

DEEPEN YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF WHO WE ARE AS A CHURCH,
WHERE WE'RE GOING, AND HOW YOU CAN BE A PART OF THE JOURNEY



PARTICIPANT GUIDE

LOVE GOD • SERVE OTHERS • WIN ONE

Northside Connect – Week 1

Welcome & Overview:

Thanks for signing up to attend Northside Connect! Before we begin, I want to let you know what the next three weeks will look like. The purpose of this class is to deepen your understanding of who we are as a church, where we've been, where we are going and how you can be part of this journey. If you attended Northside Next, you heard Jeff give a brief overview of the 5 G's (growth, groups, giving, gifts, grace). In this class we will discuss those in more detail... specifically as they relate to your involvement at Northside.

Week 1: Discuss History, Mission, Beliefs of Northside as well as what it means for you to partner with us (membership).

Week 2: Discuss what it means to practically Love God (growth, groups and giving)

Week 3: Discuss what it means to practically Serve Others (gifts) and how to practically Win One (grace; highlighting evangelism and discipleship)

Any questions?

History & Mission:

Northside Christian Church is a vibrant, spirit-filled, enthusiastic church located in Wadsworth, Ohio on SR 94. We are excited about what God is doing right here in Medina County through our church. We began in 1977 with a small group of people committed to restore the church that is found in the Bible (**Acts 2**). God has blessed Northside with remarkable growth since then... we average over 1300 every Sunday! Our services are God-honoring and life-changing. Each week biblical truths are shared through teaching and life application. Hundreds of people are involved in everything from service to small groups to mission trips.

Northside is a multigenerational church that always strives to lead with grace; not perfection. Perfection isn't possible. Regardless of the color of your skin, your economic background, your social or financial status, where you've been or what you've done... you are welcome here! Our mission is _____ GOD, _____ OTHERS and _____ ONE. It is fueled by the Great Commission. **Matthew 28:18-20**, *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

Every small group, class, service project, youth outing and message strives to achieve our mission. You will hear us repeat the mission from the stage, you'll see it on the walls, on the website and in all our programming. We want those who worship here to clearly understand our mission so that we can work together, taking as many people to Heaven with us as possible!

Intro for What We Believe:

Before we jump into the doctrine of the church, allow me to clarify something. One of the foundational truths from this church's past (and all Independent Christian churches) that I believe is very relevant in today's religiously-broad world is this: ***"We are not the _____ Christians; we are Christians only."*** This means that we must approach the different faith backgrounds of other believers with humility; recognizing that we have had different influences that have shaped our beliefs. The people who worship here come from all walks of life and religious backgrounds. **Although our beliefs may be _____, they SHOULD NOT make us divisive.** We value the faith experiences of each person here and we are committed to the unity of all believers. Regardless of our faith background, we share one name: Christian! And that is something I believe should be celebrated! We all can unite under the same banner, the same umbrella, which is Jesus Christ. *"We are not the only Christians; we are Christians only."*

Also, we should never think we have all the answers... I definitely do not! What we must use as our only guide is Scripture. That's why we preach Jesus and Jesus only. All of our teachings and beliefs can be backed with Scripture. It is the job of every believer to speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:14-15). So this is something I do passionately and unashamedly.

What We Believe:

The _____: We believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God, the written record of His supernatural revelation of Himself to man, absolute in its authority, complete in its revelation, final in its content and without any error in its teaching and is "living and active" ever speaking to our present circumstances. (Hebrews 4:12, 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Psalm 119:160)

_____: God is the creator and ruler of the universe. He eternally exists in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and therefore, are one God. (Genesis 1:1, Genesis 1:26-27; Psalm 90:2; John 1:1-3; John 1:14; Acts 5:3-4)

_____: Jesus Christ is the Son of God, yet He is co-equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Jesus lived a sinless life and offered himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on the cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to heaven's glory and one day will return to earth to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. (John 1:1-5; Matthew 16:16-17; John 3:16; Acts 1:10-11; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

The _____ Spirit: The Holy Spirit is equal with the Father and Jesus as God. He is present in the world to make us aware of our need for Jesus Christ. He lives in every believer from the moment of salvation. He provides Christians with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, guidance to do what is right, and gifts to use in ministry. We seek to live under His direction daily. (John 14:26; John 16:7-14; Ephesians 1:13-14; Acts 1:8; Galatians 5:22-25)

_____ : People are the supreme object of God’s creation, created in His image to have a loving relationship with Him. However, we have all chosen to disobey God, rebel against Him and go our own way. The Bible calls this sin. The result of this sin is that we are alienated from God. The effects of this fall from our intended relationship with God can be reversed through faith in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of our sins. ([Romans 3:23](#); [Romans 6:23](#); [John 3:16](#))

_____ : The Bible tells us the wages of our sin is death. We believe that because Jesus was God and never sinned, that His death paid the death penalty we owed. We can never pay for our own sin through self-improvement or good works. Salvation is a free gift given to us by the grace of God. We receive this gift of salvation when we trust Jesus’ death on the cross as the payment for our sins. This trust in Christ entails an acknowledgement to Him as Creator (belief), an acknowledgement that we are sinners (repentance), an acknowledgement that He is Lord (confession), followed by the act of baptism. We believe salvation results in loving God, loving others, and serving Him and them daily. ([Romans 5:8](#); [Ephesians 2:8-9](#); [Romans 10:9-10](#); [Titus 3:5-7](#); [Galatians 3:26-27](#))

_____ : We believe that baptism is by immersion into Jesus Christ. It is our response of faith and obedience when we choose to surrender to Jesus. In the New Testament Church, those who believed were baptized (fully immersed under water) into the name of Jesus. ([Acts 2:38-41](#); [Romans 6:3-7](#); [Colossians 2:12](#); [Galatians 3:26-27](#))

_____ **& Salvation:** We believe that all people are guilty of sin because all people are born with a sinful nature which leads all people to sin. ([Jeremiah 17:9](#); [Romans 3:23](#)) We believe the substitutionary death of Jesus on the cross is the sole basis of atonement for this sins of mankind. ([Isaiah 53:3-6](#), [2 Corinthians 5:21](#), [Romans 5:8](#)) We believe that the forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life are promised to those who trust Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. ([John 3:16](#), [Ephesians 2:8-9](#)) We believe the Bible teaches that the pattern to follow to receive Jesus as Savior is to believe in Jesus as God’s Son and Savior of the world, to repent of personal sin, to confess Jesus as Lord, and to be immersed in baptism. ([Mark 16:16](#), [Acts 2:38-39](#), [Romans 6:3-4](#), [Romans 10:9](#), [1 Peter 3:21](#)) We believe in the assignment of all people to heaven or to hell at their time of death or at the time of Christ’s return. ([Hebrews 9:27](#), [2 Thessalonians 1:8-9](#), [Revelation 20:1](#), [2 Corinthians 5:6-10](#))

Free _____ & God’s Sovereignty: We believe that when a person puts his faith in Jesus and is saved, it is through a cooperation of that person’s free choice responding to the work of God upon him. God gives indispensable help in moving a person’s heart to receive Christ, but that does not eliminate God’s sovereign decree that man should be free to exercise moral choice. God graciously enables every sinner to repent and believe but does not interfere with man’s freedom. Each sinner possesses a free will, and his eternal destiny depends on how he uses it. The sinner has the power to either cooperate with God’s Spirit and be regenerated or reject God’s grace and perish. We believe that a saving relationship with Jesus is based on faith in Jesus apart from any “works” of righteousness or meritorious acts. ([Matthew 23:37-38](#), [John 3:16-20](#), [Romans 1:16-17](#), [Ephesians 2:8-9](#), [Revelation 22:17](#))

