. Being planted is about being invested in your local church. It's about building relationships and connections with your church community and using your gifts and talents to serve God's House.

"Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God." **PSALM 92:13 NKJV**

DISCOVERING YOUR GIFTS

We believe that each of us is uniquely created with different gifts and talents. We believe that God has placed specific talents within you, and He has a purpose and plan for your life. God purposed your destiny to align with how He created you.

"Oh yes, you shaped me first inside, then out; you formed me in my mother's womb. I thank you, High God—you're breathtaking! Body and soul, I am marvelously made! I worship in adoration—what a creation! You know me inside and out, you know every bone in my body..." **PSALM 139:13-14 MSG**

We've included a spiritual gifts assessment that will help you identify some of the talents and gifts that God has given you. Our prayer is that you will discover, develop, and use your gifts for the purpose that God has for you.

HOW TO TAKE THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS ASSESSMENT

STEP 1: Respond to the following spiritual gifts statement by writing the number that indicates how each statement describes you in the blanks on page 22.

- 1 – Almost Never
- 2 – Sometimes
- 3 – Almost Always

Allow yourself six minutes to answer all questions before moving on to other steps.

STEP 2: Add each line on page 22, left to right, and place the totaled number in the total column.

STEP 3: Identify your three highest totaled numbers with the corresponding letter and the spiritual gift it represents (listed on the pages following the assessment).

STEP 4: Read about your gifts.

Connect with a team or a Volunteer Team that compliments your personality, highest-rated spiritual gifts, and availability to serve.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. I like organizing services and events. | 6. I trust God to provide for my daily needs. |
| 2. I enjoy working with my hands. | 7. I am passionate about financially investing in the Kingdom of God. |
| 3. I can tell when someone is insincere. | 8. I enjoy doing little things that others typically do not enjoy. |
| 4. I pray daily for people who don't know Jesus. | 9. I often have people over to my house. |
| 5. Encouraging others is a high priority in my life. | 10. I tend to motivate others to get involved. |

11. I hurt when I see others hurting.
12. I enjoy sharing the Gospel with other people groups and nationalities.
13. Caring for the hurting is one of my highest priorities.
14. I get frustrated when people knowingly sin.
15. I enjoy serving behind the scenes.
16. I am passionate about managing details.
17. I consider myself a craftsman or craftswoman.
18. I sense when situations are spiritually unhealthy.
19. I am greatly motivated by seeing people who don't know God saved.
20. I come across as loving and caring.
21. Asking God for a list of seemingly impossible things is exciting to me.
22. I find ways to give offerings above my tithe.
23. Helping others is one of my greatest motivations.
24. Creating a warm and welcoming environment is important to me.
25. I prefer to take the lead whenever possible.
26. I'm very sensitive to sad stories.
27. The idea of living in another country to benefit the Gospel is exciting to me.
28. I enjoy connecting, caring for, and coaching others.
29. Confronting someone about a sin in their life is important to me.
30. It bothers me when people sit around and do nothing.
31. Creating a task list is easy and enjoyable for me.
32. Building something with my hands is very satisfying to me.
33. I can pinpoint issues or problems quickly.
34. Sharing the Gospel with someone I do not know is exciting and natural for me.
35. I look for ways to encourage other people.
36. I trust that God has my back in every situation.
37. I want to make more money so that I can give more.
38. Being a part of the process is fulfilling to me.
39. I tend to make total strangers feel at home.
40. I delegate responsibilities to accomplish tasks.
41. I am motivated to help people in need.
42. I focus a lot on reaching the world for Christ.
43. I enjoy helping people who are going through a difficult time.
44. I enjoy hearing passionate and clear preaching of God's Word.
45. I like to do small things that others overlook.

