

**FIRSTSTEPS**

*step****ONE***

**INSTRUCTOR:**

Welcome!

Hi everybody and welcome to Step 1 of First Steps! So glad that you all are with us.

This is the part of your spiritual journey where you’re connecting to First Church, and as the pastor I would like to personally take this step to welcome you to this journey. To tell you how we started the church and a little bit of the First Church story. To tell you my own testimony. To share the vision from the senior pastor. First Steps is designed to take you on that journey practically and personally.

Open up the First Steps booklet. Turn to the overview page on page 7 and I want to give an overview of today and what will happen the next 3 Sundays. That’s what we are asking for. Just one month of your time to complete Steps 1 – 4.

If you came to today’s class it is all about becoming a member of the church. And I will give you enough information that you should be able to decide if this should be your home church or not. At the end of the day, all I want is for you to join a church and the wonderful gift of salvation for you and your family. Whether it is this one church or another one, you need to get involved in a local church. In fact, there are 30 verses alone that cannot be fulfilled if you’re not in a local church. I want you to get connected to a body of believers and next week when you come back for step 2 it’s going to be a lab. It’s a lab and not a class. It will be a workshop where you take a personality profile, a spiritual gifts profile and we will help you discover your design. Then you will come back for Step 3 and it’ll be a class again that discuss the reasons that you’ll love it here. You will explore the ministry focus of First Church and find out what makes each of us unique. We will answer some important questions that you’re probably already asking. Then Step 4 you come back and it’s another lab/graduation and you will get the opportunity to join a Dream Team. Then we will show you one of thirty plus different ways to get involved using your influence and that’ll be the culmination of this entire journey.

I want to stop right here and say, I know we are not the only church in town. And I am about to share with you about somethings that make me excited about First Church and what ministry looks like here because you have to decide if this is going to be your home church. There are a lot of great churches here in Pearland Texas, but my job is to tell you about this one. SO you can determine if this will be your church home.

Go to page 9 of your book. If you join this church and today and I become your pastor, I want you to know that we have a hope for you, that we have a prayer for you.

**Ephesians 1:17-18**

Paul plants this church and in this letter to the church that he plants, he prays a prayer. The bible talks about prayer but there is not a lot of prayers in the bible. And these verses are his prayer. He is asking God to give his people a spirit of wisdom and revelation so that they would know God. And how important it is that the eyes of the heart be enlightened. You have eyes in your heart that are looking through your past experiences. You can’t get God’s best if your heart is not enlightened. And then Paul goes on to say, in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you. If you don’t get your eyes enlightened, you’re never going to know why you’re on this planet. You have a calling. Hope and calling are connected. You’ll never have hope in your life until you know why you’re here. Two great days in your life, the day you were born and they day you discover why you were born. Then he finishes it with saying, the riches of His inheritance in his holy people. In other words, now I can put you on a team for something that matters, but you have to do it in those progressions. We have designed our church around that very verse.

**Our Story**

**(Pastor’s testimony and vision for Named Church.)** *Take 5-10 minutes in this segment. It should be passionate, faith building, vision casting, and inspiring.*

**Your Story- The Focus of First Church is Four Parts**

1. Love God

Insert any comments…

1. Grow in Faith

Insert any comments…

1. Serve Others

Insert any comments…

1. Go change the World.

Insert any comments…

I’m going to go back through those four things and I’m not going to give you the vision anymore. I want to tell you how we do love, grow, serve, go. Where churches differ is in how they do those four things. I want you to understand how we do them so you can decide whether you can call First Church your home.

Go to page 10 in your book and let’s go through the four again so I can tell you how we implement love, grow, serve, go.

STEP ONE:

1. Love God
   1. Attend Weekend Services

We don’t exist for the people that are here. We exist for the people who are not here yet. The ultimate mission of the church is to reach other people. We are going to take our services and connect to new people. We’re going to communicate to people and we are going to do everything we can to share the gospel. It matters to us because it matters to God. God loves all his people. God loves his lost people.