_____ : The New Testament teaches that when a person puts his faith in Jesus, that process is culminated by immersion in water as a public testimony of that decision. The act of baptism alone *cannot* save a person, however, it is an essential part of a *process*. In other words, God intended baptism to be part of how a person puts his faith in Jesus. We aren't making a theological argument about the exact moment that a person is saved. Instead, we teach that after the resurrection of Jesus, there is no concept in the New Testament of an unbaptized believer. We understand that there are people from other traditions who have confessed their faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior, but were baptized as an infant, before they had faith. There are also other believers who confessed their faith in Jesus but were simply never taught the New Testament teaching of baptism. In these cases, we teach people to fulfill the teaching of the New Testament by being baptized (immersed) as a believing adult. We also require all unbaptized believers to be baptized before becoming a member of Northside Christian Church. (Romans 5:1-2, Luke 24:45-47, Acts 3:19, 17:30, 2 Peter 3:9, Matthew 10:32, Romans 10:9, Philippians 2:11, 1 John 4:15, Acts 2:38, Romans 6:1-7, Galatians 3:27, Colossians 2:12, 1 Peter 3:21)

The Holy _____ : We believe that those who receive Christ also receive the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit: He marks them as the possession of God, manifests the fruit of righteousness in their character, and endows them with spiritual gifts for ministry. (2 Corinthians 1:21-22, Galatians 5:22-23, 1 Corinthians 12:4-6) We believe that a spiritual gift is a special ability, given by the Holy Spirit to every believer, to be used to minister to others and thereby build up the Body of Christ (1 Peter 4:10, Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:7-11)

- a. We believe that through the Holy Spirit God supernaturally intervenes in life by healing and other miraculous interventions.
- b. Regarding the miraculous gifts of speaking in tongues, interpreting tongues, and the spiritual gift of healing by one's own will: We believe that in New Testament churches which lacked direct apostolic leadership, these specific miraculous gifts were not present because in the New Testament they are only given by the laying on of the Apostle's hands. Therefore, we do not expect to see spiritual gifts such as speech in tongues and healing by one's own will as a normative gift in the church today. (Acts 8:5-8, 14-17, Acts 19:1-7)
- c. Since we do not believe these specific "miraculous" gifts are normative in the church today, we ask that those who seek to exercise these specific spiritual gifts (e.g. speaking in tongues) not practice them within our worship services nor promote the exercise of them among our members. (1 Corinthians 13:8-10)

Sanctity of _____ : We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life. (Psalm 139:13-16, Jeremiah 1:5, Isaiah 4:2, 24)

Sanctity of _____: We believe that God created marriage to be exclusively the union between one man and one woman, and that sexual intimacy is to occur exclusively within that union. ([Genesis 2:24](#), [Jeremiah 29:6](#), [Isaiah 62:5](#), [Leviticus 18:22, 20:13](#), [Matthew 19:4-6](#), [Hebrews 13:4](#))

_____: We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female, and that these two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. We believe that gender is assigned by God at birth and the Holy Scripture does not permit an individual from altering their sexual identity, physically or otherwise. ([Genesis 1:27](#), [Deuteronomy 23:1](#))

The _____ Church: We believe that Church should seek unity with all believers in matters essential to the universal Christian faith and contend for liberty in all matters wherein the Lord has not spoken through His Word. ([Ephesians 4:2-6](#)) We believe the local church is an autonomous body which cooperates with many Christian agencies but is regulated or dominated by none. ([Ephesians 5:23b](#)) We believe love is to be shown to all people as the central trait of the Christian faith. ([John 13:35](#), [1 Peter 4:8](#)) We believe the mission of the church is to reach the spiritually lost for Christ, to teach with the goal of “forming Christ in them” and to mobilize believers to accomplish God’s purposes in the world. ([Matthew 28:18-20](#)) We believe that the pattern of the New Testament was to observe the Lord’s Supper each week. ([Acts 2:42](#)) We believe that each believer should give a generous, intentional, regular, proportional gift of his or her income to God, through the local church, as a spiritual discipline. Scripture gives us the tithe (one tenth) as the normal beginning point of giving for a believer. ([Malachi 3:10](#), [1 Corinthians 16:2](#), [2 Corinthians 9:6-7](#))

Final _____ for Matters of Belief and Conduct: The statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of Northside Christian Church’s faith, doctrine, policy, and discipline, our Pastoral Leadership Team and Elders are Northside Christians Church’s final interpretive authority on the Bible’s meaning and application. ([2 Timothy 3:16-17](#), [Ephesians 5:23](#), [Colossians 1:18](#))

Next Steps:

We also believe that people who attend church should be _____, not passive. So here are a few next steps where you can be active in your faith at Northside.

- **Small _____** – We believe you cannot grow spiritually unless you are connected relationally. That’s where small groups come in. The purpose of small groups is to provide a safe environment where participants pursue authentic relationships, grow spiritually and become disciple-making _____. These groups are a gathering of adults in the same stage of life or area of town who meet regularly. Even children and student ministries follow the small group model on Sunday mornings and in midweek groups.

- **Year-round NextGen programming and activities** – Sunday mornings & Wednesday nights; summer events; trips; camps; etc. (Birth – 18 we average 400 every Sunday)
- **Northside Christian Academy: 2's – 8th Grade** (300+ students this school year – great outreach)
- _____ **Opportunities** – At Northside, service is our heartbeat. Our job isn't to exist simply inside these church walls... it's to get out in the community and be Jesus to people. Over the last few years we have made service a priority. Here's a few things we do:
 - Compassion Week (service projects all throughout city helping others), Homeroom Hope, Monthly Food Pantry, Monthly Home Essentials, Jesus Prom, Give & Take Boxes, Operation Christmas Child... we also work very closely with numerous local agencies throughout the year.
- _____ **Opportunities/Trips** – Mexico, Dominican Republic, Haiti & Africa (every other yr)

This is NOT an exhaustive list of potential next steps, just a few highlights. As a church, we offer so many ways for you to get plugged in. Here's why... because we value every person that attends Northside AND all the time, treasure and talents you have to offer God. We want to be good stewards of all the resources God provides for us. One of the biggest resources God provides are people! Therefore, at Northside, we want to partner with people, teaching them how to LOVE GOD, SERVE OTHERS and WIN ONE, so that we can take as many people to Heaven with us as possible.

Membership:

As our partnership grows, we would love for all those who attend Northside to become members of this local church body. The two things required for membership are that you are an _____ believer in God and that you make the _____ of faith, expressing your desire to join membership at this church. As a member, we ask that you be ALL IN... that you fully engage as a contributor rather than just a recipient of the benefits. Members should do more than just come into the worship service for an hour and leave. **We ask that everyone try to worship an hour, serve an hour and study an hour each week!**

The first Christians in the early church set a high standard for us that we try to follow. Luke shares this in **Acts 2:42-47**, *"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."*

We understand this a big commitment for some because of how busy lives are with work, family, sports, etc. Which is why many opportunities are offered to partner with us. Together, we want to raise the priority of fulfilling our mission to Love God, Serve Others and Win One.

