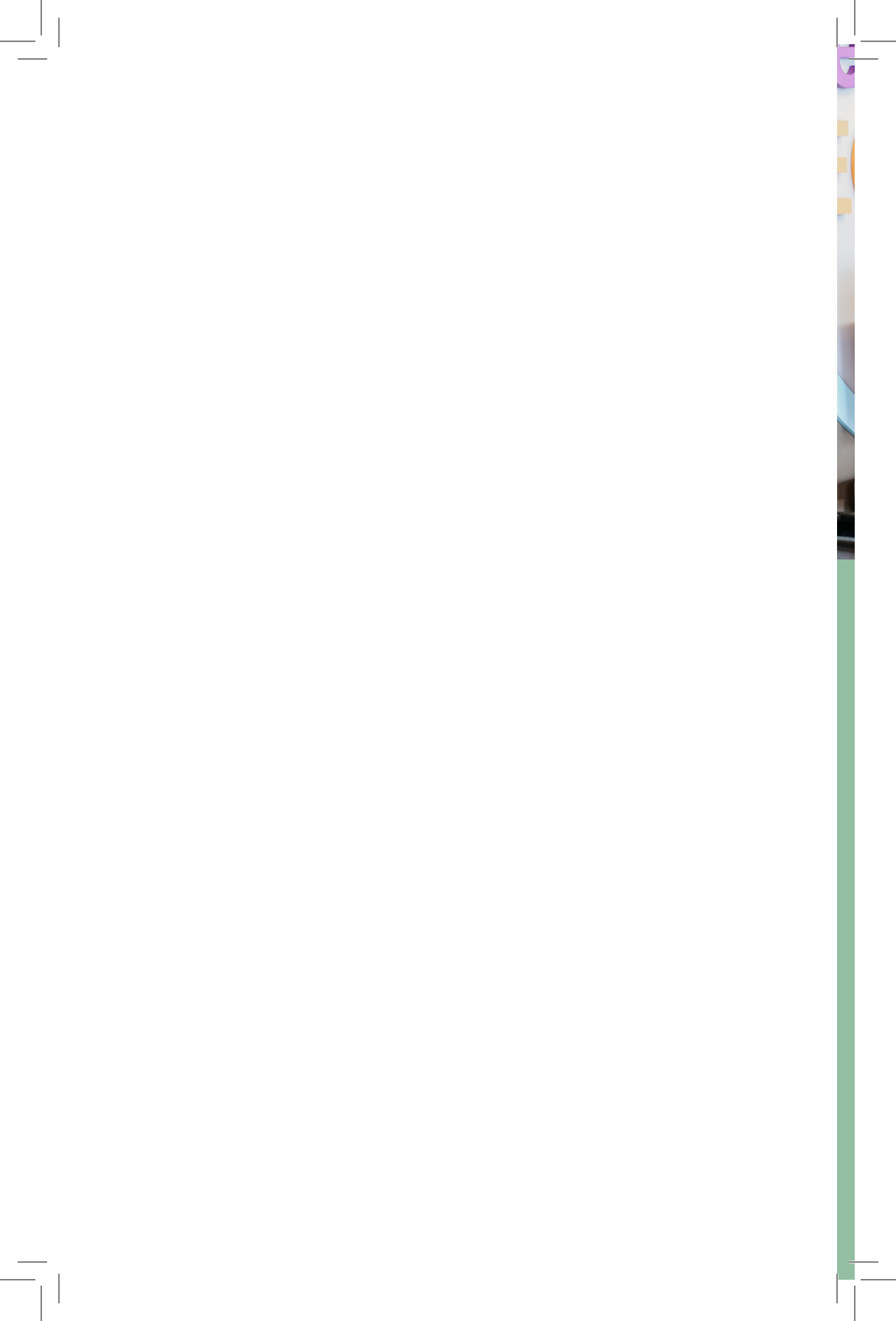


# NextGen

Leaders of Today







Life.Church is a place where anyone—including kids and students—can come just as they are. And that’s the heartbeat of our NextGen ministry. We’re committed to being a safe place for children and teenagers to know who Jesus says they are, find a place to belong, and discover how to use their gifts to make a difference.

In other words, our mission is to lead kids and students to become fully devoted followers of Christ.

We truly believe God brought you here for a purpose.