When God looks down at church and sees people worshipping He likes that, but that’s not what he is focused on. In Luke chapter 15 he tells 3 stories of lost things. Lost coin, lost sheep, lost son. In all three stories they leave the found things to find the lost thing. That is a big part of this church and we want you to be a part of finding the lost things with us.

We have four things we do on Sunday that feed people.

1. Celebration
   1. Church has to be fun. Church is supposed to be enjoyed and not endured. Church should be the highlight of your week.
2. Inspiration
   1. You have to know that God is there. Ask God and pray for God to move.
3. Preparation
   1. We give you a message that you can use on Monday and throughout the week.
4. Salvation
   1. Our church services are designed for people to know God. Every Sunday regardless of what we talk about we give people opportunities to know God and see Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior, be baptized in the Name of Jesus and given an opportunity to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

At Weekend Services, We:

1. WORSHIP : We “praise God in the sanctuary” (Psalm 150:1)

2. CONNECT with the Body of Christ. Scripture says that only iron can sharpen iron. (Proverbs 27:17). So when we connect with one another, we grow stronger.

3. HEAR the preached Word of God. Faith comes by hearing, hearing by the word of God. (Romans 10:17).

4. PRAY together. Its important to pray in private, but there’s something altogether different when we pray together. In Acts 4, when a group of believers gathered in a second floor room, the place was shaken by their prayers.

*So what does this have to do with you?*

*If this becomes your home church, then I want you to join me. Several Sundays of the year you should have an unchurched person sitting next to you. You do what I can’t do, and I’ll do what you can’t do. The reason why First Church has grown so much is because we teach this class and tell people to join us in the mission of reaching people.*

STEP TWO

1. GROW IN FAITH
   1. Join a Small Group

There are two things we need as believers — First, we need to sense that we are a part of something bigger than ourselves. Second, we need to sense that we are impacting others in close relationships.

In Acts 2 when the First Church was born and throughout the Book of Acts, we see the power of meeting in small groups:

• “So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:46-47)

• “[They met] daily in the temple and in every house.” (Acts 5:42)

• “I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house.” (Acts 20:20)

Our church needs to get bigger because more people need to get saved but our church also needs to get smaller because you matter and that is through small groups. You get close enough to people through small groups and share each other’s hurts and what’s going on in life. We believe life change happens in the context of relationships. The Bible supports that.

**Reasons Small Groups are Important**

Small Groups provide opportunities for:

* Bible Study: I need people to strengthen and balance the Word of God in my life
* Fellowship: I need people who know the real me
* Prayer: I need people to pray for me personally
* Support: I need people who will protect me
* Outreach: I need people with whom I can share my story

“*So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.” John 13:34-25 (NLT)*

On page 12 we explain the First Church systems of small groups.

* First, our groups are free market. Meaning we don’t care why you gather because we think you can still connect, protect, and grow whether you’re playing volleyball or studying the book of Romans. Our groups are primarily in eighth areas Men, Woman, Marriage and Family, Students, Freedom Groups, Prayer Groups, Outreach Groups, and Financial Groups. There are several to choose from.
* Second thing that you need to know is that we do them in semesters. They start and stop three times a year. The semesters are thirteen weeks in fall and spring and six weeks in summer.
* Third, you can host a group.

All of that is in your book to read.

STEP THREE

1. Serve Others
   1. Complete First Steps

“One Another” is found 59 times in the 27 books of the New Testament. Jesus wants us to know the responsibility we have one to another. That we should care for one another—serve one another.

But, how? How do I do this?

First Steps answers these questions. The First Steps journey is where you can discover the unique gifts God has given you — and how you can use those gifts to serve others.

STEP FOUR

1. GO Change the World
   1. Join the Dream Team

The First Church Dream Team is the core of our church! Every person who serves in any of the thirty First Church ministry teams is part of ONE team: the Dream Team.

“If you lean your ladder up against the wrong building, you can climb all you want but never arrive at the place you wish to be.”

You have to lean the ladder in the right place. And what’s the right place? Making a difference in the life of others. And we do that at First Church through the Dream Team.

Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. (Philippians 2:4)

This is the DNA of First Church. This is the four part spiritual journey of every believer. So allow us to welcome you to a journey to find the best you that you can be. Welcome to the First Church family!

Let’s keep moving. On page 14 you will find our First Church Membership Covenant. Elaborate …

On page 17 you will find the Seven Ways the First Church Revealed their Love for God. We believe …

Our big vision is to Love God, Grow in Faith, Serve Others, and Go Change the World. I’m showing you how now by Loving God through our Sunday services, you will Grow primarily through our small groups, and now we want to Serve Others, which is what you’re in right now in First Steps.

People discover their purpose by attending the 4 classes of First Steps.

1. Step One
   1. Become a member
   2. Join a church
2. Step Two
   1. Discovering my design
   2. That’ll be a lab class
3. Step Three
   1. Why you’ll love it here
4. Step Four
   1. Join the team
   2. That’s a lab as well.

So that is what First Steps is. There is more information in here and I would love for you to do your best to complete it. If you miss one, that’s okay. We repeat these classes every month.

And here the last thing is to Go Change the World by joining the Dream Team. It’s clear throughout scripture why you exist. You have a special ability but you have to come together in the body of Christ to fulfill it. The bible says that the people are ministers and that the pastor’s job are to equip the people. If you do this you will have fulfillment. I believe that you haven’t even seen what all God wants to do in your life.

(Pastor closes in prayer.)

**FIRSTSTEPS**

*step****TWO***

**INSTRUCTOR:**

You are going to have a great time today.

Step 2 of First Steps is found on page 24 is all about discovering the unique gifts that are inside of you.

And so what we want you to do is be in touch with what actually defines your divine enablement. In other words, your gift is something you were just designed to do and when you do it a couple of things happen. First of all it is easy for you, it comes naturally. Secondly, it touches people’s lives in a great way and it’s fulfilling to you. So we wanted you to find that gifting, because it’s really key. Now you can’t serve or get involved with what God has for you if you don’t know what your gift is. And that’s what this class is all about. There are about twenty-seven texts in the New Testament alone, that just lists of different kinds of gifts and there are probably more than that. The Bible this: is that it’s our responsibility, the Church, the pastors, to equip you as God’s people to do His work and to build up the Church, the Body of Christ. It is our job today to help you discover the uniqueness and the characteristics that make you who you are so you are better equipped to serve in His kingdom.

Now as you go through the profiles, you are going to do a personality profile and a spiritual gifts profile. As you go through all of that, I want you to think about three things. And the first is I want you to think about your unique gift or gifts and I want to add this word, your passions. The best thing for you and honestly for us too, is for you to be in an area that you are gifted by God to do and that you are passionate about. And what I mean by passion is that which you have eyes for. That’s the best way I know how to say it. When you walk into a room you see that room according to your gift and passions. If you are an administrative type person you will see how that row of chairs needs to be straightened. If you are a compassionate merciful person you are going to see the person sitting by themselves. If you are a leader you are going to say I can preach a whole lot better than the pastor and I need to be up on that stage. You are going to see the things through your passion and we want you to get in touch with your passions.

Second thing I want you to be in tuned to is, as you go through these profiles I want you to think about your life experiences. Because we believe that you have learned some things and there some things you’ve learned living on earth that you could contribute to the body of Christ. Some of you guys or gals are good technically and you need to get on one of our cameras. Some of you guys or gals have worked with kids before and really like it. And maybe need to be involved in children’s ministry. Some of you guys or gals are administrative, and you can figure out how to get more cars in here faster and get them out of here faster. We want you to use your life experiences. And by the way let me just stop right here and say that every one of you has something God can use. Every one of you. (Give Example Here) Every one of you God can use. Every single one of you.

And let me give you this last one. Too many people disqualify themselves and I don’t want you to and that is God can even use the bad part of your life. My pain. And I don’t know if you realize this or not but if you look at your self today and say well you can show me what my gifts and talents are, but I’ve got baggage. And I’ve got problems. And I’ve had issues. And maybe you’ve worked through some of those and you’re still thinking you’re disqualified, trust me the person who has found freedom from drug addiction. That person God will use more than the person who has never even taken a drug. They would rather hear from you because because you have the experience. So trust me, God can use everything in the past that you might have said disqualified you. I promise you God can use that thing.

