

FORWARD CHURCH

Welcome To The Family

Welcome To Forward Church

Together We Are Building A Community of
Encouragement in Grace and Hope

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Forward Church! If you call Forward home, we call you family! This book will serve as your guide to membership at Forward Church. Once you have declared your membership we invite you to Make the Journey from a Believer to a Disciple to a Servant and to a Leader. The Journey is our way to support you as you follow Jesus and experience his transformative grace deep within your heart.

Welcome to the family! You're invited to Make the Journey!

Complete our membership course here:

<https://forward.church/forward-church-membership>

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WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

If you call Forward home, we call you family! We are honored to be part of your journey as you and your family follow Christ. We want to inspire you to trust God and help you establish your heart in grace as you experience transformation and wholeness through God's love for you. We are committed to always pointing you to Jesus so you will be established in his finished work and continually yielded to his influence. We pray that you break free from the dead end journey or works based religion and find freedom in grace.

It's our prayer that each time you attend Forward Church you walk away more aware of Jesus and feeling God's love toward you. We believe that you can be made whole in every area of your life as you become more and more convinced of his love for you.

When Sara and I started this church in our living room with 6 people in October 2008, all we wanted to do was provide a safe place where people didn't have to wear a mask and pretend like they had everything together. We wanted to help people discover God's love and learn a new way to live with him. We believe church should be a place where people can be real, a place where people can be open and honest and find comfort and encouragement.

We view church more like a hospital or a family rather than an institution. Much like a doctor doesn't condemn a patient for their illness, neither should a church leader condemn anyone for the condition of their lives. We are here to help you and point you to Jesus. As you become rooted in your identity in God's family, his spirit will teach you and transform you. We just want to love you and encourage you as you choose to follow Jesus closer and closer.

Clint and Sara Byars and team

OUR FOUNDATION

Jesus plus nothing! You can't add to the perfect, finished work of Jesus. He is the clearest picture we have of God. For the one who has believed on Jesus, he is our righteousness, wisdom and sanctification. We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus...ALONE! We are set free from dead works yet recreated unto good works. Through the propitiation of Jesus, God is not angry with us, he is at peace with us and we are at peace with him. When we believe on Jesus, God cleanses us with his spirit, which makes us clean. This cleansing makes us a holy vessel to be indwelt by his spirit, which makes us righteous. From then on we live as accepted children with his presence in us. We can rest in the security of our salvation because Jesus himself is our salvation.

Our commitment to you and your family:

- We will always point you to Jesus
- We will encourage you
- We will not manipulate you for money
- We will not manipulate you to serve our vision
- We will offer opportunities for you and your family to connect and grow
- We will always love you

YOU ARE WANTED AND NEEDED

There's a place for you! You are free to follow God however you choose at Forward. We do not have the philosophy that you're here to serve our vision, we believe we're here to serve you and your family. As you feel comfortable expressing your heart, we will use the organization to help you fulfill your call in whatever walk of life that may be. Forward will not be all that God has called it to be without you allowing Him to lead you to serve. As you understand who you are in Christ you will sense a passion in a specific areas. Sometimes it takes a while but we are committed to helping you trust God and follow him in every area of your life. **We will not use you to build our organization, we will use the organization to build you.**

MEMBERSHIP

Membership at Forward Church is your choice. If you call Forward your home then we're your home. We offer The Journey as a path of discipleship for you and your family. We offer periodic classes on our vision so you know what we're about and where Forward is going but there will never be a time where you are asked to make commitments you don't want to keep. Our Welcome to the Family videos will serve as an orientation. From there we hope you find a small group to connect with and begin to take advantage of the various resources we offer.

MEMBERSHIP INVOLVEMENT

If you declare membership at Forward we invite you to plug in and serve in some capacity. You are not serving the pastors and leaders, you are serving the people. Together we serve the families that walk through the doors of Forward. A church functions more like a family than an organization, every person pitches in and does what needs to be done. A family with a member that doesn't participate will not function properly.

We believe God is the one who draws people to a church. These days it seems it's kids programs, the marketing plan, and fun events that draw people to churches more than the Holy Spirit. Churches are not restaurants, where you go to one place because you like the soup but another place because you like the chicken. Church hopping is a mark of immaturity or unsurety of calling. We pray that *for you*, Forward is where God has placed you and you put roots down. We understand churches working together, serving in community ministries outside Forward or going to see a guest speaker but we ask our members to make Forward your place of service.

