



STARTING
POINT

ATTENDEE



STARTING POINT

FIND YOUR PLACE IN THE STORY

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INTRODUCTION

Find Your Place in the Story

Every life tells a story and every story has a beginning. Starting Point is an exploration of God's grand story, the BFWC story, and where you fit into the narrative. Whether you are exploring the Christian faith or a seasoned Christian, we look forward to joining you on your spiritual journey.

Starting Point is designed to be a conversational environment where you discover more about BFWC and our mission as a church. During our time together, you'll get a chance to meet our staff, learn how to get involved, and understand key truths of the Christian faith. This five-week class will help you understand who we are, what we believe, and where you fit in.

Class Overview

Week 1 – Welcome to the Family

Week 2 – Purpose

Week 3 – What We Believe

Week 4 – Our Culture

Week 5 – Stewardship



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MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

Each week you will be introduced to different BFWC staff members as we highlight various ministries and serving opportunities. Please use this page to keep track of the various meeting times, volunteer opportunities, and points of contact.

Week 1

Week 2

Week 3

Week 4

Week 5



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Week 1 | ICEBREAKER

1. Find someone who gets up before 5 am. _____
2. Find someone who has attended BFWC for less than one month. _____
3. Find someone who was born in the Midwest. _____
4. Find someone who is over 6 feet tall. _____
5. Find someone who has visited more than three countries. _____
6. Find someone who speaks more than one language. _____
7. Find someone whose birthday is in the same month as you. _____
8. Find someone who has milked a cow. _____
9. Find someone who is a middle child. _____
10. Find someone who lives more than 10 miles away. _____
11. Find someone whose first or last name begins with S. _____
12. Find someone who plays a musical instrument. _____
13. Find someone who is wearing the same color as you. _____
14. Find someone who has served in the military. _____
15. Find someone who volunteers with the church or community group. _____

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Week 1 | WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

What would church look like if you took away the buildings, music, pastors, and programs? What would be left? The answer is where the health of the church lies: in the people. The church is not a place. The church is the body of Christ – His heart, hands, and feet – reaching out to the world. Christians don't go to church; they are the church. Your understanding of a Biblical church is quite important in determining how you live out your faith.

A Healthy Church

"They devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and to fellowship." – *Acts 2:42*

1. The Church is a _____.

"Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ, we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts according to the grace given us." – *Romans 12:4-6*

2. The Church is a _____.

Jesus said to them, 'It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick; I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.' – *Mark 2:16*

3. The Church is a _____.

"Jesus said, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me?' He answered 'Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.' Jesus said, 'Take care of My sheep.'" – *John 21:16*

4. The Church is a _____.

"You should be like one big happy family, full of sympathy toward each other, loving one another with tender hearts and humble minds." – *1 Peter 3:8*

5. The Church is a _____.

"You are a member of God's very own family and belong in God's household with every other Christian." - *Eph 2:19*

What is our Mission Statement?

The mission statement **defines** how we're going to fulfill our objective. It tells everyone who we are trying to reach and why we're trying to reach them.

- **Mission Statement:** *To bring people to Jesus and membership in His family, develop them to Christ-like maturity and equip them for their ministry in the church and life mission in the world in order to magnify God's name.*

As Christians we are called, even commanded, to go into all the world and preach the Gospel.

We must take the message of grace and forgiveness that we have received and offer it to others.

This becomes our life mission no matter where we are or what we do.

However, it is not enough just to get people saved; to lead them in a prayer. We must also connect them to a place where they can be cared for.

This place is the Church.

- It is here that they are fed the word of God
- It is here that they learn to walk with God
- It is here that they are encouraged and where they are comforted when they fall

We must connect them to the family of God.

However God never expected people to remain babes in Christ.

- God expects us to grow up; to mature in our faith.
- We need to learn to feed ourselves, to not have accidents and not make messes.

It becomes our job to help people grow.

- To learn what to do and what not to do
- To develop them to a Christ like maturity.

And part of that maturing process is getting involved.

- We are a church that believes every member is a minister.
- God has called each of us as Christians to a work.
- He has gifted us each in various ways, and he brings people together to use their unique gifts to help build his kingdom through the Church.
- Every person has a place, a ministry in the church

And we do all of this for God's glory. We do it in order to magnify his name.

If each of us will strive to live out this mission, not only as a church, but also in our personal lives, we are confident that our dream will become a reality.

The vision statement ***directs*** our church to fulfill its intended goal. It puts “legs” on our mission statement, describing how the mission statement will be put into action and achieved.

What is our Vision?

- It is the dream of a place where the hurting, the depressed, the frustrated, and the confused can find love, acceptance, help, hope, forgiveness, guidance, and encouragement.
- It is the dream of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with the hundreds of thousands of residents in the Indianapolis area.
- It is the dream of welcoming thousands of members into the fellowship of our church family—loving, learning, laughing, and living in harmony together.
- It is the dream of developing people to spiritual maturity through Bible studies, small groups, seminars, and retreats.
- It is the dream of equipping every believer for a significant ministry by helping them discover the gifts and talents God has given them.
- It is the dream of sending out hundreds of career missionaries and church workers all around the world, and empowering every member for a personal life mission in the world. It is the dream of sending our members by the thousands on short-term mission projects to every continent.
- It is the dream of at least fifty acres of land, on which will be built a regional church for Central Indiana. Beautiful, yet simple, facilities, including a worship center seating thousands, a counseling and prayer center, classrooms for Bible studies and training lay ministers, and a recreation area will be set in a peaceful, inspiring, garden landscape. All of this will be designed to minister to the total person—spiritually, emotionally, physically, and socially.

What are our Core Values?

The core values **dictate** the principles that BFWC will hold; forming the foundation on which we perform ministry and conduct ourselves. Although our world is filled with many values, there are some that are so important to us that although society, government, politics, and technology change we still hold to a set of core values and we abide by them. The core values underlie our work, how we interact with one another and which strategies we will employ to fulfill our mission. The core values are the basic elements of how we go about getting the job done. They are the practices we use every day in everything we do.

