



## Purpose, Vision and Plan

**OUR PURPOSE** is based upon the truth that God created and loves families. His design and desire is for a man and a woman to marry for life and raise children to know and honor Him (Mark 10:9; Malachi 2:15).

Adoption is also God's idea, and He models this in His adoption of us as His children (Romans 8:15, 23; Ephesians 1:5). Regardless of the means by which they enter a family, children are a gift from God and He cares about how they are raised (Psalm 127:3; Psalm 34:11; Proverbs 23:13–14). When God gives us gifts, He also gives clear instructions about their use.

When God led the Israelites out of Egypt, He commanded them to teach their children all He had done for them (Deuteronomy 6:6–7; 11:19). He desired that the generations to come would continue to uphold all His commands. When one generation fails to instill God's laws in the next, a society quickly declines. Parents not only have a responsibility to their children, but an assignment from God to impart His values and truth into their lives.

Throughout Scripture parents are given specific instructions about how to raise their children. Ephesians 6:4 says, *"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."* There are several ways parents might provoke their children to anger. Some parents set impossible standards so that a child despairs of ever achieving them. Some parents tease, ridicule, or humiliate their children as a means of punishment, which does nothing but provoke them to anger. Inconsistency can also provoke to anger as a child is never sure about the consequences of his actions. Hypocrisy provokes children to anger when parents require behavior from children that the parents are not choosing for themselves.

To *"bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord"* means that parents should train their children the way God trains us. As a Father, God is *"slow to anger"* (Numbers 14:18; Psalm 145:8), *patient* (Psalm 86:15), and *forgiving* (Daniel 9:9). His discipline is designed to bring us to repentance (Hebrews 12:6–11). His instruction is found in His Word (John 17:17; Psalm 119:97), and He desires that parents fill their homes with His truth (Deuteronomy 6:67).

He also disciplines His children (Proverbs 3:11; Hebrews 12:5) and expects earthly parents to do the same (Proverbs 23:13). Psalm 94:12 says, *"Blessed is the man whom you discipline, O Lord, and whom you teach out of your law,"* The word *discipline* comes from the root word *disciple*. To discipline someone means to make a disciple of him. God's discipline is designed to *"conform us to the image of Christ"* (Romans 8:29).



Parents can make disciples of their children by instilling values and life lessons they have learned. As parents practice godly living and make Spirit-controlled decisions (Galatians 5:16, 25), they can encourage their children to follow their example. Proper, consistent discipline brings a *“harvest of righteousness”* (Hebrews 12:11). Failure to discipline results in dishonor for both parent and child (Proverbs 10:1). Proverbs 15:32 says that the one who ignores discipline *“despises himself.”*

The Lord brought judgment upon Eli the priest because he allowed his sons to dishonor the Lord and *“failed to restrain them”* (1 Samuel 3:13).

Therefore, **OUR VISION** is very simple. To provide a place and atmosphere where families can come together with other families to celebrate God’s presence in worship, communicate God’s love through evangelism, incorporate God’s people into our fellowship, educate God’s family through discipleship, and demonstrate God’s love through ministry.

1. **Celebrate God’s Presence in *Worship*** – Provide a fun, exciting and Spirit-filled atmosphere where families can sing, dance, praise and worship God together in spirit and in Truth.
2. **Communicate God’s Love through *Evangelism*** – Present the Word of God *“in demonstration of the Spirit and of power”* (1 Corinthians 2:4) in order to make known the great love of God and availability of salvation to all those who call upon the name of the Lord by faith and with a repentant heart.
3. **Incorporate God People into our *Fellowship*** - As individuals and families are born-again into God’s family we want to immediately educate and invite them to become members of our faith-family by encouraging them to complete HOPE 100 and follow Christ’s example of water baptism by immersion.
4. **Educate God’s Family through *Discipleship*** – Matthew 28:18-20 says... Jesus drew near and said to them, *“I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, to the end of the age.”* As we baptize individuals and families into our fellowship we will diligently spend the rest of our lives together teaching, studying and applying everything Jesus has commanded us as His disciples. Our first line of discipleship will be our HOPE series.
5. **Demonstrate God’s Love through *Ministry*** - As we are doing life together as a faith-family it is most certain that various needs will arise amongst individuals and within families and it is during those times that we will demonstrate God’s love to those in need by praying for, standing with, and meeting such needs as God provides the resources.



**OUR PLAN** is to meet each Wednesday night from 5:30 - 7:30pm.

5:30 – 6:00	Arrival, Meal & Play-time
6:00 – 6:15	Welcome – Praise and Worship
6:20 – 6:55	Bible Study (Children by age – Parent’s/Adults Group)
7:00 – 7:20	Family Fun – Games/Competition
7:20 – 7:30	Wrap-up Worship/Dismiss