

# CONNECTING THE UNCONNECTED

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## CONGRATULATIONS ON COMPLETING THE CONNECTING THE UNCONNECTED STUDY!

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We hope this isn't the end, but the start of a new or renewed commitment to live connected to Jesus. To help you take your next steps, we've created some group and individual next steps designed to deepen your relationship with Jesus and equip you to help others do the same.

We are praying that you continue on this journey of living connected to Jesus and helping connect the unconnected to Christ, community, and calling!

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## THE HEART OF THE GROWING DISCIPLE

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**Relationships + Intentionality = Discipleship.** This is the model Jesus gave us and the pattern found in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18–20). Making disciples requires relationships, and baptizing and teaching people to obey requires intentionality. Both are essential for spiritual growth. That's why everything below encourages you to grow in community. When people gather focused on God and His Word, real life change happens.

The heart of the growing disciple is experiential learning, knowing and doing what Jesus taught and modeled. That is why Matthew 28:20 says, “teach them to obey,” and NOT, “teach them everything there is to know.” Too often discipleship focuses mostly on knowledge, assuming right behavior will naturally follow. While belief does shape how we live, true learning comes through participation and practice. Discipleship is not passive learning or just studying the Bible. It is participating in the transforming work of the Holy Spirit and learning to follow Jesus through obedience, practice, and shared life with others.

Discipleship is like learning to play an instrument. You can read books about music theory, learn from expert musicians, and memorize the parts of an instrument. But, you don't truly *know* how to play until you pick up the instrument, practice, make mistakes, and start making sounds. Knowledge guides the process, but growth is formed through participation. 1 John 2:4-6 (NLT) sums it up, “If someone claims, “I know God,” but doesn't obey God's commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. But those who obey God's word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him. **Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.**” Moving forward, follow the guidance below and find community with a few or many so that you can learn how to live for Jesus just as much as knowing about Him.

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## LIFE GROUP DISCIPLESHIP

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### **Be intentional in your group on how you Share, Serve, & Study together**

**Share Life Together:** We cannot grow spiritually without connecting relationally. Some of the most spiritual moments in the life of community happen in the midst of relationships. At the same time, relationships deepen whatever your group is studying. When you have people that care about you and know your story, they can help you grow. In turn you can do the same. Before we talk about the rhythm of study, answer this question, “how is your group intentionally making building relationships a priority?” With the same intentionality as choosing a study, is your group creating moments beyond the normal group time to connect? As you look out into each semester of your group, plan 1-2 intentional relationship building gatherings (cookout, restaurant, activity, guys/girls nights, etc...).

**Serve Together:** More than just about anything, serving together puts what your group knows about Jesus into practice. At the same time, serving together deepens relationships. There are thousands of ways your group can serve others, and we recommend that groups serve together in some capacity 2-3 times a year. This could be signing up for a project through Northside ([mynorthside.com/projectfinder](http://mynorthside.com/projectfinder)), or helping a friend/neighbor. Some service opportunities may include financial costs your group can't support. That's where Groups That Serve comes in. We want to help fund your group's serve projects to make a Kingdom impact. To learn more, check out [mynorthside.com/groupsthatserve](http://mynorthside.com/groupsthatserve).

**Study Together:** Let's talk about 2 important resources. First, is a short video on how to choose a study for your group. The insights from this video may help enrich the suggestions below. Watch the video [HERE](#). Second, all groups have access to a resource called RightNow media. This is a free online streaming Bible study resource for families, life groups, and personal growth. All you have to do is create an account through Northside at [mynorthside.com/rightnowmedia](http://mynorthside.com/rightnowmedia).

Moving forward, we want to help guide you into crafting a discipleship plan for your Life Group. We will help set the parameters, but your group will ultimately make the decision on the study.

**Here are the 3 parameters for your group to pursue: Book Of The Bible, Topical, and Spiritual Growth.** Most groups lean towards one of these parameters over the other when choosing a study. As a result, they may unintentionally stagnate, limit growth, or miss the needs of the group.

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Plan your group's discipleship track by choosing one study from each category below. Or, choose your own study that fits the category. After completing these studies, repeat the process. All the studies suggested can be found on RightNow Media.

- **Book Of The Bible:** These studies focus on studying a book of the Bible. With any study like this, the goal is to deepen biblical literacy and the lens we use to view the world.
  1. The Book Of Joshua by Louie Giglio
  2. The Book Of Ecclesiastes by Jonathan Pohlman
  3. The Gospel Of Luke Part 1 & 2 by J.D. Greear
  4. The Book Of Philippians by Joby Martin
  5. The Book Of Titus by Chip Ingram
  6. The Books Of 1 & 2 Peter by Kyle Idleman
- **Topical:** These studies focus on a specific need (family, money, etc...) or topic (theology, faith, etc...).
  1. Confident Parenting by Jim Burns
  2. Essentials Of Faith Series
  3. If Money Talked by Andy Stanley
  4. The Real God by Chip Ingram
  5. Redeem the Screen by Kyle Idleman
  6. Your Best Us or Us In Mind by Ted Lowe
- **Spiritual Growth:** These studies focus on developing spiritual habits of a growing disciple.
  1. BEING Challenge by Zach Zehnder
  2. Every Thought Captive by Kyle Idleman
  3. How to Read Your Bible by Jennie Allen
  4. The Lectio Course Pete Greig
  5. Practicing The Way Series by John Mark Comer
  6. The Prayer Course by Pete Greig

**Alternative Option - Micro Group Guide:** Your group could use Northside's Micro Group Guide. Over 26 sessions, this intentional guide helps your group learn how to study the Bible, pray, share your stories, and live in obedience. If you are interested in learning more about this guide, you can download a free digital copy from the Group Leader Toolbox, or purchase a physical copy from the Groups Ministry.

