

5. Ministry & Service

All Christians are called to ministry. At Harvest we have a BIG VISION, and it takes all of us working together to make it happen! As we minister, God's Spirit is revealed through us. We grow as we make a difference for His kingdom. We build relationships with those we minister with and those we serve. As we contribute to the family of God and minister to those who do not know Him, we serve Jesus. Serving brings fullness and joy to our lives like nothing else can.

In what ways do you plan to join in ministry?

Now, take the **two commitment cards included** and fill them out with your own spiritual growth plan. **One you will bring to church on "Commitment Sunday," and the other you will keep as a personal reminder of your spiritual growth plan for this year.**

At Harvest our goal is to help people **FIND CHRIST** *and* **GROW IN HIM.**

Transformation in life happens through the **COMMITMENTS** we make and the **HABITS** we establish. At Harvest we provide opportunity for commitment and life-changing encounters with God on Sunday morning, in conferences, and other events. The habits we build enable us to *live out our commitments* and *build on the changes* that happen in our encounters with God.

"For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith, goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

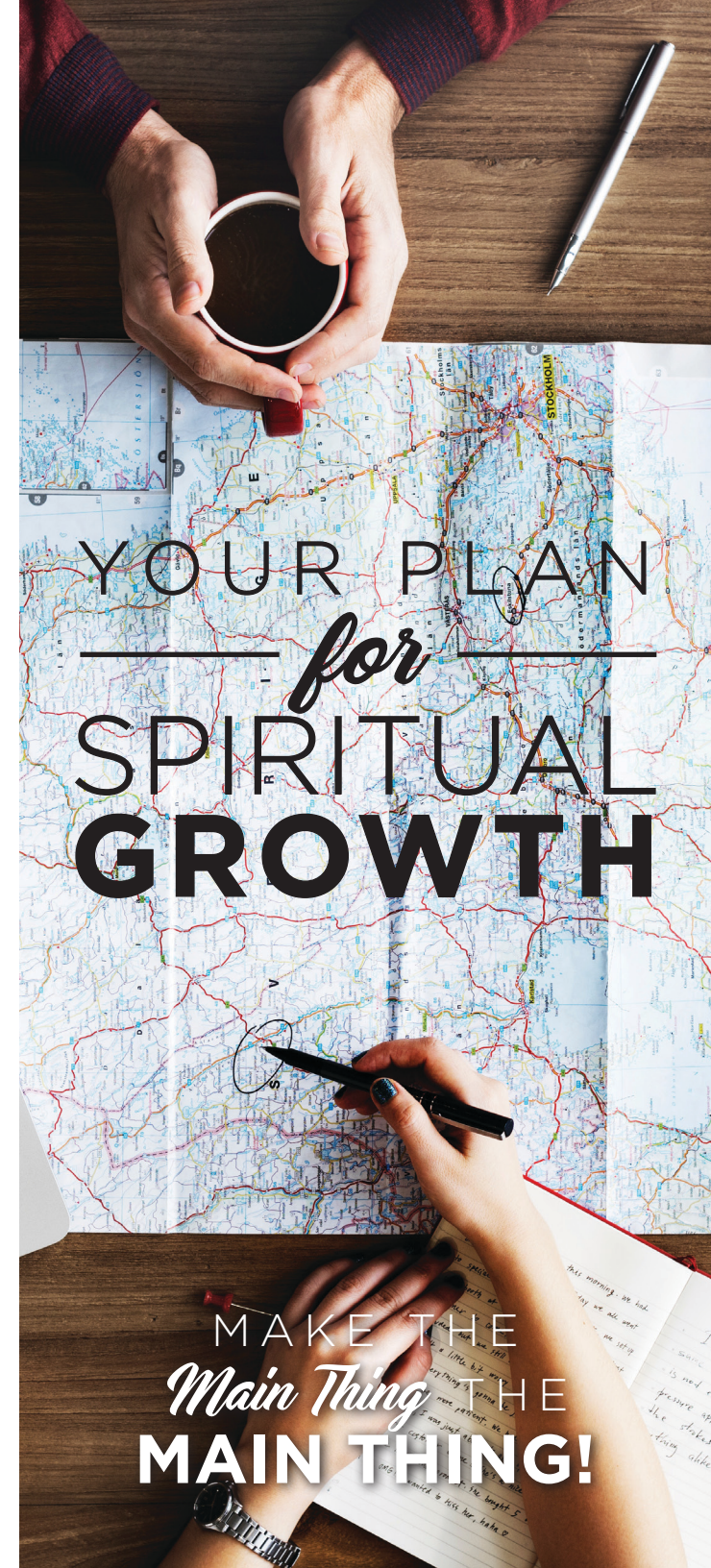
2 Peter 1:5-8



**Harvest
Church**

authentic & life changing

2727 Fortner St. Dothan, AL 36305
334.702.6555 | www.HarvestDothan.com
info@harvestdothan.com



YOUR PLAN
— *for* —
SPIRITUAL
GROWTH

MAKE THE
Main Thing THE
MAIN THING!

Wisdom is the ability to choose what is best. God wants the best for us and it comes from living in Him. THE MOST IMPORTANT THING you can do at this phase of your life is to GROW IN CHRIST! In Luke 10:27, Jesus said that the greatest commandments are to “love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself.” This only happens as we are transformed by a growing relationship with Christ.

Our purpose in life is to KNOW God, living in a real relationship with Him; to BE transformed into the image of Christ, becoming the people we were created to be; and to DO what God put us on earth to do, making a lasting difference with our lives. This is spiritual growth. It does not happen consistently unless we are intentional about growth. If you PLAN TO GROW, you are more likely to grow.

There are five main habits that successful Christians have practiced throughout the centuries. We have listed and briefly explained these below. Most of you are now practicing the first one by coming regularly to Sunday morning worship; others of you are already practicing all five habits. As you form your plan, know that you do not have to fill in all five areas; choosing even one or two will help you grow. We recommend all five because we know that will help you grow the most into a well-rounded follower of Jesus.

1. Sunday Worship