Church is not something you try out, it's a body you participate within to carry the Gospel of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ to our families, friends, communities and even the world. This is a ministry that has the mission to **Change The Way The World Sees God** one family at a time, this is not a social club where people come in and take what they can get and leave.

People are welcome to attend Forward for the purpose of learning alone. We do not look down upon anyone's level of commitment, we just want to be clear that **membership is different than church attendance**. You're not just joining a church that has nice people, you're becoming part of a family and ministry that is committed to personal transformation and committed to serving the families and community around Forward.

There is a period of growth and learning, but once your identity in Christ is established in your heart we believe that will launch you into serving and leadership. Church members that stay inactive after years of attendance will feel dry and disconnected because they're not giving anything out but only receiving. We're not talking about getting more numbers to Forward, we're talking about a group of people functioning like a family and ministry to make an impact in the lives we encounter with the Gospel of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ!

This might be stronger language than you're used to from Forward but we want you to understand how serious we take your commitment and how committed we are to the call on this church.

STAYING CONNECTED

Let me tell you a secret, everyone *feels* disconnected and alone to some degree.

I've heard this idea from folks over and over throughout the years when describing their former church experience and sometimes in my own church. People will say something like "I don't feel like I fit in anywhere" OR "I don't feel connected" OR "I don't have any real relationships here."

The remedy is to not let those "feelings" cloud your vision and get plugged in. If you don't feel connected or like you belong, get to know some folks, invite people to do things. INVEST IN OTHERS, especially if you have needs yourself.

I'm not suggesting you let yourself get used by a church or let people walk all over you or stay in unhealthy relationships, I'm talking about getting over those feelings of separation and isolation.

If you've allowed yourself to slip into a mindset that it's just you and your mama (insert whoever) against the world because no one likes or understands you, you're missing out on being a part of the human race, you're missing out on being part of a church family that is seeking to help people know God. Of course churches aren't perfect, that's because people aren't perfect.

If you're letting offense remove you from people, it's time to deal with it. Either forgive or go confront, but don't just fall into the trap of "I don't belong here." The body of Christ must learn to display love for one another, it's the only "strategy" that Jesus gave us to reach the world.

We offer a few communication courses that may help you move past issues that cause you to feel isolated and alone. These courses are conducted periodically throughout the year but if you are interested in overcoming these kinds of issues now, speak to one of our pastors and we'll point you to the best resources.

In our **Communication and Behavior Patterns** course we offer a DiSC behavioral profile to help you understand yourself and others. This is not a personality test that defines who you are, it identifies your strengths and weaknesses in communication.

The recommended reading is **Boundaries** by Dr. Henry Cloud and **How to Stop the Pain** by Dr. Jim Richards. Both of these books will help you move past the past and establish healthy boundaries for your life moving forward. How to Stop the Pain will specifically empower to stop letting the pain of the past determine your future by helping you let go of self judgment and the need to judge others.

2

WHY CHURCH?

Is church relevant in this day and age? That depends on your definition of church. For us **CHURCH = PEOPLE**.

The “church” is the family of believers on planet Earth, the entire body of Christ. Each believer is the brother or sister of every other believer, we’re all in the same family. Denominations can be divisive but we’re all still cleansed by the same blood and share the same father, God in Heaven the father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We believe the New Testament church gives us the model for a regular gathering where we meet to encourage one another in the Lord. We have an open environment with worship, teaching and the operation of the gifts of the Spirit in the body as appropriate.

Our weekly gathering is a time to persuade your heart of the truth and to serve others as they discover their identity in Christ. It’s an investment in yourself and your family. Church isn’t where you go once you have it all together, it’s not where perfect people gather, it’s a family that meets to be reminded of Jesus and encourage one another.

Church is not a place to come and be reminded of your sin, it’s a place to come and be reminded that sin has no power over you.

Church is not a place to come and be reminded of your sin, it’s a place to come and be reminded that sin has no power over you. Church isn’t the place where you come to be told what to do, it’s a place of personal reflection with your God to receive direction. Any operation of the gifts of the spirit from others toward you should confirm the direction of influence you’re already experiencing from the spirit of God. Church is not a place where you’re told who to be, it’s a place where you discover who you are in Christ.

If you participate in a specific ministry it's not because you're rising through the ranks, it's because God may be calling you to participate in the collective effort to provide a place of persuasion for others. Everything about an organized church is for the purpose of service. The collective gathering is designed to love and serve people. If you serve in church it's for the people, not the leaders or the organization.