CORE VALUES

OUTREACH	Every person a messenger of God's Love. (Acts 20:24; 2 Corinthians 5:19-20)
WORSHIP	Every person a magnifier of God's name. (Psalm 34:3; Exodus 20:3)
FELLOWSHIP	Every person a member of God's family. (1 Peter 1:3; Ephesians 2:19)
DISCIPLESHIP	Every person a model of God's character. (1 Peter 2:21; 1 Timothy 4:12)
SERVICE	Every person a minister of God's grace. (1 Peter 4:10; Ephesians 2:10)



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TABLE TALK: LET'S GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER

1. Say your name and what store you are most like and explain why. (i.e. My name is John and I'm most like Home Depot because I like to work with my hands... My name is Liz and I'm most like Barnes and Nobles because I like to read... My name is Caleb and I'm most like Starbucks because I work a lot and I need caffeine.)
2. How long have you been attending Bethel Family Worship Center (BFWC)? How did you find out about us?
3. What is one word that describes BFWC. (After you go around the circle, ask if anyone wants to explain the word they chose.)
4. What are you hoping to get out of Starting Point?
5. If you were to compare your faith in God to the ocean, would you say you're on the shore, wading in the water, learning how to swim, or out in the deep? (Leaders may want to further explain the metaphor in their own words. Also, remind the people that there are no right or wrong answers and they do not have to share.)



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Week 2 | ICEBREAKER

I HAVE NEVER

Raise your hand if you *have* done the statement below.

1. I have never gone 24 hours without sleep.
2. I have never ridden on a bicycle built for two.
3. I have never fallen asleep during church.
4. I have never been trapped in an elevator.
5. I have never been to a Monday night prayer meeting at BFWC.
6. I have never cooked for more than 20 people.
7. I have never shared a sucker with my dog.
8. I have never spied on my neighbors.
9. I have never broken a bone.
10. I have never attended a Christmas service at BFWC.
11. I have never asked a woman if she was "due" and she wasn't even pregnant.
12. I have never ridden on a church bus.
13. I have never eaten food off the floor.
14. I have never dyed my hair.
15. I have never been on the balcony at BFWC.
16. I have never accidentally honked my car horn.
17. I have never been on TV.
18. I have never slept in a cave.
19. I have never sung in public.
20. I have never been to a Go Missions outreach service at BFWC.



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Week 2 | OUR PURPOSE

What is our Purpose Statement?

The purpose statement **declares** our objectives to the world. In other words, when people think of BFWC they should get a clear thought of who we are and what we intend to do by the following statement:

- **Purpose Statement: *Maturing in Christ; Reaching in Love.***

By looking at what Jesus called the Great Commandment and His last words to the church (the Great Commission) we see that Jesus left us with a five-fold purpose.

Matthew 22:36 - 40 (KJV) ³⁶Master, which is the great commandment in the law? ³⁷Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. ³⁸This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Matthew 28:19 - 20 (KJV) ¹⁹Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

1. Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, soul and mind (**Worship**)
2. Love your neighbor as yourself (**Service**)
3. Go and teach all nations (**Evangelism**)
4. Baptizing them . . . (**Fellowship**)
5. Teaching them to observe (**Discipleship**)

And in Acts chapter 2 and beyond we see the church fulfilling this **five fold purpose**

Acts 2:42 - 47 (KJV) ⁴²And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. ⁴³And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. ⁴⁴And all that believed were together, and had all things common; ⁴⁵And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. ⁴⁶And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, ⁴⁷Praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

From the very beginning of the church we can see that they:

1. Continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine (**Discipleship**)
2. Breaking of Bread (**Fellowship**)
3. Added to the church daily (**Evangelism**)
4. Sold their possessions and gave to all that had need (**Service**)
5. Praising God and having favor (**Worship**)

We see this five-fold pattern fulfilled in the offices that God gave to the church

Ephesians 4:11 - 12 (KJV) *¹¹And he gave some, **apostles**; and some, **prophets**; and some, **evangelists**; and some, **pastors** and **teachers**; ¹²For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:*

1. Apostles = Fellowship
2. Prophets = Worship
3. Evangelists = Evangelism
4. Pastors = Service
5. Teachers = Discipleship

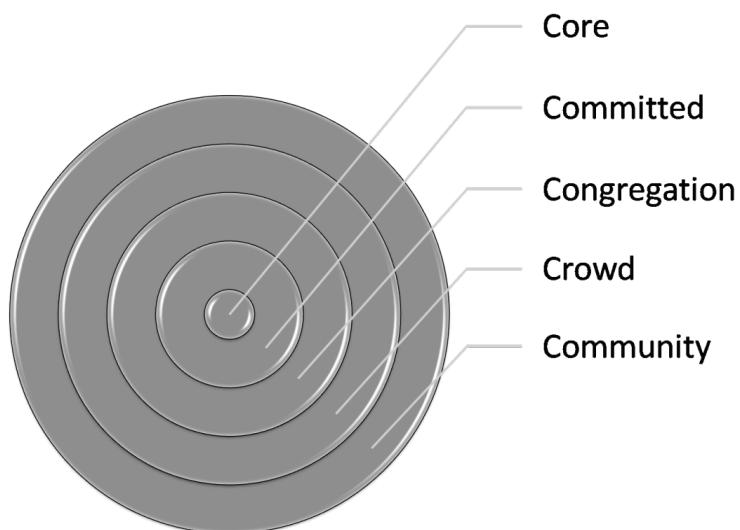
These offices were not given to all, but rather to some.

They were given to some based on their commitment levels.

When you look at commitment to any cause people can be placed into one of five categories.

1. They are not at all committed
2. They are interested, but not committed
3. They are involved, but not committed
4. They are committed
5. They are committed and involved

The same is true for people's relationship to Christ. People can be placed into these same five categories. At Bethel Family Worship Center people fall into one of the five commitment circles.



Their Needs

1. Those of the **Community** have a need for a *Purpose to live for*.
2. Those of the **Crowd** have a need for *Power to live on*.
3. Those of the **Congregation** have a need for *People to live with*.
4. Those of the **Committed** have a need for *Principles to live by*.
5. Those of the **Core** have a need for a *Profession to live out*.

We use the 5 purposes to meet those needs in order to move people to the next level of commitment.