Now look on the next page and at the top of the page, it gives a big banner or big heading of something we believe and that is where we are headed to in just a couple of minutes. And this is that design reveals destiny. So now we got to go find that thing in you. The best place to look for your gift, your passion, the thing that God wants to use in you, is in your design. I want to show you this verse, Psalm 139:13-14 NLT, That God made all the delicate inner parts of us, our body and He knit us together. So God was masterfully putting you together in your mother’s womb. And then here’s what David said about that, thank you for making me so wonderfully complex.

Thank you God for making me unique from everyone else. And then he goes on to say, your workmanship how well I know. And honestly this last line most people can’t say. They don’t know it. And all that is about to change over the next hour. We are about to do three things so you can say this phrase, “I know what mine is”. Three things we want to do. Here is the first. Discover your gifts. We are going to do it through that profile personality profile and a spiritual gift assessment that’s in the book and your host is going to take you through that. I want you to come back next week for Step Three so we can do this next one. And that is develop my gifts. So now that you discover it you got to work on it. And I’m going to bring a lesson to you on the third step of First Steps so it helps you develop the gift, your calling. Just because you discover it doesn’t mean it’s ready to go. And I’ll show you the keys to leadership. The keys to influence. And then the last one is of course the most fun part, and that is, then we are going to use my gifts. And that’s where real joy is. Real joy is living your life in such a way in which your life is impacting other people’s lives. It’s my deepest hope for you. As we take you through this lab today in Step 2 we hope that you find your purpose is to serve God by serving others. Write this down - *My purpose in life is to serve my God by using my gifts to serve other people.*

* Our purpose is to serve God by serving others.
* We will now take a personality profile assessment that will help you have a greater understanding of how God designed you, which will help you understand your purpose.
* We will look at four different personality types and there unique characteristics.
* Begin personality assessment - fill in DISC blanks on page 29
* You are created to be either more task focused or more people focused.
* Page 32
  + (top blank) D’s and I’s are naturally more extroverted (outgoing) - **Extrovert**
  + (bottom blank) While C’s and S’s are naturally more introverted (shy) – **Introvert**
  + (left blank) D’s and C’s are both more task driven

– **Task**

* + (right blank) While I’s and S’s are more people driven - **People**
* Look up your personality starting on page 32. As you read this it should sound like a pretty good description of you.
* There are strengths and weaknesses with each personality. This is why it is important for us to have an understanding of our personality.
* This also helps us to have a better understanding of those around us to, and to know that each person is uniquely made by God.
* Now let’s look at another important part of your design, your spiritual gifts.
* We have a list of 72 statements. Choose 1 , 2 , 4 or 5. Less scratch out so that we make the most accurate choice.
* Be honest and know it is okay if you don’t score high in every area. In fact, no one scores high in every area because each of us has a unique spiritual gifts mix.
* (do spiritual gifts assessment)
* Now you can add up your score and as you add them up you can look at the corresponding spiritual gift for the letter next to the blank. Look at your top scores – most people have multiple gifts.
* As you look at your spiritual gifts you should see a direct correlation between those gifts and your personality.
* Now that you have a greater understanding of your how God designed you, the next question is now what can I do with this information? We invite you to review the various teams and their descriptions located on page 74 – you can do this at your convenience and this will be the focus of Step 4 where you will actually be able to join the Dream Team.
* We would love to invite you back to Step 3 of First Steps next week where you will learn about developing your leadership.
* We have members of our First Steps team available to help answer any questions you may have.
* Please remember to turn in your personality assessment before you leave.
* See you next week at Step 3 – God Bless!

**FIRSTSTEPS**

*step****THREE***

**INSTRUCTOR:**

Hi everybody. Welcome to step 3 of First Steps.