A PLACE OF WORSHIP

Forward is committed to exalting Jesus in worship so you'll have the opportunity to give honor to God and persuade your heart of His love for you. We choose songs that affirm our new creation identity and the goodness of God. We choose songs that do not create a sense of separation between you and the indwelling spirit of God. Worship is a place to honor God. Worship is also a time to allow yourself to be nourished and strengthened by the life of God within you. We see believers like trees planted in God's kingdom and worship is the time that those trees draw from the nutrients in the realm of Heaven for healing, deliverance and emotional freedom.

A PLACE OF LEARNING & EQUIPPING

Forward is committed to offering courses and resources to establish hearts in grace. Part of Forward's call is to equip you for the work of the ministry. We do this through courses, life development resources and ministry training. Keep in mind that all ministry is an overflow of one's heart. One's calling is determined by the area of love in one's heart for a people group or specific issue. You'll hear more about that in our **Purpose, Calling and Dreams** course.

If we do not specifically offer a training option for your calling we will help you find the best path or resources to help you become equipped in that area.

3

FREEDOM OUR PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY

It is for freedom that God set you free! The last thing God wants for you is to be in a controlling church where you are not encouraged to follow that call of God on your life. We are committed to helping you break free from man-centered religion and experience abundant life as a free child in God's Kingdom.

We take ministry very seriously but we don't take ourselves too seriously. We know that your walk with God is not about pleasing the leaders of a church. We want to connect with you personally but we want to point you to Jesus for your identity.

You are free to follow God as you believe you are led as long as it's Biblically consistent. We will not define what it looks like for you to follow God. That means you don't have to wait for this church to define your ministry for you, that's between you and God. If you are called to serve in a ministry we already have in place then get involved! If you desire expressing your heart of ministry in a way that is not currently in place at Forward, speak with our leadership and we'll see how we can support you in that area.

Freedom can be confusing, especially if you've been part of a church that felt like they owned you. We trust the Holy Spirit in you and we want to help you follow him rather than be told what to do by us. We want to provide consistent teaching that helps you learn who you are in Christ and develop confidence in following God on your own. We'll walk with you, we'll serve people together in whatever area the may be for you but we will not take ownership of your ministry or tell you who you're supposed to be to fit into our church. We don't have a culture you need to learn before fitting in here.

If we have a defined ministry in place at Forward in which you choose to serve, there will be guidelines we'll want you to stick to. Those guidelines will be clearly

communicated to you and you'll always know where you stand. If you feel like you don't understand the expectations clearly, please ask. Don't complain, don't take it personally and don't let offense take root. Communicate, communicate, communicate.

Many Christians are not used to freedom, to some it may look like inactivity. To some it may look like disorganization. To others it's a welcome change that they've been looking for, maybe for a very long time. **Don't mistake freedom as a lack of opportunity for you to serve, you just have a choice in the matter.**

We want Forward to serve and equip you to follow what God has put in your heart. If we end up serving together under the Forward name then praise God but you're free. I commit to let you be you, I'll encourage you to be you, I ask the same in return. In the long run we'll see the chains of man centered religion broken, we'll see genuine and authentic ministry from and toward the people in this congregation and we'll see passionate ministry toward our community and world from people who call Forward home.

Let's link arms and serve people together!

THE GOAL OF PREACHING

I don't want to just give you information, I want to give you practical ways to apply the teaching of Jesus and the ways of God to your life. I want to inspire you to trust God as you inspire your family and friends to believe on Jesus. The truth is I'm not really teaching you, I'm helping reveal Jesus in you.

You don't need to learn from me but you can be open to me helping you connect to God in your heart so it becomes your own revelation. To me preaching is like art, I'm painting a picture of Jesus and pointing you to his different character traits and attributes. The more clearly you see Jesus in my words about him, the more successful I count myself. I'm not that interested in teaching you new things, I'm interested in inspiring you to see God clearly to the degree that you open your heart to him and allow him to influence you in every area of your life.

THE ROLE OF LEADERSHIP

Leaders are chief servants, not rulers over people. There is no such thing as spiritual authority other than Jesus. We are brothers and sisters in him, not parents and children. The 5-fold ministry positions are offices of administration to facilitate the work of the ministry and training. The 5-fold ministry positions are not levels of authority. The motivation of a leader is love, not power.

In the church a leader is not a boss, it's someone who takes the responsibility to support the equipping of people in a specific area. There is no special anointing available by "coming under" a particular leader.