We’re excited to get to know you and to see how God uses this time to work in your life. Let’s get started!



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you're finishing  
FOOD or DRINK  
are entering.



## Our Promise

You will be set up for success.

You will be cared for.

You will have opportunities to grow.

You will make a difference.

You will make incredible memories.

## Getting to Know Each Other

### **We're Not Just a Building**

Church isn't just a place we go; it's who we are. We're a bunch of ordinary people seeking to follow Jesus together. And that's why relationships are at the very center of who we are and what we do. We want to help kids and students find a place to belong, and we want that for you, too. Why? Because we believe life change happens through trusted relationships.

### **How Do I Get to Know People?**

We get it. Finding trusted relationships is a process, and it's not always easy. We're here to help as you find your people, because we want everyone who serves in NextGen to feel like they're a part of a family.

## Let's Start Here

How do we build trust? One conversation at a time. So let's get to know each other, starting with some of the basics:

- What's your favorite memory from when you were younger?
- If you could have an extra hour of free time every day, what would you do?
- How were you introduced to Life.Church?
- What got you interested in serving?

Now that we've gotten to know a little bit more about each other, let's talk a little bit more about NextGen.

## Getting to Know NextGen

So, what exactly is NextGen? NextGen is the area of our church that focuses on leading kids and students from the day they're born through their high school years by partnering with and supporting their families along the way.

*We exist to lead kids and students to become fully devoted followers of Christ.*

A fully devoted follower of Christ is someone who loves God with all they are (their heart, soul, mind, and strength), and loves others the same way that Jesus loves them.

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." Mark 12:30-31 NIV*



**Heart**



**Soul**



**Mind**



**Strength**

*“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” John 13:34 NIV*

*We do this by bringing in, building up, training, and sending out.*

*Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20 NIV*

### **Bring in.**

Bring people into the Church and introduce them to Jesus.

### **Build up.**

Build people up by helping them discover who they are in Christ and the freedom He offers.

### **Train.**

Train people to love God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength and to love others the same way Jesus loves them.

### **Send out.**

Send people out to lead others to become fully devoted followers of Christ.

## **We do all of this so that kids and students will ...**

- Know who God is.
- Understand who they are because of Jesus.
- Choose to live in biblical community.
- Start using their gifts for the good of others.



All of this happens in three primary lanes:  
**LifeKids, Switch, and Parents.**



**LifeKids:** We provide experiences for kids from birth through 6th grade every weekend, at every service.



**Switch:** 6-12th grade students meet for worship and small groups on Wednesday nights, and they can serve during our weekend services.



**Parents:** Parents are the most influential voices in the lives of the children and students we serve. That's why we partner with them by providing resources and connecting them to relationships so they can lead their families with confidence.



# What We Believe

**God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe.**

**Jesus is the Son of God.**

**The Holy Spirit lives in each Christian from salvation.**

**The Bible is God's Word to us.**

**People are the supreme object of God's creation.**

**Salvation is God's free gift to us, but we must accept it.**

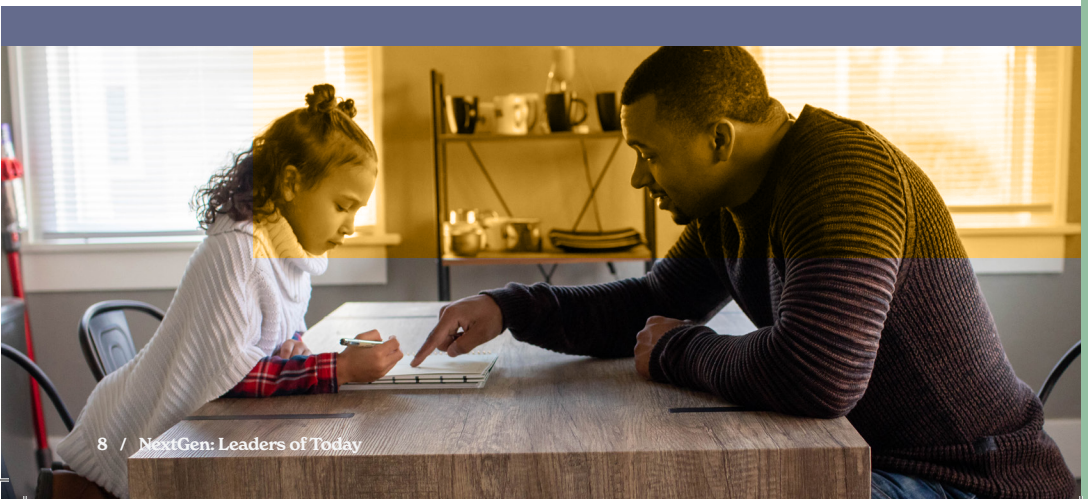
**People will exist eternally with or without God.**

**Baptism is symbolic of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.**

**In addition to Essential Beliefs, we have liberty in Non-Essential Beliefs.**



Scan this code  
for more information.