We are so very glad you are here. What you are doing is very, very important. I want to make sure you all have the First Steps booklet that you’ve been given. If you don’t have one, raise your hand and your host will make sure you have one of these. You probably should already have one of these and have the first two Steps already filled out, if you’ve been with us.

So, in week 1 - we’ve talked about it and it’s so important -- step 1 is for you to be connected to a local body of believers. So, we gave you our version of a church membership class. That was Step One. Hopefully, you’ve joined the church; if not, you’re contemplating that and maybe you’re going through the whole First Steps first to make sure this is the church you want to be a part of. Maybe, wherever you are on that journey, you need to find a local church to be a part of.

And then last week, in Step Two, we talked about the fact that you have a design. So, when you were created, God had a divine design for you. In the Bible it says in Ephesians “to each one of us a grace gift has been given”. That means there is something that you are automatically going to be motivated to do. You are wired a certain way. We think that the more you look into a person’s design, the more it will reveal their destiny. So, that’s why we take you through a spiritual gifts profile and a personality profile, so you can discover the unique wiring that you have.

WHERE TWO OR THREE GATHER IN MY NAME, I AM THERE WITH THEM.

* MATTHEW 18:20

OUR HOPE FOR YOU

The purpose of today is to get down into the details of what makes us different from other churches. God has given this church a unique vision, and we want to show you how you can be a part of that. We want to share with you our focus as a church, what we value, and a few principles that will help us step fearlessly into the purpose that God has for our lives.

WHY YOU WILL LOVE IT HERE

*“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)*

(INSERT COMMENTS HERE ABOUT OUR CHURCH CULTURE)

(INSERT COMMENTS HERE ABOUT THE DEMOGRAPH MAKE UP OF YOUR CITY AND HOW THE GOAL FOR OUR CHURCH IS TO REFLECT THE DEMOGRAPHICS OF OUR CITY)

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES:

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_SPIRIT FILLED \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ CHURCH.

*And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you. Romans 8:11*

*“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” 2 Corinthians 13:14*

**WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?**

*Ruwach* – a wind, breath, a violent exhalation, blast of breath.

*“The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.” Genesis 1:2*

*Pneuma* – a current of air, blast of breath, a strong breeze.

*“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.” John 6:63*

1. The Holy Spirit is our \_\_\_\_\_HELPER\_\_\_\_\_.

“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever.” John 14:16

1. The Holy Spirit is our \_\_\_\_\_\_TEACHER\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” John 14:26

-We embrace the supernatural.

-We believe supernatural things are possible.

2. \_\_\_\_\_\_BIBLE BASED\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ CHURCH

“The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do what is right. It is God’s way of making us well prepared at every point, fully equipped to do good to everyone.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (LB)

We believe that 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. A vibrant relationship with God is sustained through Bible study and prayer.

* \_\_\_\_\_ACCEPT\_\_\_\_\_ that God’s Word is my highest authority.
* \_\_\_\_\_RECEIVE\_\_\_\_\_\_ God’s Word with an open heart.

“The earth is filled with your love, Lord; teach me your decrees.” Psalm 119:64

* \_\_\_\_\_RESPOND\_\_\_\_\_\_ to God’s Word with obedience.

“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”

James 1:22

*“We only believe the part of the Bible that we actually do”*

3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_OTHERS-FOCUSED\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ CHURCH

*“For the Son of Man came to see and save the lost.” Luke 19:10*

It’s been said that the only institution that exists for the benefit of its non-members is the church. We embrace that completely! Everything we do is geared toward getting as many lost people saved as possible. You’ll hear us say it often: “As many as we can; as fast as we can!”

4. \_\_\_\_Vision Driven \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ CHURCH.

* LOVE God. Attend weekend services. (INSERT COMMENT)
* GROW in faith. Join or smart a small group. (INSERT COMMENT)
* SERVE others. Complete First Steps. (INSERT COMMENT)
* GO change the world. Join the Dream Team. (INSERT COMMENT)

Each person is a perfect 10 in something. Invest your life in what will make you thrive. There is no ministry that doesn’t help facilitate a move of God.