Leadership takes the responsibility to organize and steward resources for the purpose of equipping believers to do the work of the ministry. Leaders are folks who recognize their influence and use it to point people to Jesus in a way that's natural to them. We do not have a ladder of leadership to climb at Forward, we view leaders as people who are available to help others step out in their area of passion.

LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE

We are a pastor and elder led church. While Pastors Clint and Sara Byars are the lead pastors, we include all pastors and elders when making significant decisions that determine the future of Forward. We believe these ministerial offices (5-fold ministry) are positions of administration rather than authority over you. No man or woman is your spiritual covering or spiritual superior. We do not expect you to submit to our authority and serve us. We want to serve you and help you follow Jesus and move forward in every area of your life.

1 John 2:27As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him.

INTEGRITY, CHARACTER, ETHICS, and CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Our staff and leadership team is committed to the highest standard of ethics and conduct. We expect the same of anyone that serves in any capacity at Forward Church. We hold to these scriptural principles when confronting moral issues, sin, ungodly behavior, and general conduct.

We first seek to understand and restore. Taking personal responsibility is a must when resolving issues.

Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. 3 For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. 4 But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. 5 For each one shall bear his own load.

Matthew 18:15 If your brother sins against you, go and confront him privately. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. 16 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.'

1 John 5:16 If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin *which does not lead* to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not *leading* to death. There is sin *leading* to death. I do not say that he should pray about that.

1 Peter 4:8 Above all, love one another deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

If you find yourself in a moral failure or you are stuck in a sin habit, we encourage you to seek help. Transparency and self-honesty are vital to overcoming sin and failures.

If you are considering in serving in any capacity, we ask that you apply Galatians 6:4, examine your own work, and make a mature decision to wait until you have overcome any issues that may be harmful or distracting to those you are hoping to influence through service.

If you are in a position of leadership or you are serving, and you commit a moral failure, or find yourself in a compromising situation, we ask that you inform your direct leader and make the decision to step down. If you are not transparent with God, yourself and church leaders, we may have to address the issue if it becomes evident.

If a conflict arises, we ask that you address it with the people who can take action and resolve the issue rather than speaking to people who are not involved. This includes social media posts, complaining about the issue without speaking to someone who can help you resolve the issue. If you have conflict with your team leader, or discover a moral failure or other type of infraction, please go to that leaders leader.

We do not condone the use of drugs or the abuse of alcohol in any capacity. We believe that sex should only be something shared by one woman and one man who are married. Please avoid the appearance of evil, and any behavior that would damage your witness with people. We seek to bring glory to God in all manners and we do not want to be a distraction to anyone.

Forward is an accepting, loving community that believes that God loves you no matter what. Salvation is solely by grace through faith, and not works. And the saved should experience transformation to the degree that you conduct yourself in a mature manner that does not cause another to stumble.

4

MISSION & VISION

**When you know God's love for you,
you will allow His grace to transform you
- Clint Byars**

CHANGING THE WAY THE WORLD SEES GOD

VISION: Changing the way you see God. We want to help you see God in the light of Jesus and help you establish a New Covenant perspective on all matters of faith and life.

MISSION: Bring people to wholeness through God's transformative love and establish hearts in God's empowering grace.

We want to be **A Community of Encouragement in Grace and Hope** for you and your family. We want you to know that **God is not mad at you**, that he deeply loves you as a child. Personally experiencing his love will make you whole and root your heart in his grace, which is his transformative power. We want to empower you to experience his transformative grace in your heart by teaching you to yield to his inner influence. When you do so, you will move forward in every area of life and walk in the ministry of reconciliation.

We encourage and inspire people to take a heart journey with God. When you follow God from a whole heart, your faith becomes unshakable and you learn to access the power of his influence.

Everything we do as a church centers around the finished work of Jesus Christ in his death, burial and resurrection. We believe Jesus is the clearest expression of God we have and the more we know him the more we will know God.

Jesus + Nothing = Everything

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CORE VALUES & BELIEFS

VALUES

GOD IS GOOD – Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. James 1:17

JESUS IS ENOUGH – Colossians 2: 9 For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, 10 and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority; 11 and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; 12 having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. 13 When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, 14 having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

BELIEVERS ARE NEW CREATIONS – 2 Corinthians 5: 17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. 18 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

GRACE IS TRANSFORMATIVE POWER – We believe this passage perfectly describes the function of grace, it's an inner divine influence on your heart.