What are the benefits of becoming a member at Northside?

- It gives you a place to be needed
- It provides a place of mutual _____ (Hebrews 10:24-25)
- It allows you to share the load/burdens of life (Galatians 6:2)
- It gives you a place to use your spiritual gifts mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12; Romans 12; Ephesians 4 and 1 Peter 4
- It provides ministry to your _____
- It gives you a base from which to bring your friends to Christ (Acts 2:41, 47)
- It provides a learning environment
- It allows you to be _____ by the elders and staff
- It provides a safe place to grow into the person God wants you to be

Northside Connect – Week 2

Today we will spend time discussing what it means to practically Love God. The three G's that directly relate to loving God are growth, groups and giving. Let's look at each one.

Growth: Spiritual growth should be the goal of every believer. Spiritual growth is defined by Andy Stanley as “a growing _____ in God validated by a growing _____ for God and others.”

Five Catalysts To Help You Grow Spiritually

1. **Practical** _____ – Listening to sermons or podcasts, reading Christian books
 - a. Northsideweb.org/audio – Live stream on Sunday too
 - b. Other Pastor's Podcasts: Craig Groeschel, Andy Stanley, John Piper, Francis Chan, Bob Russell
 - c. **Northsideweb.org/rightnowmedia**: Described as “Netflix for the church”
2. **Private** _____ – Meditating and studying the Bible, praying, fasting, silence and solitude, listening to worship music – Check out the **Kingdom Habits Podcast** online a well that covers 8 disciplines in detail and gives practical application.
 - a. Bible reading plan (see below – there are hundreds to choose from online)
 - b. Pray every day – How to pray: **A.C.T.S.** acrostic – Also can use **T.A.C.O.S.** (Thanksgiving, Adoration, Confession, Others, Self)
 - i. **Adoration** – Sharing love or adoration for the characteristics of the nature of God; Loving Him for who He is.
 - ii. **Confession** – In humility, confessing your sins to God; admitting your shortcomings and sorrow
 - iii. **Thanksgiving** – Acknowledging and praising God for His blessings in your life.
 - iv. **Supplication** – Petition or request for your own needs and for the needs of others
 - c. Pray with your spouse and children – A family that prays together stays together!
3. **Providential** _____ – Engaging in relationships that impact your faith positively
 - a. You should always have other Christians who are influencing you for Christ.
 - b. You should always have non-Christians that you are influencing for Christ.
4. **Personal** _____ – Serving at your church or a local nonprofit
 - a. Combining your passions and spiritual gifts to make a difference locally in church and community
 - b. We should always serve with J.O.Y. – Jesus first, **O**thers second, **Y**ourself last
5. **Pivotal** _____ – Experiencing the highs and lows of life
 - a. Tragic valleys and mountaintop experiences both help us grow spiritually as long as we acknowledge God as the source of hope, strength and joy.

How To Read And Understand The Bible

What would happen to your physical body if you only ate one meal a week? (*you would become malnourished*) The same thing happens to Christians who never open their Bibles except on Sunday morning at church. The Bible is to the soul what food is to the body. If we do not daily take God's Word into our minds, hearts, and souls, we will starve spiritually. The more we _____ who God is, the more we _____ in Him. The main way to know God is to study His Word!

Pastor Robby Gallaty shares this helpful journaling tool that we can use to understand the Bible and better H.E.A.R. from God.

- **Highlight** – After reading the passage of Scripture, HIGHLIGHT each verse that speaks to you by copying it under the letter "H".
- **Explain** – After you highlight the passage, then EXPLAIN what the text means. Questions to help you answer are: *"Why was this written?" "To whom was it originally written?" "How does it fit with the verses before and after it?" "Why did the Holy Spirit include this passage in the book?" "What is He intending to communicate through this text?"*
- **Apply** – Next, figure out how this will APPLY to your life personally. Ask a series of questions to uncover the significance of the passage to you. Questions like: *"How can this help me?" "What does this mean today?" "What would the application of this verse look like in my life?" "What is God saying to me?"*
- **Respond** – Finally, decide to RESPOND to what you've just read. Your response may take on many forms such as writing a call to action plan and then doing it, writing out a prayer to God, calling someone you need to forgive, talking with your spouse about how you interact or parent, deciding to reevaluate your budget to see where you can give more back to God.

Sample H.E.A.R. Entry

Read: Philippians 4:10-13

Date: 2-22-20

Title: Secret of Contentment

(H) Highlight – "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." – Philippians 4:13

(E) Explain – Paul was telling the church at Philippi that he has discovered the secret of contentment. No matter the situation, he realized that Christ was all he needed, and Christ was the one who strengthened him to persevere through difficult times.

(A) Apply – In my life, I will experience many ups and downs. My contentment is not found in circumstances. Rather, it is based on my relationship with Jesus. Only Jesus gives me the strength I need to be content in every circumstance of life.

(R) Respond – Jesus, please help me as I strive to be content in You and You only. Through Your strength, I can make it through all situations I face in this life. Amen.