We do this by providing:

1. **Evangelism** for the *Community*
2. **Worship** for the *Crowd*
3. **Fellowship** for the *Congregation*
4. **Discipleship** for the *Committed*
5. **Service** for the *Core*

Having a purpose **drives** us toward our intended goal and keeps us from becoming side tracked. BFWC is committed to a five-fold purpose. Every ministry comes under one of these purposes.

Purpose	Task	Acts 2:42-47	Objective	Target	Life Component	Basic Human Need	The Church Provides	Emotional Benefit
Outreach	Evangelize	"...added to their number daily those who were saved."	Missions	Community	My Witness	Purpose to live for	A Focus for Living	Significance
Worship	Exalt	"They devoted themselves to...breaking of bread and prayers...praising God."	Magnify	Crowd	My Worship	Power to Live on	A Force for Living	Stimulation
Fellowship	Encourage	"...devoted to the fellowship... all the believers were together.. they ate together."	Membership	Congregation	My Relationships	People to Live with	A Family for Living	Support
Discipleship	Edify	"They devoted themselves to the apostles teaching"	Maturity	Committed	My Walk	Principles to Live by	A Foundation for Living	Stability
Service	Equip	"They gave to anyone as he had need."	Ministry	Core	My Work	Profession to Live out	A Function for Living	Self Expression



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TABLE TALK: SACRED PATHWAYS

based on a book by Gary Thomas

Since we are all uniquely created in God's image, our individual styles of relating to God are different. Each person must embrace the unique way that he or she interacts with God. Rank your pathways from 1-9. (1 being your top choice & 9 being your bottom)

1. Traditionalists love God through ritual and symbol. They are fed by historic dimensions of faith: rituals, symbols, and sacraments. These Christians tend to have a disciplined life of faith.
2. Intellectuals love God with their minds. They flourish with increasing Biblical knowledge. They are likely to be studying doctrines, issues, or concepts.
3. Solaces love God in solitude and simplicity. They want nothing more than to be left alone in prayer. Let there be nothing to distract them — no pictures, no loud music — and leave them alone to live in silence and simplicity.
4. Activists fine a pipeline to God through social change. They often view the church as a place to recharge their batteries so they can go back into the world to wage war against injustice.
5. Caregivers love God by loving others. They serve God by serving others. Often claiming to see Christ in those with great needs, their faith is built up by interacting with other people.
6. Enthusiasts seek God through an emotional encounter. They are cheerleaders for God and the Christian life. They don't want to just know concepts, but to experience them, to feel them, and to be moved by them.
7. Contemplatives find intimacy with God through meditation and deep thought. They seek to love God with the purest, deepest and brightest love imaginable.
8. Naturalists draw near to God through nature. They would much rather pray by a stream, walk a beach, or backpack the Grand Canyon. They believe that nature clearly proclaims how great God is and when reading the Bible they strongly relate to the parables Christ used based on nature.
9. Sensates love God with their senses. They are drawn to the liturgical, the majestic, the grand. Incense, intricate architecture, classical music, and formal language send their hearts soaring.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Based on these descriptions, what are your top three pathways?
2. Do you think churches or entire denominations are centered on certain pathways?
3. How can misunderstanding how others interact with God cause us to be judgmental of other people or churches?
4. What are some opportunities at BFWC for you to connect with God in the way you are wired?



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Week 3 | ICEBREAKER

1. What does the word Bible mean?

The word “Bible” means book. While the Bible is one book, it contains 66 smaller books. The books of the Old Testament were written before the birth of Jesus Christ and the New Testament covers the life of Christ and beyond.

2. What is the longest chapter of the Bible?

The longest chapter of the Bible is Psalm 119 with 176 verses.

3. What is the shortest chapter of the Bible?

The shortest chapter is Psalm 117 with only 2 verses. Incidentally, the middle of the chapter of the Bible is Psalm 118. There are 594 chapters before Psalm 118 and 594 chapters after it.

4. How many authors wrote the Bible?

The Bible was inspired by God and written by over 40 authors from many walks of life (kings, peasants, philosophers, fishermen, poets, statesmen, scholars) and in different places (wilderness, dungeon, palaces), and on three continents (Asia, Africa, and Europe).

5. Which book does not contain the word “God”?

Esther is the only book in the Bible that does not contain the word “God.”

6. Which book is the oldest in the Bible?

Job is the oldest book in the Bible- it was written by an unknown Israelite around 1500 BC.

7. Which book is the youngest of the Bible?

Revelation, written about 95 AD, is the youngest book in the Bible.

8. Which author wrote 14 of the 27 books of the New Testament?

The apostle Paul wrote 14 books (or letters/epistles) of the NT.

9. Which two books of the Bible are named after women?

There are only 2 books in the Bible named after women, Esther and Ruth.

 **STARTING POINT**
FIND YOUR PLACE IN THE STORY**Week 3 | WHAT WE BELIEVE****Core Beliefs:**

The Scriptures

The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the inspired Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16) presenting to us the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men, and constituting the Divine and only rule of Christian faith and practice (2 Peter 1:21).

The Godhead

Our God is a Trinity in unity, manifested in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. God is infinitely perfect, being in His three persons co-existent, co-equal, and co-eternal. The Son was begotten of the Father, accepting earthly limitations, true God and true man; conceived by the Holy Ghost and born of the Virgin Mary. He died upon the Cross, the Just for the unjust as a substitutionary sacrifice, and all who believe in Him are justified on the grounds of His shed blood. He arose from the dead according to the Scriptures. He is now at the right hand of the Majesty on High as our great High Priest, and He will return again to establish His Kingdom of righteousness and justice.

The Holy Spirit is a Divine Person, Executive of the Godhead on earth, the Comforter sent by the Lord Jesus Christ to indwell, to guide, and to teach the believer, and to convince the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment.

Man, His Fall and Redemption

Man is a created being, made in the likeness and the image of God, but through Adam's transgression and fall, sin came into the world (Romans 5:12). "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). "As it is written, there is none righteous, no not one:" (Romans 3:10).

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was manifested to undo the work of the devil, and gave His life and shed His blood to redeem and restore man back to God (Ephesians 2:8).