1 – Almost Never 2 – Sometimes 3 – Almost Always

			Total	Gifts
1. _____	16. _____	31. _____	_____	A. _____
2. _____	17. _____	32. _____	_____	B. _____
3. _____	18. _____	33. _____	_____	C. _____
4. _____	19. _____	34. _____	_____	D. _____
5. _____	20. _____	35. _____	_____	E. _____
6. _____	21. _____	36. _____	_____	F. _____
7. _____	22. _____	37. _____	_____	G. _____
8. _____	23. _____	38. _____	_____	H. _____
9. _____	24. _____	39. _____	_____	I. _____
10. _____	25. _____	40. _____	_____	J. _____
11. _____	26. _____	41. _____	_____	K. _____
12. _____	27. _____	42. _____	_____	L. _____
13. _____	28. _____	43. _____	_____	M. _____
14. _____	29. _____	44. _____	_____	N. _____
15. _____	30. _____	45. _____	_____	O. _____

APPENDIX OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Congratulations on discovering your spiritual gifts! God uniquely created you and gave you these gifts for a reason. Now that you've identified how He has gifted you, your next step is to learn how to use those gifts for the purpose He has for you.

A. **Administration**

The gift of administration is the divine strength or ability to organize multiple tasks and groups of people to accomplish these tasks.

B. **Craftmanship**

The gift of craftsmanship is the divine strength or ability to plan, build and work with your hands in construction environments to accomplish multiple ministry applications.

C. **Discernment**

The gift of discernment is the divine strength or ability to spiritually identify falsehood and to distinguish between right and wrong motives and situations.

D. **Evangelism**

The gift of evangelism is the divine strength or ability to help non-Christians take the necessary steps to become Christ followers.

E. **Exhortation & Teaching**

The gift of exhortation is the divine strength or ability to encourage others through the written or spoken word of biblical truth.

F. **Faith**

The gift of faith is the divine strength or ability to believe in God for unseen supernatural results in every arena of life.

G. **Giving**

The gift of giving is the divine strength or ability to produce wealth and to give tithes and offerings for the purpose of advancing the Kingdom of God on earth.

H. **Helps**

The gift of helps is the divine strength or ability to work in a supportive role for the accomplishment of tasks in Christian ministry.

I. **Hospitality**

The gift of hospitality is the divine strength or ability to create warm, welcoming environments for others in places such as your home, office or church.

J. **Leadership**

The gift of leadership is the divine strength or ability to influence people at their level while directing and focusing them on the big picture, vision or idea.

K. **Mercy**

The gift of mercy is the divine strength or ability to feel empathy and to care for those who are hurting in any way.

L. **Missionary**

The missionary gift is the divine strength or ability to reach others outside of your culture and nationality, while in most cases living in that culture or nation.

M. **Shepherd**

The gift of shepherding is the divine strength or ability to care for the personal needs of others by nurturing and mending life issues.

N. **Prophecy**

The gift of prophecy is the divine strength or ability to boldly speak and bring clarity to scriptural and doctrinal truth, in some cases foretelling God's plan.

O. **Service**

The gift of serving is the divine strength or ability to do small or great tasks in working for the overall good of the body of Christ.

Now that you've discovered some of your God-given gifts, one of the ways that you can use your talents, gifts, and strengths is through serving. On our website, is a list of the ministries and areas that you can use your strengths to make a difference in the lives of others.

To get started with your volunteer application today, text **TEAM** to **77377** or visit the website at **LakewoodChurch.com/connect**.





I HAVE SOME **QUESTIONS**

Questions are good. Questions spark dialogue. Dialogue encourages understanding.

No matter how long you follow Jesus, you will have questions for Him. The answers won't always be crystal-clear, but if you have the motivation to ask questions and seek understanding, God will grow your faith every day.

On the next few pages, you'll see a number of questions that many people ask themselves as they learn to follow Jesus. This is not a list of all the topics in the Bible, but we pray it can be a resource for you to continually strive to grow in your faith.

PRAYER

What is prayer? How am I supposed to pray?

Prayer is a way of being connecting with God; a way of ordering your life around an ongoing, interactive conversation with God. Talk to God every day, all the time, about anything and everything.