	The Law	History	Psalms	Poetry	Prophecy	Gospels	Epistles
Week	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	Gen 1-3	Josh 1-5	Psa 1-2	Job 1-2	Isa 1-6	Matt 1-2	Rom 1-2
2	Gen 4-7	Josh 6-10	Psa 3-5	Job 3-4	Isa 7-11	Matt 3-4	Rom 3-4
3	Gen 8-11	Josh 11-15	Psa 6-8	Job 5-6	Isa 12-17	Matt 5-7	Rom 5-6
4	Gen 12-15	Josh 16-20	Psa 9-11	Job 7-8	Isa 18-22	Matt 8-10	Rom 7-8
5	Gen 16-19	Josh 21-24	Psa 12-14	Job 9-10	Isa 23-28	Matt 11-13	Rom 9-10
6	Gen 20-23	Judges 1-6	Psa 15-17	Job 11-12	Isa 29-33	Matt 14-16	Rom 11-12
7	Gen 24-27	Judges 7-11	Psa 18-20	Job 13-14	Isa 34-39	Matt 17-19	Rom 13-14
8	Gen 28-31	Judges 12-16	Psa 21-23	Job 15-16	Isa 40-44	Matt 20-22	Rom 15-16
9	Gen 32-35	Judges 17-21	Psa 24-26	Job 17-18	Isa 45-50	Matt 23-25	1 Cor 1-2
10	Gen 36-39	Ruth	Psa 27-29	Job 19-20	Isa 51-55	Matt 26-28	1 Cor 3-4
11	Gen 40-43	1 Sam 1-5	Psa 30-32	Job 21-22	Isa 56-61	Mark 1-2	1 Cor 5-6
12	Gen 44-47	1 Sam 6-10	Psa 33-35	Job 23-24	Isa 62-66	Mark 3-4	1 Cor 7-8
13	Gen 48-50	1 Sam 11-15	Psa 36-38	Job 25-26	Jer 1-6	Mark 5-6	1 Cor 9-10
14	Ex 1-4	1 Sam 16-20	Psa 39-41	Job 27-28	Jer 7-11	Mark 7-8	1 Cor 11-12
15	Ex 5-8	1 Sam 21-25	Psa 42-44	Job 29-30	Jer 12-16	Mark 9-10	1 Cor 13-14
16	Ex 9-12	1 Sam 26-31	Psa 45-47	Job 31-32	Jer 17-21	Mark 11-12	1 Cor 15-16
17	Ex 13-16	2 Sam 1-4	Psa 48-50	Job 33-34	Jer 22-26	Mark 13-14	2 Cor 1-3
18	Ex 17-20	2 Sam 5-9	Psa 51-53	Job 35-36	Jer 27-31	Mark 15-16	2 Cor 4-5
19	Ex 21-24	2 Sam 10-14	Psa 54-56	Job 37-38	Jer 32-36	Luke 1-2	2 Cor 6-8
20	Ex 25-28	2 Sam 15-19	Psa 57-59	Job 39-40	Jer 37-41	Luke 3-4	2 Cor 9-10
21	Ex 29-32	2 Sam 20-24	Psa 60-62	Job 41-42	Jer 42-46	Luke 5-6	2 Cor 11-13
22	Ex 33-36	1 Ki 1-4	Psa 63-65	Prov 1	Jer 47-52	Luke 7-8	Gal 1-3
23	Ex 37-40	1 Ki 5-9	Psa 66-68	Prov 2-3	Lamentations	Luke 9-10	Gal 4-6
24	Lev 1-3	1 Ki 10-13	Psa 69-71	Prov 4	Ezek 1-6	Luke 11-12	Eph 1-3
25	Lev 4-6	1 Ki 14-18	Psa 72-74	Prov 5-6	Ezek 7-12	Luke 13-14	Eph 4-6
26	Lev 7-9	1 Ki 19-22	Psa 75-77	Prov 7	Ezek 13-18	Luke 15-16	Phil 1-2
27	Lev 10-12	2 Ki 1-5	Psa 78-80	Prov 8-9	Ezek 19-24	Luke 17-18	Phil 3-4
28	Lev 13-15	2 Ki 6-10	Psa 81-83	Prov 10	Ezek 25-30	Luke 19-20	Col 1-2
29	Lev 16-18	2 Ki 11-15	Psa 84-86	Prov 11-12	Ezek 31-36	Luke 21-22	Col 3-4
30	Lev 19-21	2 Ki 16-20	Psa 87-89	Prov 13	Ezek 37-42	Luke 23-24	1 Thes 1-3
31	Lev 22-24	2 Ki 21-25	Psa 90-92	Prov 14-15	Ezek 43-48	John 1-2	1 Thes 4-5
32	Lev 25-27	1 Chr 1-4	Psa 93-95	Prov 16	Dan 1-6	John 3-4	2 Thes
33	Num 1-3	1 Chr 5-9	Psa 96-98	Prov 17-18	Dan 7-12	John 5-6	1 Tim 1-3
34	Num 4-6	1 Chr 10-14	Psa 99-101	Prov 19	Hosea 1-7	John 7-9	1 Tim 4-6
35	Num 7-9	1 Chr 15-19	Psa 102-104	Prov 20-21	Hosea 8-14	John 10-12	2 Tim 1-2
36	Num 10-12	1 Chr 20-24	Psa 105-107	Prov 22	Joel	John 13-15	2 Tim 3-4
37	Num 13-15	1 Chr 25-29	Psa 108-110	Prov 23-24	Amos 1-4	John 16-18	Titus
38	Num 16-18	2 Chr 1-5	Psa 111-113	Prov 25	Amos 5-9	John 19-21	Philemon
39	Num 19-21	2 Chr 6-10	Psa 114-116	Prov 26-27	Obadiah	Acts 1-2	Heb 1-4
40	Num 22-24	2 Chr 11-15	Psa 117-118	Prov 28	Jonah	Acts 3-4	Heb 5-7
41	Num 25-27	2 Chr 16-20	Psa 119	Prov 29-30	Micah	Acts 5-6	Heb 8-10
42	Num 28-30	2 Chr 21-24	Psa 120-121	Prov 31	Nahum	Acts 7-8	Heb 11-13
43	Num 31-34	2 Chr 25-28	Psa 122-124	Eccl 1-2	Habakkuk	Acts 9-10	James 1-3
44	Nu 35-Deu 2	2 Chr 29-32	Psa 125-127	Eccl 3-4	Zephaniah	Acts 11-12	James 4-5
45	Deut 3-6	2 Chr 33-36	Psa 128-130	Eccl 5-6	Haggai	Acts 13-14	1 Pet 1-3
46	Deut 7-10	Ezra 1-5	Psa 131-133	Eccl 7-8	Zechariah 1-7	Acts 15-16	1 Pet 4-5
47	Deut 11-14	Ezra 6-10	Psa 134-136	Eccl 9-10	Zechariah 8-14	Acts 17-18	2 Peter
48	Deut 15-18	Neh 1-4	Psa 137-139	Eccl 11-12	Malachi	Acts 19-20	1 John 1-3:10
49	Deut 19-22	Neh 5-9	Psa 140-142	Song 1-2	Rev 1-6	Acts 21-22	1 John 3:11-5:21
50	Deut 23-26	Neh 10-13	Psa 143-145	Song 3-4	Rev 7-11	Acts 23-24	2 John
51	Deut 27-30	Esther 1-5	Psa 146-148	Song 5-6	Rev 12-17	Acts 25-26	3 John
52	Deut 31-34	Esther 6-10	Psa 149-150	Song 7-8	Rev 18-22	Acts 27-28	Jude

Groups:

Purpose: The purpose of small groups is to provide a safe environment where participants pursue authentic relationships, grow spiritually and become disciple-making disciples. Small groups are where we believe life-change happens. Men's, women's single's and co-ed groups meet both at Northside and in homes throughout the surrounding community all week long.

Essentials:

- **Stay Connected** – While prayer and discussion of curriculum are key elements, the main emphasis of this group is the building of relationships to foster a connection with Jesus and each other.
- **Provide Care** – Group members will choose to be fully present and provide care and support for one another.
- **Promote _____** – Group members will make involvement a priority and encourage others to participate consistently in meetings, projects and socials.
- **Actively Serve** – Group members will make efforts to serve the community on a regular basis by being the hands, feet and mouth of Jesus.
- **Have Fun** – Christianity isn't boring... small groups aren't either. Group members will choose to participate in social, fun outings to help cultivate relationships.
- **Intentionally _____** – At the end of our season, we agree to form new small groups. This action does not end our friendships, it gives us the opportunity to make and multiply other disciples for Jesus.

Guidelines:

- **Authenticity:** This environment encourages openness and transparency among members. Group members should feel free to be themselves.
- **Confidentiality:** For authenticity to occur, members must be able to trust that issues discussed within the group will not be shared outside of the group.
- **_____:** Everyone is given the right to their opinion, and questions are encouraged and respected. Group members should never say anything that will embarrass their spouses or other members of the group.
- **Accountability:** We agree to let members hold us accountable to the commitments we make, individually or as a group.

Why should I join a small group?

- **Your group discussions will _____ your understanding of the Bible:** In a small group you can ask questions, interact with others and learn how the ideas and principles contained in the Word of God apply to your life.
- **You will feel more connected to God's family:** It can be easy to get lost in a large church, but a small group can help you build close relationships with others.
- **Prayer will become more meaningful to you:** Praying with and for the members of your small group will help you to better appreciate the power of prayer and challenge you to have regular conversations with God.
- **When _____ comes, you'll have someone to lean on:** Crisis and change are an inevitable part of life that bring pressure and stress. Your small group will provide a support system to help you weather life's storms.