Salvation

Salvation is made possible through the meritorious work of Jesus Christ on the cross and through Holy Spirit conviction. Godly sorrow works repentance and makes possible the experience of the new birth, and Christ formed within us is the Gift of eternal life (Titus 2:11; Romans 10:13-15; Luke 24:47; Titus 3:5-7).

Church

The true Church is the body of Jesus Christ (Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 4:15), He being the

Head. Its earthly constituents are all true believers, born again by the Spirit (John 3:6) and by the word (I Peter 1:23).

To it is delegated the various gifts and offices of the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 12:7-11 and 27,28) necessary for the successful fulfillment of Christ's Great Commission to the Church, as give to the disciples in Matthew 28:19 and Mark 16:15-20.

Ministry

God, through the Holy Spirit, definitely calls such as He desires to serve as apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, and specifically endues the one called with the talents and gifts peculiar to that office or offices (Ephesians 4:11-13). Under no circumstances should anyone be ordained or set apart to any such office unless the calling is distinct and evident.

Water Baptism

Baptism in water is by immersion, and is a direct commandment of our Lord (Matthew 28:19), and is for believers only. The ordinance is a symbol of the Christian's identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. (Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12; Acts 8:36-39).

- 1. Why should I be baptized?** In the Great Commission (*Matthew 28:19-20*) Jesus said, "Go into the world preaching the Gospel, making disciples and baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit." In Mark 1 and Matthew 3, Jesus Himself was baptized and commands His disciples to follow Him in water baptism. Water Baptism is an opportunity to publicly testify of your personal faith.
- 2. Is baptism required for salvation?** No. Water baptism is an act of obedience after a person has received the forgiveness of God. We should be baptized as soon as possible but is not required to receive the forgiveness of God.
- 3. Am I joining this church?** No. Membership of BFWC is not granted through baptism.
- 4. I was baptized as a child, should I be re-baptized?** It is highly recommended. Baptism is for followers of Jesus Christ after they have chosen to make Him their Lord and Savior. If you were baptized before you understood the significance of your commitment, you should be re-baptized.
- 5. Can I have my child baptized?** Yes, however, we do not baptize infants. Baptism MUST be a personal choice and not a display or show for others. A child must understand the importance of the decision they are making and be able to articulate their choice and reason for baptism. Parents often request to have their child baptized for their own desire to witness a wonderful event in their child's life, which is an invalid reason. Baptism is NOT salvation. Baptism is to happen after a person knowingly understands the sacrifice of Christ.
- 6. How many times can I be baptized?** There is no limit to water baptism; many people choose to be baptized after a recommitment is made or after they experience a new level in their relationship with God. Baptism, however, should be revered and not done lightly, you should not choose to be re-baptized in order to be baptized by a "special person" or because you changed churches.

7. **What will happen during water baptism?** You will be completely immersed, backwards into water, getting fully wet. The pastor will say these words; "Upon the confession of your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, I now baptize you in the name of Jesus as He commanded, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit." Then the pastor will slowly lay you backwards in the water, dunking your head, and then bring you out of the water.
8. **Why am I baptized in the name of the Trinity?** Jesus told us Himself (*Matthew 28:19-20*) to baptize in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
9. **Do I have to be fully immersed underwater?** Yes. *Colossians 2:12* states that baptism symbolizes our being buried with Christ, dying in the flesh (going underwater) and then being raised with Him as we are born again (coming up out of the water).

For more detailed information, please visit our website at www.bfwc.net

Baptism of the Holy Ghost

The Baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire (*Matthew 3:11*) is a gift from God, as promised by the Lord Jesus Christ to all believers in this dispensation, and is received subsequent to the new birth (*John 14:16,17*; *Acts 1:8; 2:4, 38,39; 10:44-48*). The Baptism of the Holy Ghost is accompanied with the speaking in other tongues as the Holy Spirit Himself gives utterance, as the initial physical sign and evidence (*Acts 2:4*).

Sanctification

The Bible teaches that without holiness no man can see the Lord (*Hebrews 12:14*). We believe in the doctrine of sanctification as a definite, yet progressive, work of grace, commencing at the time of regeneration and consummation of salvation (*Hebrews 13:12; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Peter 1:2; Ephesians 5:26; 1 Corinthians 6:11; John 17:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:23*).

Lord's Supper (Communion)

The ordinance of the Lord's Supper is a commandment of our Savior; and being a memorial to His death and resurrection, is strictly limited to Christian believers (*1 Corinthians 11:27*). The time and frequency of its observance is left to the discretion of each congregation (*1 Corinthians 11:26*).

Only unfermented grape juice, the fruit of the vine, as recommended by our Lord (*Matthew 26:29; Mark 14:22; Luke 22:18*) shall be used in connection therewith.

BFWC extends an "open" Communion table, meaning the invitation to receive Communion during a service is open to any follower of Christ, regardless of membership at BFWC. People who have accepted His forgiveness and surrendered their lives to Him are invited to share the Communion table at BFWC.

Tithes

We recognize the Scriptural duty of all our people, as well as ministers, to pay tithes unto the Lord (*Hebrews 7:8*).

Tithes should be used for the support of the active ministry and for the propagation of the Gospel and work of the Lord in general and not given to charity or used for other purposes (*Malachi 3:7-11; Hebrews 7:2; 1 Corinthians 9:7-11; 16:2*).

Divine Healing

Healing is for the physical ills of the human body and is wrought by the power of God, through the prayer of faith, and by the laying on of hands (Mark 16:18; James 5:14,15); it is provided for in the atonement of Christ, and is available to all who truly believe.

Resurrection of the Just

The Bible promises, "This same Jesus shall so come in like manner" (Acts 1:11). His coming is imminent; when He comes, "The dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: (I Thessalonians 4:16,17). Following the tribulation, He shall return to earth, as King of kings, and Lord of lords, and together with His saints, who shall be kings and priests, He shall reign a thousand years (Revelation 20:6).

Setting a Time for the Lord's Return

It is unwise to teach that the Lord will come at some specified time, thereby setting a date for His appearing, and it is also unwise to teach, preach or publish visions of numbers and dates which would tend to fix the time of the second coming of the Lord (Mark 13:32,33).