Matthew 6:5-13 – *Jesus teaches His disciples how to pray.*

1 John 5:14-15 – *John tells us how to find confidence in our prayers.*

1 Thessalonians 5:17-18 – *Paul tells us we are to ask God for everything.*

Romans 8:26 – *Paul encourages the Romans that the Holy Spirit prays for us when we don't know what to say.*

WORSHIP

What does it mean to praise God?

Praising God is an intentional act of looking beyond the reality you see and declaring your belief that God is good, loving, and faithful. Worship doesn't have to fluctuate with your feelings; it can be a steady appreciation of everything in your life.

Psalms 29:1-2 – *David defines worship as giving God the glory He deserves.*

John 4:23-26 – *Jesus speaks about true worship to a woman He meets at a well.*

Colossians 3:17 – *Paul shows us that anything we do can be worship.*

Hebrews 12:28-29 – *The writer of Hebrews tells us to worship God, who cannot change.*

BAPTISM

What is baptism? Should I get baptized?

Baptism is an outward expression of an inward decision to follow

Jesus. Baptism doesn't save you from your sins, but it is a clear, undeniable way for you to publicly declare who you are in Christ.

Romans 6:1-4 – *Paul explains how baptism symbolically raises us to life in Jesus.*

Luke 12:8-9 – *Jesus challenges us all to acknowledge Him publicly before others.*

Acts 2:38-41 – *The early Church started with those who were being saved and baptized.*

Acts 10:47-48 – *Peter says that baptism is for anyone who believes in Jesus.*

CALLING

What does it mean for God to have a plan for my life?

God doesn't just save you from eternal punishment; He calls you to live with eternal purpose. When you profess your faith in Jesus, you're invited to live a full, meaningful life on Earth, both serving and bringing glory to His name.

Jeremiah 1:5 – *God explains to the prophet Jeremiah how He called him before birth.*

2 Timothy 1:8-14 – *Paul tells Timothy about the life God calls us to live.*

John 15:16 – *Jesus talks about how He has chosen and appointed us to bear fruit.*

Jeremiah 29:11 – *God promises that He has chosen our future for good.*

GROWTH

How do I become a better Christian?

The grace of Jesus eliminated any need for striving for a better standing before God. Therefore, the Christian life isn't about earning our place; it's about living in light of who Jesus is and allowing Him alone to change you over time.

Romans 12:1-2 – *Paul challenges us to renew our minds and allow Jesus to change us.*

1 Corinthians 15:10 – *Paul explains how God's grace defines who we are.*

Philippians 2:12-16 – *Paul speaks of working out our salvation.*

Philippians 3:12-14 – *Paul explains how life isn't about our past, but our future.*

REACHING OTHERS

How do I help those people who are close to me but far from God?

One of the best ways to help people get to know Jesus is to simply relate to them and love them for who they are. You don't have to carry the weight of saving people. That's God's job. Lead by example by loving Jesus and loving people without any ulterior motives. God will ultimately change them.

1 John 3:16-18 – *John explains how Jesus set the standard for how we can show His love to the world around us.*

1 Timothy 2:1-4 – *Paul challenges us to pray that everyone would be saved by Jesus.*

Luke 12:8-12 – *Jesus assures us that the Holy Spirit will give us the right words to say whenever we need them.*

Mark 12:28-31 – *Jesus explains how loving God and loving others are two of the most important things we can ever do.*

CREATION

How did all of this get started?

An infinitely powerful and loving God carefully crafted everything in our universe. This same God who created life out of nothing can also create something great out of something small in your life.

Genesis 1:1-31 – *Genesis tells how God created the world and people.*

Genesis 2:7-3:9 – *God creates Adam & Eve and sin first enters the world.*

Genesis 17:1-7 – *God promises to establish His people through Abraham.*

John 1:1-5 – *Jesus has been with God forever and now completes God's promises to us.*

COMMUNITY

Do I have to walk out my faith with others?

A relationship with God is deeply personal, but it is never private. We were never meant to do faith alone. God designed us for community.

