

When we are saved, God gives us a Second Nature. Our old first nature was dead in sin, but our new second nature is made alive in Christ. He has given us new hopes, new joys, new desires, new purposes, etc. But, at the same time, we have to war against our old sinful nature as it wants to creep back in. So, it's important to grow in our Second Nature to become like Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, through the Word, with the Church.

This Lifestyle Plan will help us be intentional to consider many areas we need to become more like Christ! It is centered around our Mission as a church: "To glorify God, by making disciples of all nations with the truth of Jesus in the context of relationships." Take some time to think through each topic and answer the questions in each section. Just write down a few thoughts and answers that will help you grow and be useful later to assess whether you have grown in these areas.

1. CHURCH | A CHURCH IN THE WORLD

HOW WILL YOU GATHER?

How will you make our weekly worship gathering a priority in your life? In what ways will you prepare yourself to come together as the body?

WHERE WILL YOU SERVE?

As you look across the church as a whole, what areas of ministry do you have a passion for and where God has gifted you to help? This may be on a Sunday morning, during the week at MGroup, behind the scenes, or at events. It may help to take a spiritual gifts test to know how God has gifted you to serve His church. Identify your spiritual gifts and how you can use them to serve at The Fields.

2. WORSHIP | GLORIFY GOD

HOW WILL YOU WORSHIP?

Consider intentional ways that you might focus on worshiping God in every facet of your life (Romans 12:1). How will you be intentional to worship God daily by giving your life as a sacrifice?

HOW WILL YOU PRAY/FAST?

How and when will you be intentional to pray regularly? Concentrated prayer at a specific time is the best fuel for continual prayer all the time. How and when will you be intentional to fast and focus on Christ regularly? Fasting from food and other things that demand our focus is a great way to make Christ our priority.

HOW WILL YOU GIVE?

How will you give regularly to the mission of God through The Fields Church? One of the most effective ways to fuel affection for God is to give your resources in obedience to God. This starts with giving to the church, though it may extend above and beyond this, as well. Giving intentionally, generously, sacrificially, and cheerfully fuels selfless love for God that overcomes selfish desires for the things of this world.

3. DISCIPLESHIP | MAKE DISCIPLES

EVANGELISM

Evangelism is the first stage of discipleship. We pray regularly and show & share the gospel with those who have yet to believe in hopes that they would see that only Christ can meet their greatest need.

WHO? OIKOS

Take some time to write down the names of three, five, or maybe ten unbelievers God has placed in your *oikos*, *your extended household or sphere of influence*. Then begin praying specifically for God, through the power of his Spirit, to draw them to salvation and to use you to share the gospel with them. **Intercede, Invest, Impact, Invite.**

HOW? STRATEGY

Think through how, in the context of where you live, work, and play, and with the people God has put in your sphere of influence, you can begin to speak intentionally about God's character, man's sin, Christ's provision, and our need to respond to that provision. How might you most effectively share the gospel with the people you identified above?

WHEN? INTENTIONAL

It's wise to consider when you will actively share Christ's love by creating opportunities to tell people about Jesus. As you think about the people you identified above, when will you intentionally share the gospel with them (i.e., at work, over a meal, during an activity together, after inviting them to a worship gathering, etc.).

MULTIPLICATION

Multiplication is the next step in the process of discipleship. It's investing in those who have put their faith in Christ and have a desire to follow him so that they might multiply themselves in others through discipleship!

WHO? F.A.T.

Who are two, three, or four Faithful, Available, and Teachable people God has put in your sphere of influence whom you can lead to make disciples? Then invite those few people to spend intentional time with you in the days ahead for the purpose of growing in Christ together.

WHAT? PLAN

What is your plan and what resources will you use to teach the few disciples in your life how to imitate and obey Christ in everything he has commanded us. Don't focus simply on knowledge, but transformation. You may consider using the Downline Builder, New City Catechism, or other tools to help grow them towards maturity.

HOW? IMITATE

As you focus your life on the few people God has given you, they need to see and hear and sense the life of Christ in you. Making disciple makers involves saying to them: “Imitate me as I imitate Christ.” (1 Corinthians 11:1) How will you regularly serve them and model before them what it means to follow Christ in public and in private? How will you model repentance and forgiveness when you’ve failed to imitate Christ in all ways?

WHY? MULTIPLY

The goal is not just for these few people you are focused on to follow Jesus; the goal is for them to lead other people to follow Jesus and thus multiply themselves. How will you send out your disciples to begin making disciples themselves and how will you serve them as you send them out?

4. MISSIONS | ALL NATIONS

PRAY FERVENTLY

How will you pray fervently for God’s Kingdom to come and His will to be done on the earth on a regular basis? You may focus on specific missionaries and mission organizations along with the nations of the world and unreached people groups. OperationWorld.org and JoshuaProject.net are great guides for praying for the nations.

GIVE SACRIFICIALLY

Consider giving above and beyond at times by sacrificing the wants in your budget to give to the needs of the world—most particularly the need for every people group to hear the gospel. You may give more than your tithe to a special missions offering or regularly support a language project or missionary over seas. How will you plan to sacrifice and give for the sake of the nations?

GO WILLINGLY

Don't add missions to your life, make it your life. Live everyday intentionally, not additionally. Consider all the avenues in which you might spend your life, lead your family, or leverage your work to penetrate the people groups of the world with the gospel, for this is what you were created for. Maybe you can invest in international students or refugees in our city. You might go on a short-term mission trip or maybe longer! How will you willingly go to the nations with the Gospel, as the Lord leads over the next year or two.

5. GOSPEL | TRUTH OF JESUS

Ezra 7:9-10 says God's hand was on Ezra because he committed to study, do, and teach God's Word.

HOW WILL YOU STUDY GOD'S WORD?

You might start to read a chapter a day, follow an intentional Bible reading plan, or read along with our sermon series reading plans. Consider memorizing scriptures that seem particularly significant and applicable to your life from your bible reading or our sermon series. You may use a guide like the Navigators Topical Memory System. How and when will you regularly spend time reading and memorizing the scriptures?

HOW WILL YOU LIVE GOD'S WORD?

It's important to apply God's word to our life daily and repent of sin in our life that does not reflect God's word and strive in his power to become more like him. Living out the scripture can only be done in community with others. How will you regularly live out God's word and who will hold you accountable to imitate Christ?

HOW WILL YOU TEACH GOD'S WORD?

Reteaching God's word that you have studied and begun to live out is the best way to solidify it in your mind and help you to truly understand it. It's also the means by which God's word bears fruit in other's lives. How will you reteach God's Word to others in your life and who will you teach?

6. COMMUNITY | RELATIONSHIPS

WHERE? MGROUP

As a member of the church, remember that you are not a spectator on the sidelines, but a participant in the mission. Identify where in the church you can best plug into a disciple-making missional community, MGroup.

HOW? UNITY

We are called to maintain unity in the bond of peace as believers. This happens by regularly repenting and confessing your sins to God and another person in the church while at the same time offering forgiveness to others who have sinned against you. How can you make this a normal part of your life and with who? How will you celebrate the “wins” in other’s lives while at the same time sharing their “losses” by bearing the burden?

DATE ____/____/____

NAME _____

ELDER _____

Once you’ve completed this Second Nature Lifestyle and Second Nature Life Stories, email bryan@TheFieldsChurch.net or contact one of the elders to schedule a Follow Up. There you will simply discuss the Second Nature Life Stories and Lifestyle homework and sign the Statement of Faith and Membership Covenant. If you have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to ask!