The Coming of the Lord

Bethel Family Worship Center holds to the belief of the imminent coming of the Lord as the blessed hope of the Church.

Whereas, the teaching that the Church must go through the tribulation tends to bring confusion and division among saints; therefore, we recommend that all our ministers teach the imminent coming of Christ, warning all men to be prepared for that coming, which may occur at any time, and not lull their minds into insecurity by any teaching that would cause them to feel that certain events must occur before the rapture of the Church.

Hell and Eternal Retribution

The one who physically dies in his sins without Christ is hopelessly and eternally lost in the lake of fire, and therefore has no further opportunity of hearing the Gospel or for repentance (Hebrews 9:27). The lake of fire is literal (Revelation 19:20). The terms "eternal" and "everlasting" used in describing the duration of the punishment of the damned (Matthew 5:41-46) in the lake of fire, carry the same thought and meaning of endless existence as used in denoting the duration of joy and ecstasy of saints in the presence of God.

Essential & Non-Essential Beliefs

We believe that there are both essential and non-essential beliefs.

- Essential beliefs are non-negotiable
 - Example of an essential belief would be - Jesus is the only way to Heaven.
- Non- essential beliefs have some room for debate or a differing of opinion.
 - Example of a non-essential belief would be - should a Christian eat pork?

In essential beliefs — we have unity.

Ephesians 4:4-6 ⁴There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; ⁵One Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

In non-essential beliefs — we have liberty.

Romans 14:1,4,12,22 ¹Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations. ⁴Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand. ¹²So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. ²²Hast thou faith? have it to thyself before God. Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth.

In all our beliefs — we show charity.

1 Corinthians 13:2 ²And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

Marriage

We believe God designed marriage as the union of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. We believe marriage reveals the intimate union between Christ and His church and is the most sacred of all relationships except for our relationship with God. We believe God has sanctioned marriage to provide the framework for intimate companionship and sexual expression according to Biblical standards. (*Matthew 19:5-6, Romans 1: 26-29, Eph 5:22-31, 1 Cor 6:9-11, 1 Thess 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4*)

Child Dedication

Child Dedication is a ceremony in which Christian parents and sometimes entire families, stand before the church and make a commitment to raise their child according to the Word of God. Christian parents who dedicate a child are making a promise to the Lord to do everything within their power to raise the child in a godly way until he or she can make a decision for his or herself. (*1 Samuel 1:11, Luke 2:22*) (Additional information, including a Child Dedication Application, is available online at www.bfwc.net)

Week 4 | ICEBREAKER**FACT OR FICTION**

Read the statements below and then ask people to raise their hands if they believe it is a fact.

1. If we could ride a jet plane to the sun, it would take 10 years.

- FICTION – It would take 20 years.

2. The saying, “God helps those who help themselves” is spoken by King David and the Apostle Paul are found in both the Old and New Testament.

- FICTION- Although a wise and good quote, it isn't God who coined the well-known proverb. It is Benjamin Franklin in his Poor Richard's almanac.

3. If you swallow chewing gum, it doesn't pass through the digestive system for seven years.

- FICTION – Science proves that after gum passes through the canal it's the same as any other product we swallow.

4. The Bible is the only book that claims to be God's Word.

- FACT - There are many books about many religions but the Bible is the only one which claims to be the actual words of God." As Christians, we believe that God inspired various people through the years to write down His actual words for mankind. The Bible was written over a 1600 year period by approximately 40 men. The Bible says more than 3,000 times, "Thus saith the Lord." The Holy Bible is the only book that states the origin of the world, birth of man, journey of man's life to the present time, and even what is going to happen in future.

5. Pastor's Russell & Beverly Hylton have been lead pastors at BFWC for over 22 years.

- FACT – Pastor's Russell & Beverly Hylton became Senior Pastors of BFWC in 1999. At that time there were only 22 members in the church. Pastor Hylton began leading the congregation towards five-fold purpose (worship, outreach, fellowship, discipleship & service) and a clearly defined vision, mission statement & motto. The church began to experience numerical growth and within the first two years expanded the parking lot, painted the exterior of the building and had a new roof installed on the property. The

church also began serving the community through an annual "Block Party". With a fresh outlook towards evangelism and the implementation of a new discipleship training program (Life Development) BFWC began outgrowing its facility.

On Easter Sunday in 2004, the church made full use of its facility by offering two morning worship services to accommodate continued growth. In 2005 the church purchased two modular buildings to expand its discipleship space. In January 2006 the church looked 1.4 miles east from its present location (24 S Lynhurst Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46241) to purchase the Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church. The purchase took place in April 2006 and BFWC continued to operate two campuses until April 2008 when it officially sold its High School Road Campus.

6. Coca-Cola used to contain cocaine.

- FACT – We'll never know how much cocaine was actually in it, but it is a fact that there once was. By 1902, there was 1/400th of a gram per ounce of syrup. It wasn't until 1929 that Coca-Cola became cocaine free.

7. Elephants are pregnant for 18 months before giving birth.

- FICTION - Both African and Asian elephants have a pregnancy that approaches two years—22 months, to be exact. This is the longest gestation period for any land animal on earth. Elephants produce one baby at a time, and the youngster weighs around 230 pounds at birth.



STARTING POINT

FIND YOUR PLACE IN THE STORY

Week 4 | OUR CULTURE

BFWC CHURCH CULTURE

"Culture" is defined: the ways of living built up by a group of human beings and transmitted from one generation to another. The culture of BFWC **determines** the type of Christians we will reproduce. We believe if we sustain a climate long enough, then we will produce the type of culture we desire.

What kind of Christians do we want to grow at BFWC?