1 Corinthians 12:12-26 – *Paul explains how we are all designed to work together as the body of Christ.*

Acts 2:42-47 – *The early Church sets the tone for uniting with other believers.*

Hebrews 10:24-25 – *The author of Hebrews encourages us to meet together often.*

John 15:12-13 – *Jesus talks about how important it is to love each other.*

WORRY

I want to trust God. Why can't I stop worrying about things?

While God never changes, our feelings fluctuate with our circumstances. Whenever our problems contradict the eternal promises of God, we can grow weary or burdened. In those moments, the Holy Spirit says, "Whatever your burden is... bring that to Me."

Philippians 4:4-7 – *Paul tells the Philippians how to experience the peace of God.*

Matthew 6:25-34 – *Jesus teaches that God will always provide for us.*

Isaiah 43:1-4 – *God speaks through the prophet Isaiah, telling us why we shouldn't be afraid.*

Proverbs 3:5-6 – *Solomon instructs us to trust God instead of worrying.*

HOLY SPIRIT

What exactly is the Holy Spirit?

It's not necessarily what, it's who. The Holy Spirit is the continual presence of Jesus that He promised to give every believer in Him. Anyone who professes their faith in Jesus also gains access to the power of the Holy Spirit.

John 16:7-15 – *Jesus introduces the disciples to the Holy Spirit.*

Ephesians 3:14-19 – *Paul tells the Ephesians where we get our strength.*

2 Corinthians 3:17-18 – *Paul explains who the Holy Spirit is and what He does.*

Revelation 22:17 – *The final book of the Bible shows us that the Holy Spirit will always be with us.*

TRUTH

How do I know what the Bible says is really true?

You won't know that the Bible is true, but you are invited to believe that it is true, by faith and trust. Scripture is an invitation not only to trust the words, but to trust its Author. It's okay not to fully understand God, but Jesus fills the gaps with faith as we move closer to Him.

John 14:6 – *Jesus reveals to the disciples that He is the truth.*

John 16:13 – *Jesus explains that the Holy Spirit will guide us into truth.*

Psalms 119:160 – *The psalmist declares that all of God's words are true.*

2 Timothy 3:16-17 – *Paul writes to Timothy about the truth of God's Word.*

FORGIVENESS

How do I deal with the people who hurt me?

A wound left untended will only spread and worsen with time. Forgiveness works in a similar fashion. Refusing to forgive the people who wronged us paralyzes us in a world full of bitterness and resentment, the opposite of the grace Jesus offers us. Forgiveness, however, sets us free to fully experience God's love.

Matthew 18:21-35 – *Jesus teaches Peter how many times to forgive.*

Luke 6:37 – *Jesus commands forgiveness, preceding God's forgiveness.*

Ephesians 4:31-32 – *Paul encourages us to forgive as God forgave us.*

Romans 12:9-21 – *Paul reminds us that forgiveness leads to peace.*

SUFFERING

Why does God allow suffering? Why doesn't He just take it away?

We may never understand why some things happen. But even if God doesn't cause your pain or take it away, He can work in and through it to achieve a greater purpose. Jesus promises to comfort, heal, and restore those whose hope clings to Him.

Romans 8:28 – *God works in everything to bring about His purpose.*

Philippians 4:10-13 – *Joy isn't determined by what happens to us, but what Jesus is doing in us.*

Matthew 5:4 – *Our suffering is an opportunity to be blessed with God's comfort.*

John 11:33-43 – *Jesus sees our pain, mourns with us, and is able to heal us.*

GRATITUDE

Why should I make thanking God a priority?

The blessings of God aren't always as obvious as we'd prefer them to be. But in every moment, good or bad, thanking God for who He is and how He loves us will train us to acknowledge both our need and the presence of God that enables us to press through each day.

Philippians 4:4-7 – *Paul challenges us to give thanks in every situation.*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 – *Paul tells us that gratitude is God's will for us.*

Psalm 100 – *Gratitude is the key that unlocks God's presence in our lives.*

Psalm 118:24 – *The psalmist gives us a reason to always be grateful.*



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