5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Giving\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ CHURCH

*“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” John 3:16*

The Gospel is the ultimate demonstration of God’s generous nature towards mankind. The Bible consistently teaches that God blesses us so that we may bless others.

The happiest people on earth are givers. We are talking about developing a lifestyle of being a giver. Give away what you most hold on to.

THREE AREAS OF GIVING:

1. Give of our \_\_\_\_\_\_Time\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” Ephesians 5:15-16

1. Give of our \_\_\_\_\_Talent\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

“A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.”

1 Corinthians 12:7 (NLT)

1. Give of our \_\_\_\_Treasure\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

“If your gift is… giving, give generously.” Romans 12:8 (NLT)

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

“You shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

1. “In Jerusalem” – OUR CITY (INSERT COMMENT OF HOW THE CHURCH DOES THIS)

“Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble.” James 1:27

The primary way we reach our city is through our Community Outreach efforts.

1. “In Judea and Samaria” – OUR NATION (INSERT COMMENT OF HOW THE CHURCH DOES THIS)

“To the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.” 1 Corinthians 9:22

The primary way we reach our Nation is by starting new churches and strengthening

existing churches.

1. 3. “To the ends of the Earth” – OUR WORLD (INSERT COMMENT OF HOW THE CHURCH DOES THIS)

“And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” Mark 16:15

First Church strategically invests a portion of its resources in missions works

all around the world with a focus on missionaries, unreached people groups, children, and church planting.

6. \_\_\_\_\_JOYFUL\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ CHURCH

*Serve the Lord with gladness. Psalm 100:2*

The secret:

Every member is a minister.

Every task is important.

Every member is a 10 in some area

(INSERT COMMENT, PASSION CALL, BIBLE EXAMPLE OF ONE SERVING IN THEIR GIFTING) *EXAMPLE- JOSEPH IS KNOWN AS JOSEPH THE DREAMER, BUT INFACT HE WAS JOSEPH THE ADMINISTRATOR. IT IS OUR NATURE TO SAY JOSEPH THE DREAMER. THAT TITLE SELLS A LOT OF BOOKS ON AMAZON, JOSEPH THE ADMINISTRATOR, NOT SO MUCH. REGARDLESS OF JOSEPH’S CURCUMSTANCE HE WORKED IN HIS GOD GIFTING AND BECAUSE OF THAT HIS WORK WAS BLESSED. FROM THE PIT, TO POTIPHARS HOUSE, TO THE PRISON HE WAS FAITHFUL. 1 TIMOTHY 4:14 SAY NEGLECT NOT THE GIFT THAT IS IN THEE…JOSEPH WAS REMEMBERED AND BROUGHT BEFORE PHARAOH TO GIVE AN INTERPRETATION OF A DREAM. WHEN PHARAOH SAID, I HEAR THAT YOU CAN GIVE THE INTERPRETATION OF DREAMS, JOSEPH REPLIED AND SAID THAT GOD WILL GIVE THE INTERPRETATION ON PHARAOHS DREAM. GOD INFACT GAVE THE INTERPRETATION OF PHARAOHS DREAM AND IN TURN PHARAOH PLACED JOSEPH AS SECOND IN COMMAND OVER ALL OF EGYPT WORKING IN HIS ADMINSITRATIVE GIFTING. BECAUSE OF THAT COUNTLESS LIVES WERE SAVED IN THE SEVEN YEARS OF FAMINE. (THE PASSION CALL) HOW MANY PEOPLE COULD BE SAVED IN THIS CITY IF WE ARE ALL WORKING IN OUR GIFTINGS? THAT QUESTION BEGS THE SECOND QUESTION. HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL BE LOST IF WE DON’T?*

7. A CHURCH OF \_\_\_\_\_\_\_HONOR\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Romans 12:10

A. We celebrate one another.

B. We value one another.

C. We are accountable to one another.

**HONOR COVENANT**

(INSERT COMMENTS OF WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT) PRESENT AS A POSITIVE. IT IS CALLING ONES-SELF HIGHER.