How do I find a group?

- On Sunday mornings a variety of classes are offered. While these are not small groups, they do allow you to study and fellowship with other believers. You can just attend the class you are interested in. No sign-up is required. You are always welcome!
- You can sign up on Sunday morning at the Connection Point area in the lobby. You will find a Connection Kiosk to register and helpful volunteers to assist you.
- Finally, you can always contact Eric Pruitt at 330.336.4622 ext. 312 or ericp@northsideweb.org.

What about childcare?

- Sunday morning classes run concurrent with our NextGen ministry programs and your child is welcome to participate there.
- Many small groups offer childcare for a small fee (usually \$3 per child per night).

What other kinds of groups does NCC offer?

- **Support and _____ groups:** These are groups for people with special focuses. These groups are designed to meet people where they are, providing support and help from those who have dealt with similar issues. Ray Sanders, our Care Pastor, is the main contact for these. (rays@northsideweb.org)
 - Grief Share
 - Divorce Care
 - Celebrate Recovery

- **Elective _____**: We have studies that meet for a specific topic periodically throughout the year (Semi-annual; 1-3 times each year)
 - Financial Peace University
 - Northside Connect
 - Real Life Discipleship

- **Sunday Morning and Midweek Classes** (open to all; join any time; offered weekly)
 - Salt – Rm 102; 1st service
 - G.I.F.T. – Rm 105; 1st service
 - New Creations – Rm 102; 2nd service
 - Thrive Moms – Rm 104; 2nd service
 - God’s G.A.L.S. – Rm 105; 2nd service
 - Friendship – Conference Rm; 2nd service
 - Men’s classes – Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. & Saturday at 7:30 a.m.
 - Women’s classes – Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. & Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

Giving:

Those who attend Northside are encouraged to be _____ givers. That means we should be intentionally giving of our time, talents and treasures. God cares about all three areas of our life, not just our treasures (money). The leadership at Northside believes that giving is an act of worship. Therefore, we strive to help those who worship here understand that when we speak about and teach on giving, it is not simply transactional... giving is _____. We do not ask you to be an intentional giver because of what we want *from* you. Instead, it’s because of what we want *for* you. We want to see you grow spiritually, eliminate debt and thrive financially! Here are a few ways you can become an intentional giver:

- **Commit to _____ giving:** – Decide to give to God before you spend money anywhere else. Making giving a priority is a sure sign of spiritual growth. Even if you can’t give 10% right now, start giving something.
 - 10% is a tithe as taught in the Old Testament
 - The New Testament Christian should use 10% as their starting point
 - What is an offering as described in the N.T.?

- **Given Freely:** **Matthew 10:8** *“Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.”*
- **Given Regularly:** **1 Corinthians 16:2** *“On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come so no collections will have to be made.”*
- **Given Cheerfully:** **2 Corinthians 9:7** *“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”*
- **Given Sacrificially:** **Acts 2:44-45** *“All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.”*

- **Live by the ___ - ___ - ___ rule:** Save 10% of your income; Tithe 10% to your church; and live on 80% of your income. This is hard to practice.
- ***“When God blesses you financially, don’t raise your standard of living. Raise your standard of _____.”*** (Pastor and author Mark Batterson)

God loves a cheerful giver. When He sees that someone is giving freely out of love and joy, it makes Him happy! When God sees us cling to the blessings He gives, it breaks His heart. Here’s something you already know: Americans are the richest people in the world. Because of our resources, we also have a greater _____. Think about it... If we’ve been *blessed* more than the rest of the world, would it stand to reason that God wants us to *care* more about the rest of the world? The answer is yes. Because God has blessed us generously (with our resources), we should be giving generously to others.

Could you imagine the power of your testimony, if as a Christian, you were radically generous? We can become radically generous only when we become intentional with the wealth God has blessed us with. Here are stats about American generosity today and what it could look like if we were radically generous. (healthresearchfunding.org, ChurchLeaders.com - May 2011)

- Only 5% of Americans tithe (give 10% or more of their income)
- 80% of Americans give only 2.5% of their income to churches/non-profits
- Anywhere from 33-50% of church-goers give nothing at all.
- If American Christians increased overall giving from 2.5% to 10%, then an extra **\$165 _____** would become available **every year** for ministry!

Here’s what that extra \$165 billion could do:

- \$25 billion would relieve global hunger, starvation, and deaths from all preventable diseases in 5 years *AND*
- \$12 billion would eliminate illiteracy in 5 years *AND*
- \$15 billion would solve all the world’s water and sanitation issues *AND*
- \$1 billion would fully fund the Great Commission *AND*
- \$112 billion would still be left over EACH YEAR for additional ministry expansion.

The point is this: **If we decided to give generously out of what God has generously blessed us with, American Christians could literally change the world.** **Luke 12:48**, *“From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.”*

Northside Connect – Week 3

Gifts:

Today we will wrap up this class by discussing what it means to practically Serve Others and Win One. The one G that directly relates to serving others is gifts. Specifically, we mean _____ gifts. At least one spiritual gift is given to every believer at the time of their conversion. Many Christians have multiple gifts. **1 Corinthians 12:7**, *“Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.”*

As a worshipper at Northside, we challenge everyone (youth and adults) to glorify God and further His Kingdom by sacrificially serving the local church and community. We should sacrificially serve by giving of our time, talents and treasure. Last week we talked about the treasure piece (giving). Today, let's dive more into your time and talents.

Each of us has the same amount of time – 24 hours a day, 168 hours a week, 8,760 hours a year. What we do with that time is up to us. I always say: *“You make time for what _____ most.”* Whatever is important to you is what you spend time doing. Our desire is that you spend at least three of your 168 hours each week worshipping, studying and serving (one hour each). Do you think you can start giving God just 3 hours of your week? If you're already giving that much, can you give more?

In addition to time, God has also given us talents – which boil down to two things: _____ physical abilities and spiritual gifts. The natural abilities are things that come easy to us. It may be physical athleticism, it could be that we are great with numbers, words, musical talents, artistic, etc. A great Biblical illustration of this is Bezalel & Oholiab (Exodus 31:2-6) whom God gave the skill, ability and knowledge to build His Tabernacle.

Matthew 25:14-21 & 28-29 helps make it clear that it is God who gives us all kinds of skill, ability and knowledge to accomplish His purpose. He supplies the raw material, it's up to us to train, sharpen and apply ourselves in using our abilities for His glory. Ultimately, we get our S.H.A.P.E. from Him. Our S.H.A.P.E. is the sum total of our:

- **Spiritual Gifts** – All believers have been given at least one God-ordained gift that should be used in service and outreach to make disciples.
- _____ – All of us have had different experiences, and God has a plan to use our personal history to mold us into the service He needs us to be.
- **Abilities** – All of us have natural-born abilities. Some of us are musical, artistic, organizers and others of us are more athletic than creative. We are all different.
- _____ – Some of us are introverts and to stand up and do any kind of public speaking would scare us to death! Others of us are extroverts and have no trouble doing what I am doing now. Others of us think things through very carefully before making a decision. Others of us are gut-level persons who are ready to act on a moment's notice.

- **Enthusiasm** – another word is passion. Jesus declares in **Matthew 6:21** that *“For where your treasure is, there your heart will also be.”* Our passions are our treasures and where our thoughts constantly return to each and every spare moment we have. God can and will use what we get enthusiastic about (our passions) in service for His Kingdom.

