



FIND FAMILY



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PART ONE: Find Family

INTRODUCTION

OUR HOPE FOR YOU

Today at Finding Family our hope is to give you a basic introduction to our church family. Since we have attenders from many different church backgrounds, this class is designed to clearly explain **who we are** and **what we believe**. We're glad you've chosen to find out more about Real Church!

OUR STORY

For 15 years, Pastor James and Tiffany rode an incredible journey together, building two amazing youth ministries in Ohio and Georgia, recording two albums, leading worship, running youth conferences, guest speaking, and raising two remarkable children, Malachi and Malena. In early 2011 they began to feel a deeper call to come back home and minister to the entire family. After a year and a half of prayer, confirmations, and preparation, they decided to finish the only chapter they knew and trust God to start the next one. With the two words "Real" and "Family" imprinted on their hearts, they clasped hands, took a deep breath, and birthed Real Church in March of 2013. In just a few short years, Real Church has grown from an idea to more than 400 attendees at two Sunday services. It is already a vibrant, growing, and highly influential church in the city. God has truly blessed Pastor James' passionate and genuine approach to preaching the gospel – an approach that will challenge and inspire all who attend to allow Christ to have total control of your life!

OUR PURPOSE

"Let there be real harmony among you so there won't be any splits in the church.

I plead with you to be of one mind, united in thought and purpose."

1 Corinthians 1:10 (LB)

OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT: WHY WE EXIST AS A CHURCH

Real Church exists to reach people who are far from God and to place them on the path to life change.

GOD'S PROMISES FOR MY LIFE

The God of the universe has made you some big promises. He made them first in the Old Testament:

"Therefore, say to the Israelites: 'I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians.'" Exodus 6:6-7 (NIV)

These promises remain at the core of His heart and have never changed. They are the key to your fulfillment and His plans for you.

- "I will bring you out." _____.
- "I will free you from being slaves." _____.
- "I will redeem you." _____.
- "I will take you as my own people." _____.

At Real Church, we believe that these four promises are for all who believe:

I. SALVATION – _____.

We consider reaching people one of our greatest responsibilities. Our weekend services serve people at all stages in their spiritual journey but are geared with the lost and unchurched in mind.

WEEKEND SERVICES

Our Weekend Services focus on four values:

1. _____.

“I was glad when they said to me, let us go into the house of the Lord.” Psalm 122:1 (NKJV)

“True worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.” John 4:23-24

2. _____.

“But if an unbeliever or someone who does not understand comes in...he will be convinced by all that he is a sinner and will be judged by all, and the secrets of his heart will be laid bare. So he will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, ‘God is really among you!’”
1 Corinthians 14:24-25 (NIV 1984)

3. _____.

“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.” Ephesians 4:11-12 (NIV 1984)

4. _____.

“Anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. But who can ask them to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?”
Romans 10:13-14 (LB)

HOW TO WIN PEOPLE TO CHRIST:

One of our primary purposes as believers is to reach people far from God. Every one of us are expected to do our part by following these four principles:

1. **Accept our personal** _____.
2. **Build a personal** _____.
3. **Share our personal** _____.
4. **Give a personal** _____.

Note: Over 90% of Christians will go to the grave having never lead anyone to Christ.

Luke 19:10 *"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."*

We are not here to maintenance the found. We are here to reach the lost!

POINTS OF PASSION (Local, National, and International Outreach)

Jesus gave His Church a mandate to reach the world around them in three areas:

"You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

1. **"In Jerusalem" - Our** _____.

"Real religion, the kind that passes muster before God the Father, is this: Reach out to the homeless and loveless in their plight." James 1:27 (Message)

The primary way we reach our city is through our church's outreach efforts.

2. **"In Judea and Samaria" - Our** _____.

"Whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so that he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him." 1 Corinthians 9:22 (LB)

The primary way we reach our Nation is by investing in other like-minded church plants and constantly reminding Christians to reach beyond themselves.

3. **“To the ends of the Earth” - Our _____.**

“Jesus said to His followers, ‘Go everywhere in the world, and tell the Good News to everyone.’” Mark 16:15 (NCV)

Real Church strategically invests a portion of its resources into missions work all around the world, with a focus on unreached people groups, students, children, and church planting. **We are committed to more than just what is in front of us!**

WHAT CAN I DO?

