

## New Hope Fellowship Growth Guide

For \_\_\_\_\_ as of \_\_\_\_\_.

### “What’s my next step?”

- I am committed** - I believe that Jesus is the Son of God, that He paid for my sin through His death on the Cross, and that He rose from the dead. I believe He will raise me from the dead, save me from final condemnation, and let me live with him forever. I have made my belief public by being baptized. I know that God deserves my all and I’m committed to serving him with all of my heart.
  - Scriptures:* Deuteronomy 6:4-9; John 3:1-21, 5:24-30, 14:6; Matthew 25:31-46, 28:18-20; Acts 2:36-41, 4:8-12; 1 Corinthians 1:26-31; 2 Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 4:14
  - Next step examples:*
    - Pray right now to receive Christ.
    - Investigate the claims of Jesus by reading one of the Gospels.
    - Read an apologetic book like Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis, The Case for Faith by Lee Strobel, or The Reason for God by Timothy Keller.
    - Talk to an elder about being baptized.
- I am seeking to know God** - I regularly study the scriptures and prayer is a meaningful, daily habit.
  - Scriptures:* Genesis 1:3; Mark 1:35; 2 Timothy 2:15; Hebrews 4:12; Job 42:1-6
  - Next step examples:*
    - Commit to reading 1 chapter of the Bible every morning.
    - Do a study of a major doctrine or topic like “Faith and Works” or “What Jesus said about divorce”.
    - Join a community or church Bible study group.
    - Start a prayer journal.
    - Take weekly prayer walks with your spouse or a friend.
- I am living cleanly** - I act and think in ways that please God. I am actively fighting sinful habits, growing in self-control and love, have accountability, and do not need to repent of any recent sin or failure.
  - Scriptures:* Romans 6:1-7; 8:1-13; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Philippians 4:8; Ephesians 5:15; 1 Timothy 4:8; 2 Timothy 1:13, 2:19; James 5:16
  - Next step examples:*
    - Confess a recent sin to a friend/spouse/mentor and ask forgiveness.
    - Set up an accountability software program on your computers and phones.
    - Intentionally focus on thinking the best of people rather than dwelling on judgemental thoughts.
    - Practice self-control and meditation through a 1 week fast.

- ❑ **I worship regularly** - I regularly meet with others to praise God and hear his Word taught. I dedicate periods of rest to God. I joyfully offer a part of my money and resources to God to acknowledge His worthiness and thank him for His provision.
  - ❑ *Scriptures:* Exodus 15:1; Deuteronomy 4:10; 2 Samuel 22:1; 2 Chronicles 5:13; Mark 12:30; Acts 2:42-47; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 10:24-25
  - ❑ *Next step examples:*
    - ❑ Listen to a worship album while you take a walk in the woods.
    - ❑ Pray as a family on the way to church to focus your hearts.
    - ❑ Write a poem praising God or to lament something painful.
    - ❑ Actively think about the words when you sing in church.
    - ❑ Commit to increasing the amount you put in the offering this year by 2%.
- ❑ **I have Christ-centered friendships** - I am part of a close-knit community who shares each other's joys and challenges. My friends help strengthen my faith. I pursue unity.
  - ❑ *Scriptures:* Deuteronomy 13:6-11; Proverbs 17:17, 18:24; Mark 12:31; John 17:20-23; Galatians 6:2; James 5:16; 1 Peter 1:22
  - ❑ *Next step examples:*
    - ❑ Join or offer to start a small group in your home.
    - ❑ Open up to a friend about a recent temptation and ask for prayer.
    - ❑ Ask a family you've chatted with at church out to dinner.
    - ❑ Talk to an elder about a broken relationship and how to repair it.
- ❑ **I have intentional mentoring relationships** - I have a spiritual mentor, a peer to share my faith journey with, and someone I'm helping to grow in Christ.
  - ❑ *Scriptures:* Deuteronomy 4:9-10; Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 9:2; Acts 11:25-26; 1 Corinthians 4:14-16, 11:1; Philipians 3:17; 2 Timothy 2:1-2; 1 Peter 5:1-4
  - ❑ *Next step examples:*
    - ❑ Ask a more mature person to meet with you for coffee once a month.
    - ❑ Begin praying for a friend who will encourage you in Christ.
    - ❑ Send a young person an encouraging note once a week for a month.
- ❑ **I share my story** - I love the lost enough to share the Gospel. I know my personal faith story and tell it when I have the opportunity.
  - ❑ *Scriptures:* Matthew 28:18-20; John 4:39-40, 15:16; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8; 1 Peter 3:15-16; Revelation 14:6
  - ❑ *Next step examples:*
    - ❑ Write down how you came to believe in Jesus.
    - ❑ Memorize the "Romans Road".
    - ❑ Ask a friend/coworker if they go to church anywhere.
- ❑ **I make the world a better place** - I love those around me and honor God by giving of my resources and doing acts of kindness.
  - ❑ *Scriptures:* Matthew 5:16, 25:35-45; 1 Corinthians 16:1-4; Galatians 6:10; Hebrews 10:24-25, 13:1-3; James 1:27, 2:14-26, 1 John 3:18
  - ❑ *Next step examples:*
    - ❑ Do a spiritual gifts inventory or ask a leader if they need any help.
    - ❑ Ask a friend to join you in volunteering once a month.
    - ❑ Make meals for people, fix something, help them do their taxes, etc.
    - ❑ Start giving to an international charity.