1. Forward thinking people.

- Sharp, innovative, ahead of the curve, competitive in the marketplace of ideas.
- God wants you to be a **FORWARD THINKING PERSON** (ahead of the curve)

2. Manifestation without Weirdness.

- A church that believes in the whole power of God...Healing, Deliverance, Casting out Devils, Manifestations of the Spirit, etc.
- YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE WEIRD TO HAVE THE MANIFESTATION OF GOD

3. Punctuality

- The virtue of princes and absolutely necessary before entering into any promotion.
- The church is the sacrament of the Kingdom.
- What we're doing here is important enough for you to get here ON TIME!
- You can't even be promoted on your job if you're always late.
- Your kids can't be involved in school plays if they're always late.
- They can't be involved in sporting events if they're always late.
- If you deal with important people...and you show up late...watch them be gone when you get there

4. Participatory Services.

- That means our church don't sound like a LIBRARY or a CEMETARY.
- God's people should say something, be alive, actively learning, listening, wherewith the student is as active as the teacher.
- You can have the greatest professors, the greatest teachers...but unless you become active...you haven't learned anything.

- So in this church we CLAP, we MOVE, we DANCE, we HUG, we SAY SOMETHING!
- In a DEAD CHURCH you cannot produce LIVE CHRISTIANS.
- YOU MUST PARTICIPATE IN YOUR OWN DELIVERANCE!

5. A Culture of Acceptance that Releases Freedom.

- In other words...Mind Your Own Business!
- We fight against legalism, we resist racism & gender bias statements, like..."I don't believe in women preachers!"
- We don't live on what YOU BELIEVE!
- In Christ Jesus there is neither male or female, bond or free, Jew or Greek
- God uses WHO He wants, WHAT He wants, WHEN He wants!
- Anybody can come and will be wholeheartedly welcomed.
- Everybody don't have to LOOK like you, DRESS like you, VOTE like you, ACT like YOU!
- WE ARE A CHURCH OF ACCEPTANCE
- Don't get nervous...we still have a standard
- We do however want people from every walk of life to come here and be just as challenged as you are being!
- They deserve to find JESUS TOO!
- They deserve to embrace Him too!

6. A Culture that embraces ORDER and RESIST chaos.

- God is a God of order.
- When you get saved in Christ you should not lose your sense.
- Let there be decency and order in God's house.

7. Increase with Integrity.

- Success without excess.
- God wants you to be successful!
 - **Joshua 1:8** *⁸This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.*
 - **Deuteronomy 8:18** *¹⁸But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.*
- God wants you to be blessed!
- Working church members who are NOT Christian moochers, Gospel get-over's without balance.
- You can ask anyone in town...we do our business at BFWC with INTEGRITY

8. Generationally minded saints not just here for a season, but having a mindset to arise and possess the land!

- We believe that what we don't accomplish...OUR CHILDREN WILL!

- We must SOW EXCELLENCE in them...and EXCELLENCE will come out of them!
- We must put them in a CULTURE that will bless them...and THEY'LL TURN OUT DIFFERENT!
- We're planning for the future!

9. Identifiable leadership – no usurping of authority or self-appointment.

- This is so the people will know what to do.
- Leadership should be designated, acknowledged and recognizable.
- The reason for having leaders seated on the platform is so that people will know who's leading the place and won't be confused about who to go to.
- For Example: The ushers are identifiable
- Pastors are visible on the platform, as are the other ministry of helps.

10. Ministering members.

- Every church member is a minister.
- Every joint must supply as we all have something to give and contribute.
- God did not call you to sit and cover the seat.
- Find something to do.
- Volunteer somewhere.
- In the church, out of the church.

11. Covenant Relationships.

- We are connected to one another.
- We will not talk ABOUT each other, but TOO each other.
- We will PRAY for one another.
- We will UPHOLD one another.
- We will not DISPOSE of one another.



Week 5 | ICEBREAKER

WOULD YOU RATHER?

Directions: Raise your hand to vote for your choice.

1. Would you rather eat a stick of butter or a tablespoon of salt?
2. Would you rather have your flight delayed by eight hours or lose your luggage?
3. Would you rather volunteer with elementary kids or teenagers?
4. Would you rather be the best player on a terrible team or the worst player on a great team?
5. Would you rather be really hairy or completely bald?
6. Would you rather be able to hit the rewind button on your life or the pause button?
7. Would you rather be in your pajamas all day or in a suit all day?
8. Would you rather feed the homeless or lead a small group?
9. Would you rather go without the internet or a car for a month?
10. Would you rather eat healthy or exercise regularly?
11. Would you rather speak in front of a large audience or help run the spotlight?
12. Would you rather be a parent or a child?
13. Would you rather drive a golf cart or a church bus?
14. Would you rather be three inches taller or three inches shorter?
15. Would you rather me keep asking silly questions or start the lesson

SD STARTING POINT

FIND YOUR PLACE IN THE STORY

Week 5 | STEWARDSHIP/TITHING MOMENTUM CAMPAIGN

What Do You Know About Tithing?

Personal Evaluation

1. When a person gives a percentage of his income to the Lord, he is tithing.	T	F
2. The practice of tithing is part of the Old Testament law and is not New Testament doctrine.	T	F
3. The primary purpose of the tithe is to support the ministries of the local church.	T	F
4. The tithe should be given only to the local church, not to other Christian ministries.	T	F
5. The tithe should be paid weekly, regardless of when you receive your paycheck.	T	F
6. Tithing only applies to the money that we earn.	T	F
7. If we owe people money we should pay them back first before we tithe.	T	F
8. A wife should tithe even if her husband does not want her to.	T	F
9. A husband should not tithe if his wife is against it.	T	F
10. If a person has not tithed for several years, he still owes God the amount that he should have tithed.	T	F
11. If we are given a designated gift, we do not need to tithe on it.	T	F
12. We should tithe on our gross income rather than just our net income.	T	F
13. If we inherit money that was earned by selling liquor, cigarettes, pornography, illicit drugs, or other harmful items, we should still tithe on it.	T	F
14. A person who lives on social security or unemployment compensation does not need to tithe.	T	F
15. The tithe can be used to pay your child's tuition if he is attending a church school.	T	F
16. If we fail to tithe, we will simply miss out on the eternal rewards which we could have had.	T	F
17. An older child should be given money to put in the offering in order to teach him to tithe.	T	F
18. If we increase our tithe to twenty per cent, we can expect God to increase His blessings in proportion.	T	F

Stewardship

1. What is tithe?
 - "Tithe" literally means "a tenth part."
2. What is the difference between "tithe" and "offering"?
 - A "tithe" is giving 10% of my income.
 - An "offering" is anything I give beyond my tithe.
3. What should I tithe?
 - The first part of what I earn, not the leftovers. *Proverbs 3:9-10*
 - The Lord does not expect equal gifts but equal sacrifice. *2 Corinthians 9:12*
4. Where should I tithe?
 - I should tithe at my local church. *Malachi 3:10*
5. How does giving reveal my spiritual maturity?
 - Giving reveals my allegiance. *Deuteronomy 14:23, Matthew 6:21*
 - Giving reveals my dependence. *Deuteronomy 8:18*

We are never more like God than when we give. And every time we make a decision to be generous, we discover that our God refuses to be out-given.