1. _____.

*“Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’”
Matthew 9:37-38*

2. _____.

*“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?’
And I said, ‘Here am I. Send me!’ He said, ‘Go and tell this people.’” Isaiah 6:8-9*

3. _____.

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:19-21 (NIV 1984)

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." - Jim Elliott

II. FREEDOM – _____.

Real life change happens in the context of relationships – REAL Groups. In the Bible, they worshipped in the temple but ministry happened house to house.

“You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house.” Acts 20:20

REAL GROUPS PROVIDE THREE THINGS:

1. A place to_____.

"...yes, whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him." 1 Corinthians 9:22 (LB)

2. A place to_____.

"We know what real love is because Christ gave up His life for us. And so we also ought to give up our lives for our Christian brothers and sisters." 1 John 3:16 (NLT)

3. A place to_____.

"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." Proverbs 27:17

HOW OUR REAL GROUPS WORK

At Real, our desire is to be a resource for you and your family as you walk the path to lasting life change in Christ. Real Groups are your opportunity to connect and build relationships in a safe, fun, and encouraging environment. We, as people, were built by God to have relationships with others. We need more than casual relationships like you find with Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram. We need genuine and authentic relationships – relationships where we can know others and be known by them. These relationships can protect us from isolation and help us draw closer to God

Our Real groups typically meet in the Spring and Fall for 8 weeks, in places all around our city, and provide a place for you to connect, grow, and discuss the issues and challenges of life. Regardless of your age, interest, or location, we are sure there is a group out there for you. Real Groups are also where we pray, care for one another, and are missed if we don't show up! If you would like to join a Real Group, simply visit our website and sign up under the Real Groups tab, or visit the VIP center on Sunday mornings to find out when the next session of Rea groups will start. **We would love for you to get connected!**

There are three things you should know about **Real Groups**:

1. **There are a variety of groups.**

Our groups are offered in two categories – topical (Real Groups) and interest based (Connect Groups). Whether you love board games, ride bikes, run, paint, are interested in a particular topic, or just like to dig into the Word, we believe there is a leader, location, and group that will be just right for you.

2. We have two semesters every year. * (Subject to change as we grow)

New groups start and stop two times a year - Spring and Fall. Each semester is kicked-off with an online and onsite registration, and a new Real Group Directory.

3. You can host or lead a group.

We believe that everyone has areas of strength and gifting that could benefit others. The first step in becoming a Real Group leader is to attend the Real Group Leader Training. These classes are offered before each semester to give you an overview of what it takes to start a group. You'll discover that it's easier than you think. (For more information, contact **Amy Kinder at amyk@realchurchohio.com**)

III. RESTORATION – _____.

Real Path offers the information and experiences necessary to help you discover and develop your redemptive purpose. Real Path is designed to lead you through a step-by-step process of growth and ultimately into leadership.

“Let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity.”
Hebrews 6:1 (NIV 1984)

REAL PATH

1. _____.

This class is a basic introduction to the ministry of Real Church and will help you understand church partnership. **Find Family** is held on the first Sunday of every month.

2. _____.

This class develops the essential habits that every believer needs to become a fully-devoted follower of Jesus Christ. **Know God** is held on the second Sunday of every month.

3. _____.

This class will help you discover your personality, gifts, and purpose in life, and see how God combines them for the best fit in ministry. **Discover Purpose** is held on the third Sunday of every month.

4. _____.

Attend an orientation or training session in the ministry area of your choice to learn more or to join the Dream Team. **Make a Difference** is held on the fourth Sunday of every month.

God's ultimate goal for your life is to make an eternal difference in the life of another person. **You have completed the Real Path when you join the Dream Team.**

At Real Church we believe that:

Every believer is also a _____.

Every task is vitally _____.

Every person is a "10" in _____. (We want to help you discover your "10")

IV. FULFILLMENT – _____.

All of us were created by God to make a difference in the life of another person. God has a place for you where your unique abilities and passions can touch the lives of others. We believe that your life will never make sense until you find, develop, and fulfill that purpose.