Each category is a tool, a God-given blessing that He uses to lead us to a place of ministry and service so that others might find Christ and do the same thing. In order to figure out our best fit serving at Northside, it’s critical for us to discover our S.H.A.P.E. It’s important to note that everyone doesn’t fit into the same mold. At Northside, we don’t zero in on what you’re not good at. We want to focus on your strengths. We believe, *“Everyone is a ‘10’ in some area.”* If you’re in an area that’s not working out (causing stress) it doesn’t mean you’re the wrong person, it may mean you’re serving in the wrong place. (**1 Cor. 12:6**).

One of the most common _____ people give for not getting involved in service is *“I just don’t have anything to offer.”* Nothing could be further from the truth! The key is matching your abilities and spiritual gifts with the right ministry! So let’s figure out our spiritual gifts now.

Spiritual Gift Assessment:

Directions for Assessment:

- 1) Record your response to each question as honestly & realistically as possible using the following scale: 3—Consistently; 2—Usually; 1—Sometimes; 0—Never
- 2) Using the Answer sheet at the end of the questionnaire, record your response in each block whose number corresponds to that number statement in the questionnaire.
- 3) It is important that your answers be an honest assessment of who you are, not who others think you are, not who think you should be or who you would like to be someday.

1. I can quickly identify the emotional condition of others.	3	2	1	0
2. I see potential in people, even when they are discouraged or defeated.	3	2	1	0
3. I like to be personally involved in the long-term development of others.	3	2	1	0
4. I enjoy doing practical tasks that free others to do their jobs better.	3	2	1	0
5. I enjoy studying the Bible for large amounts of time.	3	2	1	0
6. I tend to analyze problems quickly and arrive at effective solutions.	3	2	1	0
7. I see through people and their motives even when I don’t know them well.	3	2	1	0

8. I love to talk to non-Christians about Jesus Christ.	3	2	1	0
9. When I study the Bible, I also strategize how I could effectively teach it.	3	2	1	0
10. I often feel compelled to warn others about sin.	3	2	1	0
11. I enjoy creating a vision & goals that will accomplish a mission.	3	2	1	0
12. I am good at organizing details, people & tasks.	3	2	1	0
13. I often believe God will act in a situation despite contrary evidence.	3	2	1	0
14. I love to give money & resources to churches and/or charities.	3	2	1	0
15. I am drawn to people with physical, mental or emotional problems.	3	2	1	0
16. I love helping people find practical steps to grow spiritually.	3	2	1	0
17. I am patient with people who are making slow progress in achieving their goals.	3	2	1	0
18. I would rather do tasks for an event than plan the event.	3	2	1	0
19. I am good at organizing research so that it is easier to use.	3	2	1	0
20. I seek ways to incorporate Biblical knowledge into wise decision-making.	3	2	1	0
21. I can sense when a teaching or teacher is not true to God's Word.	3	2	1	0
22. I purposely build relationships with people who are different than me.	3	2	1	0
23. I tailor explanations of Bible truths to an audience's learning style and maturity.	3	2	1	0
24. I strongly sense what God would have me say in specific situations.	3	2	1	0
25. I am drawn to vision & goal setting more than doing tasks.	3	2	1	0
26. I enjoy developing strategies to reach goals.	3	2	1	0
27. I easily accept God's promises at face value & apply them without doubt.	3	2	1	0
28. I enjoy giving anonymously.	3	2	1	0

29. I am creative at comforting distressed people through words or actions. 3 2 1 0
30. I enjoy finding strategies to bring out people's potential. 3 2 1 0
31. I want to know everything about a person when I consider helping them. 3 2 1 0
32. I see great value in the behind-the-scenes tasks that are needed to accomplish any plan. 3 2 1 0
33. I enjoy researching difficult subjects including original word languages and history. 3 2 1 0
34. I find it easy to see the possible consequences of situations or decisions. 3 2 1 0
35. I can detect dishonesty or deceit even when others cannot. 3 2 1 0
36. I look for ways to share the gospel more effectively with non-Christians. 3 2 1 0
37. I find great satisfaction sharing with others what I learn from studying the Bible. 3 2 1 0
38. I am passionate when I challenge others to believe & obey God. 3 2 1 0
39. I enjoy inspiring people to join in a mission or goal. 3 2 1 0
40. I like to plan how to utilize people & resources more effectively. 3 2 1 0
41. I find it easy to see God's plan in unlikely situations & to work to accomplish His will. 3 2 1 0
42. It is important to me to give generously to my local church and others. 3 2 1 0
43. People tell me that I am insightful and understand their feelings. 3 2 1 0
44. I have successfully brought out potential in people even when others have given up. 3 2 1 0
45. I have received great joy from being able to disciple a group of Christians. 3 2 1 0
46. I consistently find ways to help behind the scenes. 3 2 1 0
47. I have spent large amounts of time studying the Bible with little need to share what I have learned with others. 3 2 1 0

48. I have effectively arrived at solutions for complex or confusing problems.	3	2	1	0
49. I have correctly seen when a person is not what they appear to be.	3	2	1	0
50. I often help lead people to begin a relationship with Jesus.	3	2	1	0
51. I have effectively presented the Bible so that others learn.	3	2	1	0
52. I have confronted people or groups when they are in error.	3	2	1	0
53. I have been able to lead a group of people to accomplish a goal.	3	2	1	0
54. I have successfully developed plans & resources to achieve a goal.	3	2	1	0
55. I regularly trust God and see Him do the impossible.	3	2	1	0
56. I consistently give more than 10% to my local church.	3	2	1	0
57. I creatively use words & actions to comfort people who are suffering.	3	2	1	0
58. I have taught others practical Biblical steps for problem solving and spiritual growth.	3	2	1	0
59. I have committed to long-term caring relationships with people.	3	2	1	0
60. I often complete small tasks myself rather than delegate to others.	3	2	1	0
61. I have successfully organized diverse research so that others found it easier to use.	3	2	1	0
62. People look to me for Biblical solutions to complicated problems.	3	2	1	0
63. I can easily detect Biblical error in politics, history, current events, etc.	3	2	1	0
64. I purposely have many friends that believe differently than I do.	3	2	1	0
65. I have effectively tailored Bible studies to an audience's maturity and learning style.	3	2	1	0
66. I have often delivered urgent messages to others that I believe God has given me to share.	3	2	1	0
67. I have effectively set visions & goals to accomplish a mission.	3	2	1	0

68. I am successful at finding the right people to do the right job at the right time.	3	2	1	0
69. I have often understood God’s plan for my life and felt peace about it.	3	2	1	0
70. I limit my lifestyle so that I can give more to others.	3	2	1	0
71. I routinely care for others suffering emotional, mental or physical pain.	3	2	1	0
72. I am often able to encourage others to take practical steps of faith.	3	2	1	0
73. I have successfully led a group of people and met their needs for guidance and growth.	3	2	1	0
74. I consistently find great satisfaction in doing routine tasks.	3	2	1	0
75. People tell me that I am good at analyzing difficult Biblical passages.	3	2	1	0
76. I consistently arrive at the wise solutions to complicated problems.	3	2	1	0
77. My “sense” of whether a person or work is from God is usually confirmed later.	3	2	1	0
78. I am effective at tailoring the gospel message so it fits a person’s felt needs.	3	2	1	0
79. People tell me that I am good at helping them learn the Bible.	3	2	1	0
80. I speak passionately when I challenge others to believe & obey God.	3	2	1	0
81. I have successfully inspired people to join me in accomplishing ministry goals.	3	2	1	0
82. I have developed the needed systems to organize an event or ministry.	3	2	1	0
83. I have inspired others to believe God can & will do the impossible.	3	2	1	0
84. I have effectively met the financial needs of an individual or ministry.	3	2	1	0