Ephesians 3:16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

TRUST GOD – And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. 1 John 3:23

LOVE PEOPLE – John 13:34 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

GOD IS ACTIVE – And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the signs that followed. And they promptly reported all these instructions to Peter and his companions. And after that, Jesus Himself sent out through them from east to west the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation. Mark 16:20

CHURCH IS ENCOURAGING – not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. Hebrews 10:25

GET YOUR OWN VISION – But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him. 1 John 2:27

KEEP MOVING FORWARD – Romans 12:2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 8:29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; 30 and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

Ephesians 4:20 But you did not learn Christ in this way, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, 22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

BELIEFS

WE BELIEVE in one God, who exists in three Persons—the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is loving, holy and just.

WE BELIEVE that the Bible is God’s Word. It is inspired and accurate. It is our perfect guide in all matters of life.

WE BELIEVE that sin has separated us all from God, and that only through Jesus Christ can we be reconciled to God.

WE BELIEVE that Jesus Christ is firstborn son of God and the prophesied Messiah. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He led a sinless life, took all our sins upon Himself, died and rose again. Today, He is seated at the right hand of the Father as our High Priest and Mediator.

WE BELIEVE that salvation is the gift of God to man. This gift is effected by grace through faith in Jesus Christ and it results in works pleasing to God.

WE BELIEVE that water baptism is a symbol of the cleansing power of God and a testimony of our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

WE BELIEVE that the Holy Spirit is our Comforter. He guides us in all areas of our lives. He also blesses us with spiritual gifts and empowers us to yield the fruit of the Spirit.

WE BELIEVE that the Holy Communion is a celebration of Jesus' death and our remembrance of Him.

WE BELIEVE that God wants to transform, heal and provide for us, so that we can live blessed and victorious lives that will impact and help others.

WE BELIEVE that we are called to preach the gospel to all nations.

WE BELIEVE the gifts (graces) of God's indwelling spirit in each believer did not cease with the early church but are for today. We believe it is God's will for us to be healthy and experience abundant life. Jesus is the exact representation of the invisible God and he went about doing good and healing sicknesses and demonic oppression.

WE BELIEVE that marriage is a holy, spiritual union between one man and one woman.

WE BELIEVE that our Lord Jesus Christ has established his kingdom through the victory of his resurrection and his kingdom will continue to increase.

6

MAKING THE JOURNEY

Make the Journey from a BELIEVER to a DISCIPLE to a SERVANT to a LEADER. The Journey is our discipleship path designed to help you and your family become whole through God's love, establish your heart in his transformative grace and equip you in the ministry of reconciliation. You are free to take these steps as quickly or slowly as you desire. If you have questions or would like more information, contact us at info@forward.church or 770-828-5826.

BELIEVER is quite simply the first phase of your journey with God.

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

1. **Become a member of Forward Church**
2. **Get involved with a Life Group: <https://forward.church/life-groups>**

PUT ROOTS DOWN

Read “The Gospel of Peace” and “Grace the Power to Change” by Dr. Jim Richards (*Available in our bookstore*). These books will fast-track your understanding of our approach to the finished work of Jesus Christ and your new creation identity in him.

Apply Sunday's teachings: We believe the teachings in the Bible will change your life. We want to help you apply God's ways and the teachings of Jesus in your life in a

practical way. There may be some things you need to learn but what will really help you will be the things you incorporate into your life. We will equip and encourage you to trust God and practically live a life influenced by God's spirit that lives in you.

Find a place to serve: We don't need you to "catch our vision," we want you to get your own vision and follow Jesus as you feel led. That may mean you get involved with a ministry we already have in place but that may also mean you share what's on your heart. If we can support your passion and calling we'll work together to help you fulfill your call.

GROW IN HIM

Once you've put roots down and taken the first steps, we encourage you to steward your freedom at Forward well. We will not tell you what we need you to do for us, we want to help you discover your call. We will equip you to grow into the leader God has called you to be in whatever arena of life you're in, whether that be in your family, at your workplace or in day-to-day life. Our goal is to help you discover your new creation identity in Christ so you'll become rock solid confident in the character of God. We want to help you know who you are as a result of the finished work of Jesus and discover an unshakable trust in the character of God.

We encourage all members to serve but we want you to serve in your area of passion or calling. We don't want to use you to build an organization, we want to use the organization to build you.

If you find that you're interested in deeper learning, we offer a series of courses and resources to increase your capacity to minister the Gospel of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ to your family and others.

