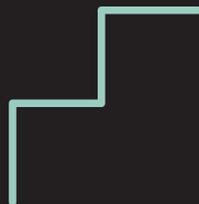


next
step



STEP TWO

THRIVE

03

next step is your pathway to growth.

It is a wonderful journey, consisting of four steps. Progress on the pathway as you learn about C3, growing in God, discovering who you are and how to live a purposeful life.

STEP ONE **MAKE C3 HOME**

Hear our story and vision as a church along with our heart for you. Most importantly, you will have the opportunity to make C3 your home.

STEP TWO **THRIVE**

Discover the fullness of life God has created for you. Learn about following Jesus and being transformed, learn about why gathering together is such an important part of doing life well together as the Church.

Congratulations on taking your



STEP THREE

DISCOVER YOU

Dive into your unique design. Discover your passions, abilities, personality and gifts. See how your design reveals your purpose in life and your best fit in church.

STEP FOUR

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Identify how you are called to make a difference in the church, community and marketplace. Learn about the opportunities available to use your God given gifts in a team at C3.



THRIVE

**The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree,
He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.
Those who are planted in the house of the Lord
Shall flourish in the courts of our God.
They shall still bear fruit in old age;
They shall be fresh and flourishing.**

PSALM 92:12-14

We are so passionate at C3 to see you thrive in life and reach the potential God intends for you. We know that if you implement a number of factors into your life you will flourish and be fruitful. Next Step 2 will highlight five of these different growth factors.

Most importantly, this scripture says that to thrive in life you need to be planted in the house of the Lord. To grow like a tall palm tree or a stately cedar of Lebanon requires roots that have grown down deep. For you to be 'planted' means that you commit and contribute to the Lord's house - you make C3 your family and your home.

1. REMAIN IN CHRIST

Jesus said to his disciples:

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

JOHN 15: 5,8

Once we invite Jesus into our life it is our personal responsibility to:

→ FOLLOW CHRIST

→ REMAIN IN HIM

→ BEAR FRUIT

For Jesus to be the centre of your life you need to abide in Him. This happens when you engage in prayer, read the Bible and connect with other believers. Following Christ is learning to hear His voice and to obey His Word. You will be clothed with Christ and empowered to live a fruitful and meaningful life.

And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him.

COLOSSIANS 2:2

But those who obey God's word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him.

1 JOHN 2:5

2. DAILY CONNECT WITH GOD

To remain in Jesus requires you to do things that keep you connected and growing in Him.

It is important to have a daily 'devotional life' when you set aside time to connect with God in prayer and reading the Bible. You will learn to fight against distractions, such as the pressures and pleasures of life, and to learn to focus on God. It helps to identify the best time and place in the day where you can regularly be with Jesus.

**Very early in the morning while it was still dark,
Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a
solitary place where he prayed.**

MARK 1:35

How did Jesus intentionally spend time with His Heavenly Father?

- He got up early before the rush of the day
- He left the house and people to be on his own
- He went to a solitary place to pray
- He had a pattern of prayer

**This, then, is how you should pray:
'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.'**

MATTHEW 6: 9-13

Reading the Bible is an essential part of connecting with God. We talk to God in prayer but God talks to us through the Word. A commitment to Christ is a commitment to the Bible.

**Blessed is the man
Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,
Nor stands in the path of sinners,
Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;
But his delight is in the law of the Lord,
And in His law he meditates day and night.
He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water,
That brings forth its fruit in its season,
Whose leaf also shall not wither;
And whatever he does shall prosper.**

PSALM 1:1-3

This scripture once again describes our life as a thriving plant - one that is green, healthy and fruitful. If we want to be strong and successful in life, it begins by delighting and feeding ourselves in the Word of God. You can:

- **READ** the Word
- **HEAR** the Word
- **MEMORISE** the Word
- **STUDY** the Word
- **MEDITATE** on the Word
- **SHARE** the Word

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

3. GROW IN GOD

God desires for us to grow in all different areas of our life:

- Our knowledge
- Our faith
- Our trust
- Our character
- Our capacity
- Our strength
- Our love
- Our wisdom
- Our identity
- Our authority
- Our influence
- Our fruitfulness

For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.

For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 PETER 1:5-8

To have a fresh and flourishing life it is important that we continually keep growing. This requires us to make intentional decisions and actions to grow. The effort we put in to build our lives is how we become effective and productive. God yearns for us to keep growing and be fruitful ALL the days of our life.