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:10

"Now God gives us many kinds of special abilities...and there are different kinds of service to God (ministry)...All of you together are the one Body of Christ and each of you is a separate and necessary part of it." 1 Corinthians 12:4-5, 27 (LB)

JOINING THE DREAM TEAM – Make a Difference (Part 4)

1. **Application** - Complete and submit a volunteer application to a ministry leader or the church office. (tiffanyd@realchurchohio.com or amyk@realchurchohio.com)
2. **Visit** - Contact the ministry leader for the area of your choice, and sit in to learn more about how to be involved and see if it is a fit for you.
3. **One-on-one** - Schedule a meeting with the ministry leader to share your desire to serve in that area, and complete any remaining training required by that ministry leader.

Real Church has what we believe are 7 principles of healthy culture:

Resolution: is a firm decision to do or not to do something; to resolve!

1. ____: Romans 12:1 "*Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves*".

- We will show respect in every situation no matter the circumstance.
- We will choose to speak to someone rather than about them.
- We will lay down our "Rights" and humble ourselves to honor others.
- We will not take part in negative talk. (Negative attracts Negative!)
- Just because something is true doesn't mean it needs to be said.

2. ____: Matthew 8:26 "*Then he (Jesus) got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm*".

Note: Jesus rebuked and confronted the storm in order to have peace. Conflict remained until it was addressed!

- We will always be open to listen to and try to understand people's concerns.
- We will run at conflict instead of running from it in order to protect peace.
- We will have "no strife".

3. ____: Psalms 51:6 "*Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.*"

- We will choose to own our own mistakes and grow from them.
- We will not be defensive and blame or make excuses.
- We will be pure in our vision, motives, and management of the church.

4. ____: "*Excellence is to do a common thing in an uncommon way.*" (Benjamin Disraeli)

- We will strive for excellence in all that we do (good enough isn't excellent).
- We will hold each other accountable to follow through with what we commit to do.
- We will evaluate everything and be willing to keep what is good and kill what doesn't work.
- We will give God our best in all that we do and will finish what we start.

5. _____: Proverbs 18:19 *"An offended brother is more unyielding than a fortified city, and disputes are like the barred gates of a citadel."*

- We will choose not to be easily offended.
- If we become offended we will have the tough conversation to resolve it.
- We will understand that no church is perfect and that decisions will be made that we don't always agree with but that may be best for the whole.
- We will understand that change is a constant and there will be growing pains.

6. _____: Ephesians 4:12 *"To equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up"*.

- We will be a church that multiplies and reproduces ourselves in others.
- We will see the good in others and help them find their place to serve.
- We will understand that our greatest calling is to pour ourselves out into others.
- Our purpose is to win the lost and we will put significant resources towards that.

7. _____: John 1:47 *"When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit."*

- We will have an authentic, genuine, and real environment.
- We will choose to grow daily and die to our flesh gradually.
- We will release people from their past and challenge them to move forward.
- We will celebrate life change!

OUR STRUCTURE

"For God is not a God of disorder; but of peace... Everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way." 1 Corinthians 14:33, 40

REAL CHURCH GOVERNMENT

Believers who invest their hearts, time, families, and finances in the building of a local church deserve to have confidence in church leadership. People are looking for leaders who conduct themselves with integrity and respect when making decisions that affect their lives.

Our church exists under the covering of Assemblies of God and operates in three distinct ways:

1. GUIDED BY _____.

The Pastoral staff team is led by the Lead Pastor. This team oversees the day-to-day ministry and operations of the church. These staff pastor(s) serve the congregation and are responsible for the development of the spiritual life of the church. The Lead Pastoral team serves as Staff Elders but report to an Executive board.

2. PROTECTED BY _____.

The Executive Team are members of the congregation, appointed by the Lead Pastor to help oversee the finances and guard the vision of the church. They provide counsel to the Lead Pastor regarding any major financial commitments of the church, as well as any directional changes in the church.

3. IMPLEMENTED BY _____.

The Bible tells us in **Ephesians 4:16**, *"From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, **as each part does its work.**"*

At **Real Church** we believe that every "attender" is a minister. We believe that our health, growth, and development as a church comes from each person living out their calling in the church. **This means that every believer is responsible for doing their part.**

4. CHURCH FINANCES

"A tithe of everything... belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord." Leviticus 27:30

At **Real Church** we practice tithing for the support of Christ's Body, the church, as God commands. We recognize that giving **10%** of our income is the Biblical standard of giving.