Life Development Resources

Designed to help you move forward in every area of life. These are typically facilitated on Wednesday nights throughout the year.

- **Communication & Behavior Patterns** – Understand yourself and how to communicate better with others. We use the DiSC Profile in this course. This course will give you tools to apply in your marriage, at work and with your children.
- **Setting Boundaries & Overcoming Your Past** – Discover how judging yourself and others has caused you pain all your life and how to be free from the pain of the past.
- **5 Love Languages** – Invest in your relationship with your spouse and learn to reflect God's glory in your marriage.
- **Who Is God?** – At Forward you may find yourself experiencing a shift in how you see God. While we are committed to the Bible, we want to help you see God through the person of Jesus rather than your circumstances or misunderstandings from the Old Covenant.

Living Forward Academy

This is a growing ministry at Forward consisting of several courses to help you streamline your understanding of new creation realities, the New Covenant and the role of a believer in today's world.

- Why Am I Here? Understanding Your Purpose, Fulfilling Your Call and Living Your Dreams
- New Creation Identity: Our Joint-Inheritance with Jesus and the Authority of the Believer
- Living Forward: Taking Steps Toward the Desires of Your Heart
- Communicating the Gospel: A Systematic Discourse in Teaching Others The Good News

- Grace and the Supernatural: Prayer, Gifts of the Spirit and Offices of Administration
- The Cross: Understanding the New Covenant Through the Old Covenant Sacrificial System
- *Specific books in the Bible*

SERVING & REACHING YOUR COMMUNITY

We offer continual outreach, evangelism and gifts training. We want to help you develop a lifestyle of evangelism through which the gifts of God's indwelling spirit naturally flow through you. Discover how to communicate the Gospel in a way that keeps Jesus at the center and helps people understand their value to God.

FULFILLING YOUR CALLING

Forward is active in foreign missions, international conferences, church planting and global media. If you find that you are called to the ministry in any capacity we can help you become equipped for the area you're called. We offer an in-depth internship that will focus in your area of passion and calling.

You will find more detail about The Journey and the above steps in our [Welcome to the Family membership course](https://forward.church/welcome-to-the-family-membership-course). <https://forward.church/forward-church-membership>

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FORWARD CHURCH MINISTRIES

Current Areas of Ministry to Serve Within

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Our children's ministry is primarily facilitated on Sunday morning from newborns through 12 years old. Our Nursery cares for ages 0-2. Our Mini's class is for ages 3-6 (must be potty trained). Kids In Motion is ages 7-12. Occasionally we offer childcare for special events. If you are interested in serving on this team please contact Sara Byars at info@forward.church or call 770-828-5826.

STUDENT MINISTRY

Lyle Camp and his team are challenging middle and high school students to take their faith seriously and be a light in their schools. Our student ministry meets weekly on Wednesday's. Contact Lyle for more information.

WORSHIP / SOUND & MEDIA

We love to worship! If you are interested in serving in this area please contact us at info@forward.church or call 770-828-5826

HOSPITALITY TEAM

This team consists of ushers, greeters, parking attendants and general helps ministry. If you are interested in serving on this team please contact us at info@forward.church.

PRAYER & MINISTRY TEAM

We believe prayer is powerful. We believe that life and death are in the power of the tongue. We see prayer as an opportunity to speak life over you and help you connect to God's promises for you in whatever area you need God's influence. Our prayer may include the agreement for healing. Or a word of encouragement, discernment, wisdom or prophecy. You can rest assured, all of our prayer for you and your family will be based on the finished work of Jesus and will help you connect to the wholeness of spirit that is already within you by grace through faith. If you'd like to serve on this team, please contact us at info@forward.church or speak to one of our pastors.

LIFE GROUPS

Our life groups are diverse, ranging from special interests, like Disc Golf, to Bible study. Most of our Life Groups are fellowship based but we always talk about Jesus. If you'd like to form, host or lead a Life Group, please contact us at info@forward.church or speak to one of our pastors.

OTHER AREAS

We are growing and will continually add ministries as needed. If you have an area of interest not listed or are not sure where you'd like to serve, please speak with one of our pastors and we will help you find a place to serve or find a way for Forward to support your ministry idea.

Thank you for taking the time to consider Forward Church as your home church. Please let us know if you have any questions not addressed in this manual or in our Welcome to the Family course. We pray you are encouraged by what you've read and watched. We are excited to get to know you better as you get connected here at Forward Church!