- **Now go back through this assessment and record your response in the appropriate numbered box. If you put down a 3 for statement number 1, then put a 3 in that box and so on until all 84 responses are in their corresponding box on the chart below.**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42
43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56
57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84
Total													
M	E	S	S	K	W	D	E	T	P	L	A	F	G

- **Now add up your score for each column and place the sum in the box at the bottom for each column. Below you will find the corresponding letter to match your score to your spiritual gift tendencies.**

M — Mercy/Intercession

E — Evangelism/Apostleship (Missions)

E — Encouragement/Intercession

T — Teaching

S — Shepherding

P — Prophecy, Preaching

S — Service, Helps

L — Leadership

K — Knowledge

A — Administration

W — Wisdom

F — Faith

D — Discernment

G — Giving/Hospitality

- **Finally, circle your top three and decide later this week how and where you will begin using your spiritual gifts. Spend time in prayer over this as well.**

Explanation & Example of Spiritual Gifts

1) _____ – Nehemiah

- a) The ability to organize and guide human activities in such a way that Christ's program is carried out. (1 Corinthians 12:28)

- b) Characteristics:
 - i) Able to organize ideas, tasks, people and time for Christian Service
 - ii) Able to make effective plans to accomplish goals
 - iii) Able to delegate important tasks to the right people at the right time
 - iv) Effective planner
 - c) Cautions:
 - i) Tendency to rely on well made plans rather than the Holy Spirit and prayer
 - ii) Projects become more important than people do
 - iii) A “take over” attitude may leave little room for other people’s concerns or ideas
- **Discernment – Peter**
 - a) The ability to distinguish between truth and error, to know when a person or act is of God. (1 Corinthians 12:10)
 - b) Characteristics:
 - i) The ability to distinguish between spiritual truth and error
 - ii) Can detect phony or manipulative people or teachings
 - iii) Will discriminate between good and evil in today’s world
 - iv) Ability to frequently sense when another person is troubled or burdened
 - c) Cautions:
 - i) Being judgmental
 - ii) Becoming overzealous and a heresy hunter
 - _____ – **Barnabas**
 - a) The ability to motivate people, through encouraging words, to live practical Christian lives. (Romans 12:8)
 - b) Characteristics:
 - i) People seek you out for counsel, to build or lift up (edify)
 - ii) Have sensitivity to suffering, troubled and discouraged people
 - iii) People are motivated to love and good works by those with this gift
 - c) Cautions:
 - i) Getting so involved in people’s lives that an inappropriate dependency develops
 - ii) Over extending oneself to the neglect of other important duties
 - iii) Over -simplify complex problems
 - **Evangelism – Phillip**
 - a) The ability to present the Gospel to unbelievers in such a clear and meaningful way that people respond and become members of the Body of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11)
 - b) Characteristics:
 - i) Enjoys talking about Jesus to those who don’t know Him
 - ii) Instrumental in leading others to Christ
 - iii) Ability to make the gospel clear and understandable to non-believers
 - c) Cautions:
 - i) Pride
 - ii) Relying on own powers of persuasion

iii) Pass negative judgment on those who don't possess this gift

- _____ – **Hebrews Chapter 11**

a) The ability to envision what God wants to happen and to be certain He is going to make it happen in response to prayer, even without concrete evidence available. (1 Cor. 12:9)

b) Characteristics:

- i) Unusual ability to take God at His word
- ii) Knowing God's will with certainty in specific situations
- iii) Have an unusual grasp of the adequacy of God

c) Cautions:

- i) Faith without love
- ii) Faith without works
- iii) Judge those who may be weak in the faith

- **Giving – Macedonian Churches, 2 Corinthians 8:2**

a) The ability to support the Lord's work materially with generous, timely, and cheerful contributions. (Romans 12:8)

b) Characteristics:

- i) Giving above that which is expected or called for
- ii) Assume responsibility for meeting financial needs in the community and Church
- iii) Help others discover the joy of giving
- iv) Spirit of self-sacrifice

c) Cautions:

- i) Pride
- ii) Condemn as unspiritual those who don't give as you do
- iii) Try to influence or gain influence with gifts

- _____ – **Paul**

a) The ability to grasp the truth about God's Word so that it applies to a contemporary world. (1 Corinthians 12:8)

b) Characteristics:

- i) Ability to draw from the truth of God's Word and be able to originate new application in a contemporary world
- ii) Eager to learn with a long attention span
- iii) Able to absorb and retain unusual amounts of information

c) Cautions:

- i) Tendency to be a loner—be absorbed in knowledge and never use it in conjunction with other gifts
- ii) More comfortable with ideas than individuals

- **Leadership – Joshua and Caleb**

a) The ability to envision God's purpose and future plan and set goals which will inspire others to work together to accomplish those goals for the glory of God. (Romans 12:8)

b) Characteristics:

- i) Able to motivate toward specific Biblical objectives
 - ii) Have a vision for kingdom ministries
 - iii) Accepts leadership roles easily
 - c) Cautions:
 - i) Pride in position
 - ii) Use people to accomplish goals rather than using abilities to enhance others
 - iii) Be more authority conscious than ministry conscious.

- _____ – **Jesus**
 - a) The ability to empathize with hurting people and to translate compassion into cheerful acts of service. (**Romans 12:8**)
 - b) Characteristics:
 - i) Sick and shut-ins are blessed by your ministry
 - ii) Enjoys working with people who suffer physical mental or emotional problems
 - iii) Can usually sense when someone is hurting
 - c) Cautions:
 - i) Be guided by feelings more than scripture
 - ii) See only good motives in others
 - iii) Being gullible
 - iv) Being sympathetic as to never correct or reprimand

- **Prophecy (preaching) – Peter, Paul, Jesus**
 - a) The ability to proclaim and apply God’s truth so that believers may be edified, encouraged, and consoled, and non-believers convinced. (**I Corinthians 12:10, 28**)
 - b) Characteristics:
 - i) Proclaim timely and urgent messages from God’s Word
 - ii) Have spiritual insights from Scripture that make you want to speak out
 - iii) Writing or speaking from Biblical perspective on crucial political issues
 - c) Cautions:
 - i) Pride
 - ii) Deviate to go beyond Scripture
 - iii) Negativity; you are perceived as a prophet of doom, not a bearer of good news

- _____ – **Dorcas**
 - a) The ability to serve with others in their ministries by aiding them in practical ways, enabling them to be more effective in their work for the glory of God. (**Romans 12:7**)
 - b) Characteristics:
 - i) Enjoys tasks that help others minister effectively
 - ii) Likes to do little things that help build the body of Christ
 - iii) Finds practical ways to help others
 - iv) Doesn’t mind playing second fiddle
 - c) Cautions:
 - i) Finds self-esteem in doing rather than being
 - ii) Never says no; gets over involved and feels taken advantage of