Many people love to give to God, but need to have confidence in the methods and purposes used by organizations to which they give. Therefore, there are a great number of people willing to give if they are able to see honesty, integrity, and genuine spiritual values reflected in the lifestyles of their church leaders.

The giving of tithes and offerings is worship to Jesus Christ and is an expression of the relationship between the individual giver and the Lord. Funds are not "income only," they are worship and must not be considered as a business transaction, but as an expression of gratitude toward God for all that He has done. **We believe that individuals hear from God, and then give to God as it relates to their finances.**

Special note: Our church finances are reported monthly to the Assemblies of God and are overseen by the executive board, as well as an independent accounting company.

OUR HOPE FOR YOU

"We hope that your faith will grow and that the boundaries of our work among you will be extended." 2 Corinthians 10:15 (NLT)

THE NEXT STEPS

1. Become a committed part of Real Church by signing the "**All In**" commitment.
2. Join a Real Group.
3. Complete Real Path.
4. Serve on the Dream Team.

APPENDIX: 1

REAL CHURCH BIBLICAL PILLARS OF FAITH (For more information: www.ag.org)

HOLY BIBLE

The Holy Bible, and only the Bible, is the authoritative Word of God. It alone is the final authority in determining all doctrinal truths. In its original writing, it is inspired, infallible and inerrant (II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:20-21; Proverbs 30:5; Romans 16:25-26).

TRINITY

There is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and co-eternal (I John 5:7; Genesis 1:26; Matthew 3:16-17, 28:19; Luke 1:35; Isaiah 9:6; Hebrews 3:7-11).

JESUS CHRIST

Jesus Christ is God the Son, the second person of the Trinity. On earth, Jesus was 100% God and 100% man. He is the only man ever to have lived a sinless life. He was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, performed miracles, died on the cross for mankind and thus, atoned for our sins through the shedding of His blood. He rose from the dead on the third day according to the Scriptures, ascended to the right hand of the Father, and will return again in power and glory. (John 1:1,14, 20:28; I Timothy 3:16; Isaiah 9:6; Philippians 2:5-6; 1 Timothy 2:5).

VIRGIN BIRTH

Jesus Christ was conceived by God the Father, through the Holy Spirit (the third person of the Trinity) in the virgin Mary's womb; therefore, He is the Son of God (Matthew 1:18, 25; Luke 1:35; Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:27-35).

REDEMPTION

Man was created good and upright, but by voluntary transgression he fell; his only hope of redemption is in Jesus Christ, the Son of God (Gen. 1:26-31, 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-21).

REGENERATION

For anyone to know God, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential (John 6:44, 65; Matthew 19:28; Titus 3:5).

SALVATION

We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ; His death, burial, and resurrection. Salvation is a gift from God, not a result of our good works or of any human efforts (Ephesians 2:8-9; Galatians 2:16, 3:8; Titus 3:5; Romans 10:9-10; Acts 16:31; Hebrews 9:22).

REPENTANCE

Repentance is the commitment to turn away from sin in every area of our lives and to follow Christ, which allows us to receive His redemption and to be regenerated by the Holy Spirit. Thus, through repentance we receive forgiveness of sins and appropriate salvation (Acts 2:21, 3:19; I John 1:9).

SANCTIFICATION

Sanctification is the ongoing process of yielding to God's Word and His Spirit in order to complete the development of Christ's character in us. It is through the present ministry of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God that the Christian is enabled to live a Godly life (I Thessalonians 4:3, 5:23; II Corinthians 3:18, 6:14-18, II Thessalonians 2:1-3, Romans 8:29, 12:1-2, Hebrews 2:11).

JESUS' BLOOD

The Blood that Jesus Christ shed on the Cross of Calvary was sinless and is 100% sufficient to cleanse mankind of all sin. Jesus allowed Himself to be punished for both our sinfulness and our sins, enabling all those who believe to be free from the penalty of sin, which is death (I John 1:7; Revelation 1:5, 5:9; Colossians 1:20; Romans 3:10-12, 23, 5:9; John 1:29).

JESUS CHRIST INDWELLS ALL BELIEVERS

Christians are people who have invited the Lord Jesus Christ to come and live inside them by His Holy Spirit. They relinquish the authority of their lives over to him thus making Jesus the Lord of their life as well as Savior. They put their trust in what Jesus accomplished for them when He died, was buried, and rose again from the dead (John 1:12; John 14:17, 23; John 15:4; Romans 8:11; Revelation 3:20).

BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

Given at Pentecost, it is the promise of the Father, sent by Jesus after His Ascension, to empower the Church to preach the Gospel throughout the whole earth (Joel 2:28-29; Matthew 3:11; Mark 16:17; Acts 1:5, 2:1-4, 17, 38-39, 8:14-17, 10:38, 44-47, 11:15-17, 19:1-6).

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is manifested through a variety of spiritual gifts to build and sanctify the church, demonstrate the validity of the resurrection, and confirm the power of the Gospel. The Bible lists of these gifts are not necessarily exhaustive, and the gifts may occur in various combinations. All believers are commanded to earnestly desire the manifestation of the gifts in their lives. These gifts always operate in harmony with the Scriptures and should never be used in violation of Biblical parameters. (Hebrews 2:4; Romans 1:11, 12 :4-8; Ephesians 4:16; I Timothy 4:14; II Timothy 1:6-7; I Corinthians 12:1-31, 14:1-40; I Peter 4:10).

THE CHURCH

The church is the Body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of Jesus' Great Commission. Every person who is born of the Spirit is an integral part of the church as a member of the body of believers. There is a spiritual unity of all believers in our Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 1:22, 2:19-22; Hebrews 12:23; John 17:11, 20-23).

TWO SACRAMENTS:

Water Baptism: Following faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the new convert is commanded by the Word of God to be baptized in water in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Acts 8:12, 36-38; 10:47-48).

The Lord's Supper: A unique time of communion in the presence of God when the elements of bread and grape juice (the Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ) are taken in remembrance of Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross (Matthew 26:26-29; I Corinthians 10:16, 11:23-25).

HEALING OF THE SICK

Healing of the sick is illustrated in the life and ministry of Jesus, and included in the commission of Jesus to His disciples. It is given as a sign, which is to follow believers. It is also a part of Jesus' work on the Cross and one of the gifts of the Spirit. (Psalm 103:2-3; Isaiah 53:5; Matthew 8:16-17; Mark 16:17-18; Acts 8:6-7; James 5:14-16; I Corinthians 12:9, 28; Romans 11:29).

GOD'S WILL FOR PROVISION

It is the Father's will for believers to become whole, healthy, and successful in all areas of life. But because of the fall, many may not receive the full benefits of God's will while on Earth. That fact, however, should never prevent all believers from seeking the full benefits of Christ's provision in order to better serve others.

Spiritual

(John 3:3-11; II Corinthians 5:17-21; Romans 10:9-10)

Mental and Emotional

(II Timothy 1:7, 2:11; Philippians 4:7-8; Romans 12:2; Isaiah 26:3).

Physical

(Isaiah 53:4,5; Matthew 8:17; I Peter 2:24).

Financial

(Joshua 1:8; Malachi 3:10-11; Luke 6:38; II Corinthians 9:6-10; Deuteronomy 28:1-14; Psalm 34:10, 84:11; Philippians 4:19).

RESURRECTION

Jesus Christ was physically resurrected from the dead in a glorified body three days after His death on the cross. In addition, both the saved and the lost will be resurrected; they that are saved to the resurrection of life and they that are lost to the resurrection of eternal damnation (Luke 24:16, 36, 39; John 2:19-21, 20:26-28, 21:4; Acts 24:15; I Corinthians 15:42, 44; Philippians 1:21-23, 3:21).

HEAVEN

Heaven is the eternal dwelling place for all believers in the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Matthew 5:3, 12, 20, 6:20, 19:21, 25:34; John 17:24; II Corinthians 5:1; Hebrews 11:16; I Peter 1:4).

HELL

After living one life on earth, the unbelievers will be judged by God and sent to Hell where they will be eternally tormented with the Devil and the Fallen Angels (Matthew 25:41; Mark 9:43-48; Hebrews 9:27; Revelation 14:9-11, 20:12-15, 21:8).

SECOND COMING

Jesus Christ will physically and visibly return to earth for the second time to establish His Kingdom. This will occur at a date undisclosed by the Scriptures (Matthew 24:30, 26:63-64; Acts 1:9-11; I Thessalonians 4:15-17; II Thessalonians 1:7-8; Revelation 1:7)