When we give our lives to Jesus, we become part of the family of God. He never calls us to follow Him alone. When people become part of Harvest, we ask, “Will you by God’s grace follow after Him all the days of your life as a faithful member of Christ’s Holy Church?” In Hebrews 10:25, God calls us to meet together. It is in worshiping together that our identity as a church is formed. We

grow through worship, fellowship, and hearing God’s word, and we welcome others to come experience Him with us.

Will you commit to Sunday worship?

2. Personal Growth Habits

There are many things we can do to know God better and to grow in godliness. We practice a number of these in *Discipleship* and discuss them in the Spiritual Maturity Class: *Growing in Christ* (SM 201). It is important to incorporate some things daily and other things occasionally. We especially recommend a daily Bible reading/study plan as well as a daily prayer plan. This is the primary way we spend time with God and get to know Him, as well as having our minds renewed by the truth! You may also consider other activities such as fasting, reading Christian books, listening to Christian music or sermon CDs, a weekly hour of prayer, half-day or full-day retreats with God, service/outreach projects, and attending Spiritual Maturity classes, Bible studies, or conferences. Make it realistic! Do not plan so much that you will be overwhelmed. Just adding one new habit this year will help you grow.

What personal habits will you commit to for spiritual growth?

3. Giving

God is a giver, and we grow as we give (Luke 6:38; II Corinthians 9:6-8). In Scripture, the word “faith” appears 442 times, “love” appears 697 times, but “give” appears 1,427 times! The Bible commands us to TITHE, which means to “return a

tenth” of all He gives us back to Him. Our goal is for all of us to grow in our giving to tithing and beyond. Obedience and trusting God in giving opens many doors for blessing and growth (Philippians 4:19). It leads to financial security, which only comes when we know we can trust God to take care of us. We invest temporary things into an eternal treasury.

We are not asking for pledges of a certain amount to our budget (we do pledge to our building fund each year), but we do want you to grow in giving.

Will you commit your finances to the Lord?

4. Small Groups

Small Group involvement is one of the most effective ways to grow. A primary part of HARVEST’S VISION is to be a church of Small Groups. Jesus said we would be known as His disciples by the way we love each other (John 13:34-35). He calls us to encourage one another, pray for each other, bear one another’s burdens, and follow Him together. To do this we need to know some other believers well.

Study, sharing, discipleship, accountability, ministry, and Christian relationships all take place in *Discipleship* and Small Groups. *Discipleship* Phases I-V focus on how to live as a disciple and how to make disciples. Small Groups focus on Bible study, life issues, spiritual warfare, prayer, and various other topics relating to becoming more effective in your daily life.

What is your plan for being involved in Small Groups?