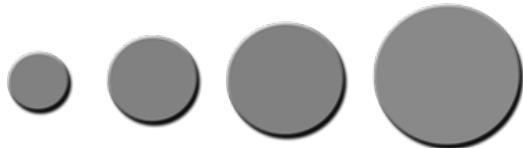
ONLINE GIVING

It's simple and secure. Whether you'd like to give a single gift or schedule ongoing donations, you can do it all online using your checking account, debit, or credit card.

SMART GIVING

Text 317-474-6724. You'll receive a text back with a link to complete the registration process. Smart Giving is quick, easy and uses industry-leading security to protect your personal information.





MOMENTUM

WWW.BFWC.NET

Momentum Campaign

Whether you've been a part of BFWC for the full 60 years of our existence or you've just come aboard in the last month or two, we are embarking on what I believe is going to be an exciting and thrilling time in our journey as a church. We are fully convinced that the Lord is calling us to seek Him together like never before.

As we approach this strategic time, we are positioned as a church in one of the fastest growing cities on the east coast in terms of population, location, visibility, property and facilities. God has given us an incredible opportunity. He has, indeed, set before us a great and open door, and the time to capitalize on that momentum is now.

The vision God has set before us requires our willingness to be challenged as ordinary people and to let God, through us, do extraordinary things. He has chosen to allow us the privilege and responsibility of being a part of seeing our community transformed by the grace of Christ.

Taking new ground for God always takes a movement of His hand in the lives of His people. I call upon each of you to seek the face of God for the future direction of our church.

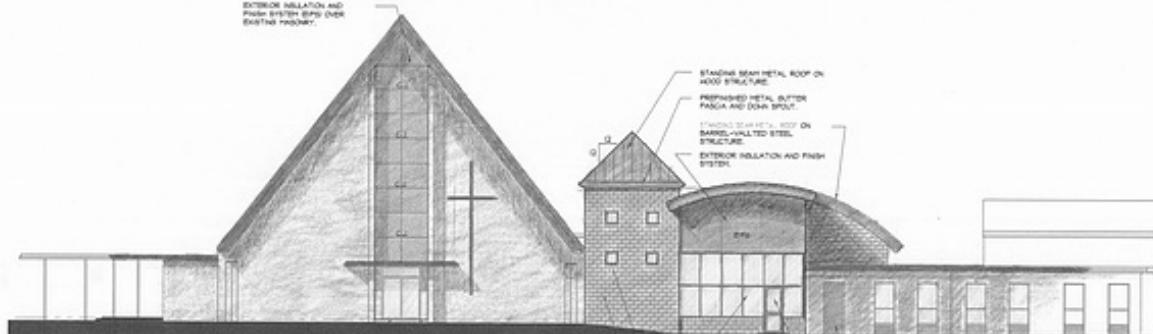
I'm inviting you to embark on this exciting and thrilling journey. We are seeking God and asking critical questions of our Lord to direct our actions. Most importantly, we will be praying for God to speak and us to hear. I pray it is life changing for all of us.

Psalm 27:8 "When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD will I seek."

This is your opportunity

- To make a difference with your money
- To do something significant that will outlast your life.
- To be part of a miracle

There is no greater investment than to invest in God's Kingdom in the task of telling people how Jesus can change their lives. It deserves our best! We love you, and we thank God for the privilege of serving here with you. We are praying the Lord's blessings upon you, as He guides and directs you in this privilege to bless generations to come!



PHASE II: SANCTUARY RENOVATION

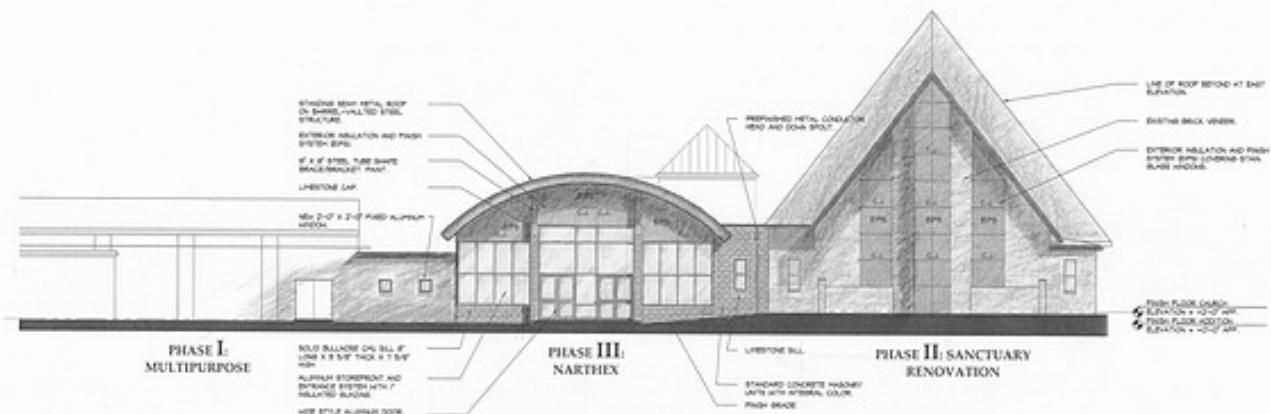
CHAPEL

PHASE III: COFFEE SHOP

PHASE I: ADMINISTRATION RENOVATION

EAST ELEVATION

Scale: 1/8" = 1' - 0"