(THE HONOR COVENANT IS DESIGNED FOR THE MOST ENTRY LEVEL MINISTRY, NEW CONVERT, AND THE MATURE CHRISTIAN ALIKE) SOME MINSITRIES, FOR EXAMPLE: PLATEFORM MINSTRIES, HAVE A HIGHER LEVEL OF COMMITMENT. WE ALLOW THE MINISTRY LEADERS TO ADDRESS THE REQUIREMENTS WITH THEIR DREAMTEAM MEMBERS BY DIRECTION FROM THE PASTOR.

(Pastor closes in prayer.)

**FIRSTSTEPS**

*step****FOUR***

**INSTRUCTOR:**

Hi everybody, welcome to Step 4 of First Steps. You made it! We’re so glad you all are here for the final class in this series. I hope you’ve enjoyed it and that it has taken you on a leadership journey where you're discovering your purpose. We hope you've gotten connected to the church and are starting to figure out your design, spiritual gifts, calling, and your passions. We’re all developing our leadership abilities and letting God work inside of us and we’re receiving the grace of God but we’re striving to do the best we can at the same time.

Today, I’d like to talk for a couple minutes before we exit and meet all the Dream Team leaders and have the opportunity to go be apart of a Dream Team in all different areas like children’s ministry and you'll get to hear about what is involved on being a volunteer (Dream Teamer) or if you want to be apart of the host team or small group leadership or one of the 30 plus functions on a Sunday like hospitality or ushers or greeters or parking - there is a variety! And then there are areas like outreach that you can be apart of what we’re doing at some degree but you get to do it more on a full time basis.

Here’s the hope - that you find an area and then come to church, for instance, on a Sunday, you might worship one service then you serve one. You’ll be involved in the life and in the leadership of our church. Today is a big day where you can jump on those teams! If you haven’t turned in your signed Honor Covenant, please turn that in today before joining a team. If you need that sheet again, our host will have some. Just ask one of them.

Go to page 66, I want to give you some final thoughts before you go into these huddles and joining the team. Here is a statement we make and I want to give you 3 principles from this single statement. Here is the first one:

1. I want to make a difference.

In fact, I want you to write that down - I want to make a difference – Say that with me. I WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE! I say it in that way because I really believe that you’re already wired to want to make a difference and that statement is true for every single person that they want to make a difference. God has already wired you to desire to make your life count for other people’s sake. We believe that and I truly believe (I say it a lot but I’ll say it again) you’ll never be happy until you are making a difference. There’s not enough vacations, not enough money, cars, possessions, there is not enough relationships - there is not enough things on this earth that can fully satisfy your desire and your need to what sociologists call, “transcendence” - that my life impacted the lives of others and that’s why the Scripture says in a very sure way that God saved us. That is the first step in your spiritual journey and after He saved you (looking at 2 Timothy 1:9), “He called you to this holy work not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time”. So before you were created, God created the thing He asked you to do. Ephesians says it this way - that you are created in Christ Jesus to do good works that He prepared in advance for you to do. So let me say it this way - God had a thing for you to do first then He made you. You're perfectly wired, perfectly designed to live your life in such a way where it impacts people’s lives and God made sure of it.

You got to know - I want to make a difference. Here is the second thing and that is

2. Doing something that makes a difference.

I want to do something that makes a difference. I want to do something that actually makes a difference. And you say, “What is the litmus test of whether it makes a difference or not?” I want you to write this one somewhere in the white space, it is a very important word for you to have in your minds, in the culture of our leadership and our Dream Team here at First Church and that is *eternal*. So in other words, if we take care of people, if we feed a lot of people but never give them Jesus, we’d lose. If we help people get out of their mess, but they don't go to heaven, we did them a disservice. The way I like to say it is social justice is important, but social justice without spiritual justice is not justice. You can’t give them their physical needs and not tell them the most important thing they needed because they're going to spend the vast majority of their life in eternity but at the same time spiritual justice is not justice without social justice. We can’t just give them Jesus without helping people. That’s why it’s a joy to be apart of what we do. We get to serve whether it’s on a camera or in a children's church class or in a parking lot or on guitar or in a small group or wherever - making coffee - whatever it is that you end up doing to serve others, you're doing it for one reason and that is that they find God and they meet Jesus and end up in heaven.