- iii) Use the gift to secure the affection of others
- **Shepherding – Barnabas**
 - a) The ability to care for their spiritual needs of others by teaching and guiding them toward maturity. (**Ephesians 4:11**)
 - b) Characteristics:
 - i) Good results in leading other Christians
 - ii) Ability to nurture, guide, mentor and lead others
 - iii) Concern for the spiritual needs of others
 - iv) Excels at one-on-one discipleship
 - c) Cautions:
 - i) Tendency to “smother” people
 - ii) Impatient with slow growth in new believers
- _____ – **Paul**
 - a) The ability to communicate knowledge to others for the purpose of building up the body of Christ. (**Ephesians 4:11**)
 - b) Characteristics:
 - i) Communicate truth clearly and concisely
 - ii) Ability to hold the interest of those being taught
 - iii) Desire to explain Bible principles to others
 - c) Cautions:
 - i) Interest in head knowledge to the neglect of heart response
 - ii) Concerned with content rather than the learner
 - iii) Think of one’s self more highly than one should
- **Wisdom – Solomon**
 - a) The ability to regulate one’s relationship with God by being able to apply God’s truth to an immediate problem or need and help others do the same. (I Corinthians 12:8)
 - b) Characteristics:
 - i) Knows how to get to the heart of a problem quickly
 - ii) Thinks practically—is a problem solver
 - iii) Later analysis and evaluation confirms intuitive solutions suggested
 - c) Cautions:
 - i) Because of accurate self-images, may be impatient or judgmental with others
 - ii) Tendency to be non-social
 - iii) May be harsh with those who don’t see things as you do

Now, that’s a long list and a lot to digest. So I encourage you to look back at your results, find your top three spiritual gifts, then read over the explanations again. When you’ve done that and are ready to begin serving, please email me what your gifts and passions are so that I can help get you connected in a ministry!

Purpose of spiritual gifts:

1. Not for my benefit, but for the glory of _____ and to serve others.
 - **Psalm 139:13-16**
 - **I Corinthians 12:7**
 - **I Peter 4:10**, *“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”*
2. To produce maturity and stability in our _____ family.
 - **Ephesians 4:11-14**
 - Prepares...Lays the groundwork to get us ready to serve.
 - Builds up...Equips us with the tools necessary to serve.
 - So that the church body will reach unity, knowledge & maturity in the faith.
 - Making our ministry the most effective we can be as each part does its work.

Cautions about spiritual gifts:

1. Be aware of expecting others to serve the way you do and have similar results.
 - Example - Those with mercy run into everyone else expecting others to have the same amount of mercy.
2. Don’t feel my gift makes me _____ to others.
 - **I Corinthians 12:21**
3. Realize that using my gifts without _____ is worthless!
 - **I Corinthians 13:1-3** (Sandwiched between chapters 12 and 14 which both talk about Spiritual Gifts)
4. Recognize that I have both a Primary and a Secondary ministry in my church:
 - Primary Ministry commitment should be in the area where I am _____.
 - My Secondary Ministry includes serving in any other area of the Body when I am _____.
 - **Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

If we truly want to know God’s purpose for our lives, then we need to offer ourselves as living sacrifices by living out our Divinely inspired S.H.A.P.E. The more we obey & serve God, the more in tune with His good, pleasing & perfect will we become. That’s what gives our lives real joy as we live out what we were created for. This is what it looks like to practically serve others.

Grace:

We will finish up our time discussing what it means to practically Win One. The one G that directly relates to winning one is grace. As we mentioned in week 1, Northside desires to be a church that is known as a place where people both receive and give grace. People can receive grace from us when we accept them as they are, just as Jesus did with the lost. He loved them unconditionally, accepted them as they were, then challenged them to follow Him. He did this in truth and love. We always want to speak the truth in love as well. An old phrase to sum this action up is *“Love the sinner, hate the sin.”* To love the sinner, we must be willing to engage in a relationship with them. This is initiated by extending grace.

One way people can give grace to others is by _____ to them. Witnessing is simply sharing the Gospel... the Good News about Jesus and what He has done in your life. This is also called evangelism. This fits in directly with our mission statement: Love God, Serve Others, Win One.

Why should we win one?

- Because Jesus _____ us to! (**Acts 1:7-8; Matthew 28:18-20; Matthew 4:19**)
- **2 Corinthians 5:20** – *“We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.”* An ambassador is an official representative of the highest rank, accredited by one government to another. We are Heaven’s ambassadors to Earth. Our job is to share Jesus with the lost.

How do we win one?

- **The first and most important thing to do is _____.**
Consider all the people in your lives that are not yet saved. Make a list of your unsaved family members, friends, neighbors, classmates, and co-workers and pray regularly for each of them. Ask the Lord who specifically to speak to, how you should speak to them, and when. Pray for the boldness to speak because God will provide the opportunities.
- **Realize that being saved _____ you to win one.**
Sharing your faith story does not require that you attend seminary. Believing in and receiving Christ qualifies you to be His witnesses. You don’t have to know the whole Bible or speak eloquently to witness to people. All that is required is to speak of our experience in Christ. Even if you are a new Christian, you can testify, *“I was empty and alone, but now Christ lives in me!”* No one knows your story better than you... so share it
- **Start by speaking to one person a _____.**
The best time to speak to others about Christ is immediately after you’re born again, when your experience is fresh. But even if you’ve believed for a while and haven’t developed a habit of witnessing, it’s never too late to start. With any endeavor, practicing is important. (i.e., you can’t expect to play baseball well if you never practice.) In the same way, you need to practice speaking. As you practice, you will learn how to reach different kinds of people, and your speaking will become more effective. Develop a 90 second testimony. You can do it! Have confidence and boldness to share your story of Jesus to everyone you meet!

Personal Commitment:

The last page in your participant guide is a “Personal Commitment” page. These are the commitments we ask every member to make before God as a part of the Northside family. They sum up all we’ve discussed in this series.

Northside Covenant

- **A Commitment to Consistency** – We commit to consistently participate in small groups and worship gatherings because our goal is to grow into what God wants us to be, both individually and as a group. A major catalyst to growth is consistent participation. Showing up is part of being the Church. (Hebrews 10:25)
- **A Commitment to Serve** – We recognize that true disciples of Christ unleash their giftedness and find a place to serve and give of themselves to make other disciples. (1 Corinthians 12:12-30)
- **A Commitment to be a Disciple Who Makes Disciples** – We strive to be imitators of God by following Jesus. No matter our starting place, each of us are taking next steps to know Jesus better and share Him more with others. None of us have arrived. (Ephesians 5:1-20)
- **A Commitment to Unity** – We understand how crucial unity (not conformity) is to accomplish God’s mission. We protect and promote the unity of the Church, putting our personal preferences aside to Win One. (Ephesians 4:1-3)
- **A Commitment to our Mission** – We agree with the mission of Northside and choose to daily Love God, Serve Others, Win One. (Matthew 28:18-20)
- **A Commitment to Give** – We choose to be intentionally generous and gladly give of our resources to share Jesus with our community and the world. (2 Corinthians 9:6-8)

With God’s help, I commit myself to these practices and to Northside Christian Church.

X _____

This commitment is totally between you and God. If you agree with and will commit to doing these things, just sign this page and put it on your bathroom mirror or in your Bible. Don’t send it to me. Keep it wherever you can see it and be reminded of your commitment to God.

Well friends, you have now completed the Northside Connect Class! Congratulations! I hope you have learned a lot and grown in your faith. Look forward to serving with you soon at Northside!