**Alternative Option - Deep Dive Series:** Deep Dive is a series of foundational discipleship experiences designed to help groups go deeper with God as they explore who He is, how they are made in His image, and what it looks like to partner with Him as they put their faith into action. Each Deep Dive study unpacks theological truths and concepts in a way that makes them accessible and actionable. There are 3 studies in this series: The Story Of God: An Epic Journey Through Scripture, The Image Of God: A Holy Design For Human Dignity, and Theology And The Mission Of God: A Call To Faith In Action. [Learn More](#)

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## INDIVIDUAL DISCIPLESHIP

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**Be intentional in how you Share, Serve, & Study on your own**

**Share Life With Others:** If you're not connected in community, visit [mynorthside.com/community](https://mynorthside.com/community) to explore options for Life Groups, Northside U courses, and Care Groups.

- **Community In Northside U:** As a follower of Jesus, you may have areas of your life where a little more in-depth learning from a faith perspective is needed. Northside U offers short-term courses in studying the Bible, learning to grow in your faith, becoming a better spouse or parent, and developing your leadership potential.
- **Create Or Join The Community In A Life Group:** Life Groups are weekly gatherings of 8–12 people, usually in a similar life stage. They meet in three sessions (winter, spring, and fall) with breaks in between. Groups often follow our all-church studies, ongoing sermon questions, or choose their own studies. Every group strives to study together, share life, and pray for one another. If you are interested in starting a Life Group, you can learn more at [mynorthside.com/serve](https://mynorthside.com/serve).
- **Community In A Care Group:** Care Groups are gatherings focused on a specific need. These groups provide a safe place for people who feel stuck, hurt, or broken, offering support alongside others. Care Groups meet on Monday nights at Northside and follow a curriculum specific to each group.
- **Create Community With a Micro Group:** Micro Groups are a small and focused environment usually consisting of 3-4 people wanting to grow in discipleship. Groups use Northside's Micro Group Guide as the road map for the journey. If you are interested in learning more about starting a Micro Group, reach out to the Groups Ministry.

**Serve Others:** The Connecting The Unconnected study emphasized pursuing your calling. One of the ways to do that is to start serving somewhere in the church. You can begin to learn more about all the ways you can serve with Northside's Serve Finder at [mynorthside.com/serve](https://mynorthside.com/serve).

- **Take a Spiritual Gift Assessment:** One of the ways we can connect with God is to participate with him as he grows and advances his kingdom (Romans 12:4–6). God made each of us with a unique set of talents, passions, and spiritual gifts. He wants us to use those gifts to benefit others because when we do so, we reflect his love to the people around us. To take an assessment, go to [mynorthside.com](https://mynorthside.com). Click the profile icon in the top right corner. Create or login to your profile. After logging in, select the Spiritual Gifts Assessment on the right side under Assessments.

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- **Go On An Mission Trip:** Throughout the year, Northside offers short-term outreach trips. The goal is to share the hope and love of Jesus Christ through projects such as building houses, providing health care, leading kids' programs and sports camps, assisting the local church, and more. You don't have to possess any special skills. Just make yourself available, and you might be surprised what God can do through you when you take the step to Go and Serve. Learn more at [mynorthside.com/outreach](http://mynorthside.com/outreach).

**Study With Others:** Below are a variety of resources and guides to help you continue growing in your faith. We have said it before, and we will say it again, these resources are best experienced with the encouragement and accountability of community. Whatever resource you pursue, invite someone to join in with you. This will help you grow and connect the unconnected.

- **Discipleship Essentials by Greg Ogden:** This workbook & study guide is a great resource for micro groups and/or journeying alongside a friend to strengthen your faith.
- **Practicing The Way by John Mark Comer (Book & Courses):** The heart behind this content is to help you explore how to follow Jesus in a busy, distracted, and increasingly secular culture. The resources found on [www.practicingtheway.org](http://www.practicingtheway.org) and RightNow Media will help you grow and develop spiritual habits (prayer, fasting, sabbath, etc...).
- **Walk Like Jesus & Like Like Jesus by Dann Spader:** Each is a workbook & study guide that you can use on your own or with others to better understand the heart and mission of Jesus.
- **Public Reading Of Scripture App:** Sometimes listening to the words of Scripture impacts us differently than reading it. This free app offers dramatized audio Bibles. The app estimates that you can listen to the whole Bible in 98 hours.
- **Resilient: Unbreakable Faith In A Broken World:** While this is a study created for Northside Life Groups, it is still great for individuals. It focuses on how to become a more resilient follower of Jesus through teaching and guided exercises. Learn more at [mynorthside.com/resilient](http://mynorthside.com/resilient).
- **RightNow Media:** This is a free online streaming Bible study resource for families, Life Groups, and personal growth. All you have to do is create an account through Northside at [mynorthside.com/rightnowmedia](http://mynorthside.com/rightnowmedia). Afterwards, you can begin streaming a variety of Bible studies on all different topics.
- **You Version Bible App Reading Plans:** This is a free and easy way to read Scripture and develop your daily devotional time. You can even invite others to join in the reading plan.