By this point you ought to understand this principle and I want to show it to you in Scripture in 1 Corinthians 3:12-15 it says, “anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials” - some materials are good but some are bad. This means some people are living their life but their life isn't making a difference. Some use their materials in “gold, silver, jewels, hay, or straw. But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person’s work has any value.If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward.But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames.” I want to make sure we’re very clear because we’re there to make a difference, doing something that makes a difference, and here’s the last one:

3. With people who want to make a difference.

This is a big one to God. God will develop you as an individual but He’ll never use you by yourself. Let me say that again. (repeat). So a lot of your spiritual journey is you and God, you and God, you and God and then when He finally gets to a place where He wants to use you, He has put you on a team. That’s why we’re called the body of Christ and you're just a body part but if you find out that you’re the hand, and you even develop your ability to be the hand, it’s only as effective as you find the arm to put that hand on. And the arm is only as good as if he finds the shoulder to put that arm on. Every one of us has to get connected on teams and that’s what we are doing today because the final stage of your journey, First Steps, is to get you on the team. And honestly I think team is so much fun because the team is where we build relationships. In fact, a lot of the Dream Team teams, that is their small group too. That’s the people they do life with. You may still serve in an area and go to a different small group or you can actually make both the same but you want to get on a team. One is too small of a number to really make a difference. You cannot do it. The Bible says in Ecclesiastes that “Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor.” So you'll never accomplish anything by yourself.

FOR WE ARE GOD’S WORKMANSHIP,

CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS FOR GOOD WORKS.

EPHESIANS 2:1

VISION OF THE DREAM TEAM

1. MY TEAM IS MY \_\_\_\_FAMILY\_\_\_\_\_.

“I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” Philippians 1:3-6 (NIV)

1. MY TEAM IS MY \_\_\_\_\_LIFELINE\_\_\_\_\_.

“If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambi­tion or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.” Philippians 2:1-4 (NIV)

3. MY TEAM IS MY \_\_\_\_FOUNDATION\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

“Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 3:12-14 (NIV)

4. MY TEAM IS MY \_\_\_\_\_\_PLACE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, do these, and the God of peace will be with you. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Philippians 4:8-9, 13

As a member of the Dream Team, we embrace the following values in order to serve in a way that brings honor to God and one another!

1. WE VALUE \_\_\_\_\_CONNECTION\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

We prioritize connecting with new people. We are ALL greeters! People matter to God, so they matter to us.

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves,not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.” Philippians 2:3-4

1. WE VALUE \_\_\_\_\_RELATIONSHIP\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

We do life together. We build relationships with our team! Real Life change happens… real leaders are developed… when we take a step towards intentional relationships.

“I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.” Philippians 1:3-5

3. WE VALUE \_\_\_\_\_\_HONOR\_\_\_\_\_\_.

We are a people of purpose, working together on purpose. Because of this, we make deliberate decisions to empower one another and honor one another. We don’t elevate ourselves above any other member of our team.

“He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ.” Colossians 1;28

4 WE VALUE \_\_\_\_CELEBRATION\_\_\_\_\_\_.

At First Church, we believe in celebrating the wins! There is nothing more powerful than a life changed by Christ. We get to be a part of that every week!

“In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” Philippians 4:8-9, 13

I want to end with this and that is I’m personally inviting you to get on the Dream Team. The Dream Team is very near and dear to me. We have our staff team and our Dream Team and we do all that we can to pastor you and love you. We have a big party for you every year just to celebrate what God has done and here what you're going to discover that not only do you get to make a contribution but you'll end up with community, people that you love and get to do it with and then there will be plenty of celebration of what we’ve been able to accomplish some things but we accomplished infinitely more when we decide to join up with the right people and that’s my hope for you today. I want to close today and let your hosts lead you to the next step.

I’m praying that you find the right team. If you don’t, we will let you shop around for a better team for you. Get on a team and make a difference.

(Closes in prayer.)