

DISCOVERY 101

WEEK 1: Who We Are and What We Do
PART 1: Our Vision and Our Mission

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

If someone considers The Life Church at Charlotte to be their church home, we welcome you as a member. We see church as being more like a family than an organization, so there are no requirements to be a member.

Our aim is to be a place where people can feel loved, accepted, and valued by God and by one another. We view people as children of God, equal in worth, whatever their race, age, or gender. We recognize that God has a purpose for every person and has placed unique interests and gifts on the inside of each one. We want to see people rise to the potential that He has for their lives. Whatever a person's background or experience, we want to see them restored to the life God has intended for them. Whatever a person might be struggling with today, we want to help them and go through this journey of life together.

I. OUR VISION

A. HOW THE CHURCH STARTED

Jerry and Melanie Stone were once traveling missionaries who based out of Healing Place Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. With the help of their pastor, Dino Rizzo, and a church planting organization called the Association of Related Churches (ARC), Jerry and his family moved to Charlotte, North Carolina, to start The Life Church at Charlotte in September of 2005.

B. OUR VISION

Reach

Reach people for the Lord through honest relationships and effective outreach.

Relate

Relate to one another through genuine and loving friendships.

Raise

Raise people up to grow spiritually through relevant teaching and heart-felt worship.

Release

Release people to go out to the community and the world with a contagious desire to know the life found in God.

C. WHAT WE BELIEVE

If you have any questions about what we believe, we encourage you to come to the remaining three classes of Discovery 101. Church leaders are available after the class to answer any questions that you might have. You can also email your questions to info@thelifeonline.org.

D. OUR LEADERSHIP TEAMS

We view leadership as a responsibility to help others find their position in the church, provide them with the resources and training that they need, and to encourage people to work together as a team in accomplishing a goal.

MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS

Ministry Team Leaders help train and support ministries for church services.

LIFE GROUP LEADERS

Life Group Leaders head up small groups that we call Life Groups.

Our leaders are here to serve you. To find out more about our leadership teams, please contact the Church Office.

E. ACCOUNTABILITY

Because we recognize that God has given us each other to support, encourage, and help one another, we don't ever want to do anything alone. We realize that it is dangerous for any leader to become separated from the people that God has given them for strength, guidance, and protection.

OVERSEERS

The Lead Pastor has a group of overseers for his personal accountability.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The church has a Board of Directors for accountability with the administration of the church.

BOARD OF FINANCIAL ADVISORS

The church has a Board of Financial Advisors to advise the Lead Pastor on financial decisions.

Names of overseers, directors, or advisors are available through the Church Office.

II. OUR MISSION

A. CHURCH SERVICES

1. WORSHIP SERVICE

Our worship service is intended to provide an environment where people can connect with God through worship, prayer, and Bible teaching. The message of the Bible has not changed, but the methods that we use to present them has adapted with each generation. Today we use modern technology, contemporary music, and relevant illustrations to be effective in our ministry to today's world. We also want to provide opportunities for people to connect with other people through relationships and ministries. More than the methods we use, we hope that you see our heart to love God and to love people as we live life together.

2. CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

We offer children's ministry at the same time as our worship service. We don't look at our children's ministry as just childcare; we see it as an opportunity to minister to a younger generation. The ministry that we offer children is creative, dynamic, and age appropriate.

LIFE NURSERY

Birth to 2

We have experienced and trained workers to provide quality, loving care for infants and toddlers in a clean, safe environment. Fun learning activities are provided at age level.

JESUS JUNGLE PRESCHOOL

Ages 3 – 5

This class offers a variety of hands-on learning experiences so children can have fun while actively participating in the lesson.

PLANET KIDS

Grades K-5

Planet Kids is like a worship service for children. They have their own music, highly visual and audible teaching methods, games and prizes, drama skits, and more.

All Children's Ministry workers have gone through a screening and training process to provide a safe environment for your children.

3. STUDENT MINISTRIES

As young people are developing and growing independent, we want to support families and be a part of what God wants to do in the life of their student. At a time when youth are being influenced by peers and trying to find their own way, we hope to help connect them with God and His plan for their life. We want to provide a place where young people can have good role models and form lasting relationships with true friends. We want to give them experiences in God's presence and show them how the Bible can apply to their lives.

Our students are divided into three groups – Junior High, High School, and College. They have a weekly church service, small groups, monthly events, and annual camps and retreats.

REVOLUTION

Grades 6-8

THE CORE

Grades 9-12

ELEVATE

College

All Youth Workers have gone through a screening and training process to provide a safe environment for students.

B. CHURCH MINISTRIES

As a church we collectively get involved in community events, outreach projects, benevolence to the poor, and worldwide missions.

We encourage individual and small group outreach as well as provide opportunities for us as a church family to help meet the needs of the people around us. When we come to know the love that God has for us and for others, we will want to show that love to the people in our city, our nation, and our world. True love is shown in actions, not just in words. We believe that God wants us to have His heart for people, so The Life Church at Charlotte sets aside a minimum of ten percent of our income to go toward outreach and missions.

C. LIFE GROUPS

Life Groups are the best way for people to get connected at The LIFE. We are more than a church that meets on weekends. We also are a network of small groups that meet throughout the city at different times and locations through the week. Life Groups are one way that we provide opportunities to build meaningful and lasting relationships with one another. Our Life Groups run in three terms –spring, summer, and fall. They meet at different times and locations around the city. You can explore Life Groups by picking up the current Life Group Directory at the Welcome Center or visit us online at www.thelifeonline.org. There is a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) at the end of this booklet that will give you more information on our Life Groups.

1. GROWTH GROUPS – *Where you can learn*

In Growth Groups, we teach the Bible and life principles on a deeper level. We encourage people to join these groups for their personal spiritual growth. Some of our topics for our classes are Righteousness, Healing, and Bible Covenants. We also have classes that teach spiritual principles that people can practically apply to their home life- including classes on marriage, parenting, and economics.

2. INTEREST GROUPS – *Where you can relate*

These are groups that get together based on a common interest, such as, sports, hobbies, etc. We value the importance of having friends that share the same faith as well as to provide a non-threatening environment for people who are searching for life found in God.

3. TOUCH GROUPS – *Where you can serve*

These are groups where we reach out to the community and minister to people within the church. Examples of those groups are outreach to widows and single moms, outreach to the poor, missions, nursing homes, etc.