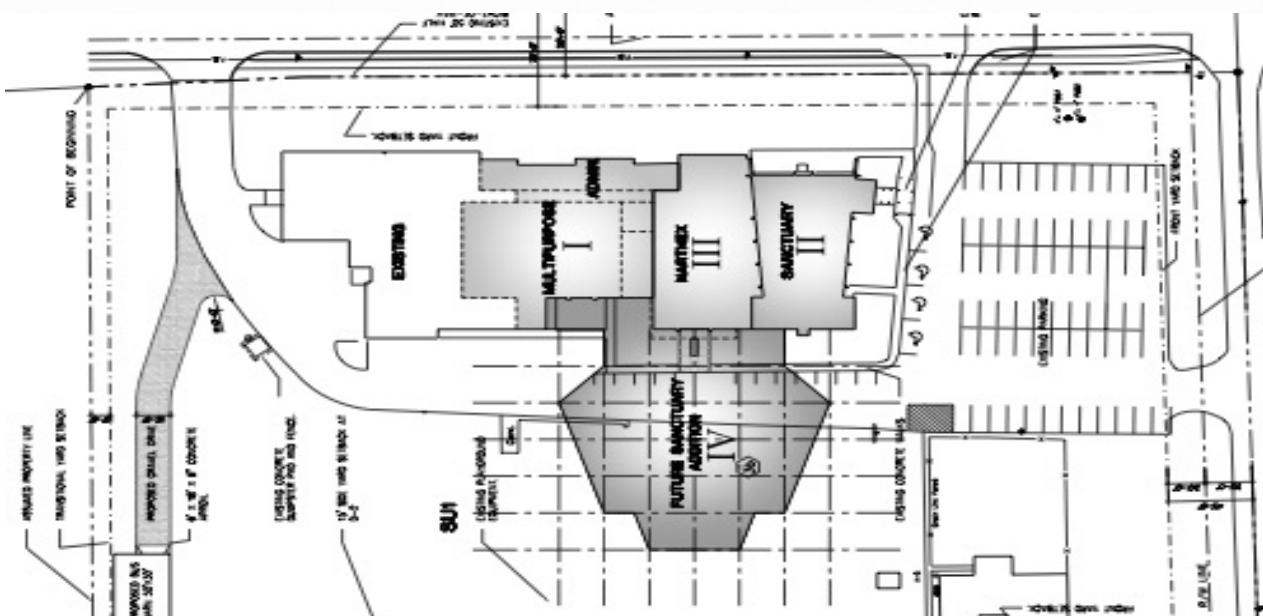
PHASE I: MULTIPURPOSE

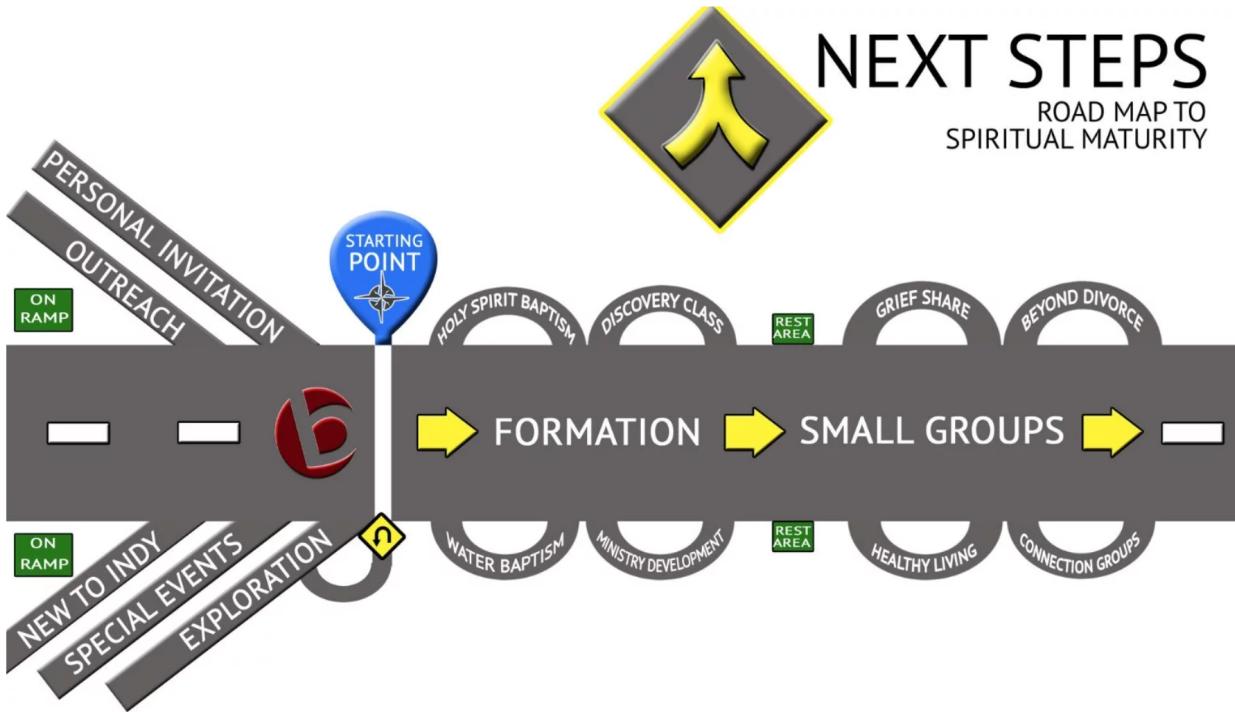
PHASE III: NARTHEX

PHASE II: SANCTUARY RENOVATION

WEST ELEVATION

Scale: 1/8" = 1' - 0"





BFWC Membership Application / Church Bylaws

(Please read through bylaws, fill out membership application & return to Teacher.)

Join our
DREAM
 TEAM

Discover what God can do through you!

Serving in the church is a critical part of every Christian's spiritual journey. Serving helps you grow. It helps you stay focused on God and His plan for your life.

Whatever your talents, there's a place at Bethel Family Worship Center for you to help people, make friends and touch lives!

You can make a difference in the lives of others by sharing your gifts and talents here at BFWC.

Each week, volunteers minister to others with the love and hope of Jesus Christ. Whatever your interests are, there is a place for you to serve at BFWC!

For more information, contact volunteercentral@bfwc.net.

NOTES _____



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