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

2 CORINTHIANS 3:17-18

4. BE BAPTISED

God not only brings change into our life through transformation processes but also through significant spiritual events. Every believer has the opportunity to encounter God and His transforming power when they are baptised in water and the Holy Spirit.

→ WATER BAPTISM

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU ARE WATER BAPTISED?

1. Water Baptism is spiritually significant

It is the moment when you identify with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.

Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.

ROMANS 6:3-4

2. Water Baptism is a public sign

Being water baptised is your public confession of faith. It provides a wonderful opportunity to invite friends and family to witness that you are now a follower of Christ.

Everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven.

MATTHEW 10:32

3. It is a 'No turning back moment'– when you draw a line in the sand!

Water baptism is a declaration that your past is behind you - you are forgiven, set free and living for God.

→ BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

When you are born again you receive the Holy Spirit. It is also possible to experience a further encounter when baptised with the Holy Spirit, empowering you to live a victorious and influential life.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU ARE BAPTISED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT?

1. You become empowered

When you are baptised with the Holy Spirit, you are emboldened to be a witness for Christ, and empowered to live.

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

ACTS 1:8

2. You can access and use the gifts of the Spirit

When you are filled with the Holy Spirit you have access to the gifts of the Spirit listed in 1 Corinthians 12:4-11. These gifts, such as faith, prophecy, miracles, healing and words of knowledge, are for the purpose of blessing others. The gift of speaking in tongues (a heavenly personal prayer language) is also given, as evidence of the 'baptism' in the Holy Spirit.

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

ACTS 2:4

5. JOIN A DINNER PARTY

**And all the believers met together in one place
and shared everything they had...
They worshiped together at the Temple each day,
met in homes for the Lord's Supper,
and shared their meals with great joy and generosity.**

ACTS 2:44, 46

In the early church they met regularly in the Temple and in people's homes. At C3 we believe in the importance of believers joining together in the big gathering of a weekend services and in more intimate dinner parties in the week sharing a meal together.

→ WEEKEND SERVICES

These services provide an opportunity for you to join with many believers to celebrate and worship God. At a service you will hear the Word of God preached, and be able to give, serve and bring friends along to meet Christ.

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

HEBREWS 10:24-25

IN THE TEMPLE + AROUND THE TABLE

IN THE HOUSE + IN THE HOME

→ DINNER PARTIES

These intimate dinner parties have one main purpose - to bring people together to form friendships in the midst of fellowship. You will find support as you care for and love one another, pray together and grow in Christ. Dinner parties are a place where you can invite and bring friends, family and flat mates along to meet and connect with people from your C3 family.

I also tell you this, if two of you agree here on earth concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you. For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them.

MATTHEW 18:19-20

**And every day,
in the Temple and from house to house,
they continued to teach and preach this message:
'Jesus is the Messiah.'**

ACTS 5:42

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

PROVERBS 17:17



THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT DINNER PARTIES

We have a variety of dinner parties that meet in different neighbourhoods across the Wakatipu on either Wednesday evenings or Sunday late afternoons.

Dinner parties are a place and space where you're encouraged to invite and bring people along. They typically run for 2 hours, where we share a meal and do life well together, connecting, prayer and talking about the word. We meet either weekly or fortnightly and tend to take a break through the Christmas holidays.

Everyone has the potential to help host a dinner party. The first step to hosting is being involved in one. We believe everyone has something to offer others. We have four hosting roles at our dinner parties; 1. creating a great vibe and hospitable environment, 2. the foodies bringing, preparing and presenting dinner, 3. welcomers + connectors 4. the facilitators of care, prayer and teaching. When you're ready to help host a dinner party, we have specific training that will help you take this wonderful Next Step.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW JESUS?
HAVE YOU RECENTLY DECIDED TO FOLLOW HIM?
ARE YOU COMING BACK TO HIM?
IF SO, WE ARE SO HAPPY FOR YOU!

We would love to invite you to join one of our dinner parties, the most important thing is that you find the right one that fits for you, our Next Step hosts can help you today.

We would also like to invite you to be water baptised and if you need a Bible, we have a free one here for you today.

Please let your Next Step host know. This is the best decision you can make and we really want to see you thrive.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Next week come to Next Step:

→ **STEP THREE - DISCOVER YOU**

After that ... you can continue on to complete:

→ **STEP FOUR - MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

Or if you missed completing:

→ **STEP ONE - MAKE C3 HOME**



THRIVE