## Your Why

*Before you were born, God knew you and had a purpose in mind for you.*

*For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*  
Ephesians 2:10 NIV

*We also know that God wants to use your story for His purpose!*

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to purpose.* Romans 8:28 NIV

## Let's take a look at your story and see how God has prepared you for this moment.



Think about some of the most influential people in your life and list out some of their names here. Maybe it's a parent, coach, friend, coworker, family member, pastor, or mentor.


.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....





After you've listed them, add their names to the bar below during the part of your life they impacted you most.

*Start*



 Reflect on what they taught you as a result of their influence. Did it result in a turning point for you? What do you think God was teaching you during that time? How did they impact where you are today? Take a few moments and list some of those things below their names.

 Did you already list those who have played a key part in your faith journey? Add anyone who's missing, then place an X on the timeline where you chose to put your faith in Jesus and began to follow Him.

 **Talk It Over:** Spend a few moments sharing your experiences with another person.

Describe how this impacts your desire to point kids and students to Jesus.

*Now*

## Find Your Fit

There is a place for everyone to make a difference at Life.Church!

- Host Team
- LifeGroups + LifeMissions
- Operations Team
- LifeKids
- Tech + Worship
- Switch

No matter where you serve, you will be able to use your gifts to lead people to become fully devoted followers of Christ.

### Serving With NextGen

Roles in LifeKids and Switch are unique because they bring the opportunity (and responsibility) to teach kids and students according to the truth of God's Word.

This doesn't mean you'll be preaching sermons, writing curriculum, or need to have all the books of the Bible memorized in reverse order. It mostly looks like leading a small group of kids or students, guiding them through the different questions they'll ask on their faith journey, and partnering with their parents to help them navigate the challenges that come up as they raise their kids and teenagers to become fully devoted followers of Christ. Here are some of the roles where all of that happens:



- LifeKids Operations
- LifeKids Check-in
- Infant Leader
- Small Group Leader
- LifeKids Buddy



- Switch Operations
- Switch Host Team
- Experience Team
- Small Group Leader
- Switch Support Leader



## Living and Modeling Our Beliefs

The Apostle Paul wrote these words to Timothy, a young church leader, about what faithfully leading and teaching in the church involves:

*... Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity. ... Keep a close watch on how you live and on your teaching. Stay true to what is right for the sake of your own salvation and the salvation of those who hear you. 1 Timothy 4:12, 16 NLT*

This doesn't mean we never sin or we have all the answers. It means we are committed to letting the teachings of Scripture shape the words we say and the way we live.

If you're new to following Jesus, some of the ways He asks us to follow Him can feel pretty different. In fact, compared to what is culturally normal, it can almost feel upside-down. We get that! But we do believe God's way is the best way for us, even when it seems strange.

Serving in NextGen will bring you into a wide variety of conversations with kids, students, and parents that cover lots of different topics. We want you to be able to navigate those conversations with confidence and truth.

Of course, we can't write out every topic we teach in NextGen or all the things we believe as a church. Teaching spans from God's creation of the world to celebrating His nature as a good Father. We don't want to put you in a position of teaching something you don't agree with, so let's dig in to a few things we believe.

## How do we treat other people in our relationships?

We love them the same way that Jesus has loved us.

- John 13:34-35
- 1 Corinthians 13:4-7
- 1 John 3:16-18

We use our words to build up and encourage those around us.

- 1 Thessalonians 5:11
- Ephesians 4:29
- Titus 2:7-8

We seek to live at peace with others and actively work toward reconciliation when conflict emerges.

- Matthew 5:43-45
- Romans 12:10-18

We believe we're better together, so we live with healthy accountability.

- Hebrews 10:23-25
- James 5:16
- 1 John 1:5-7

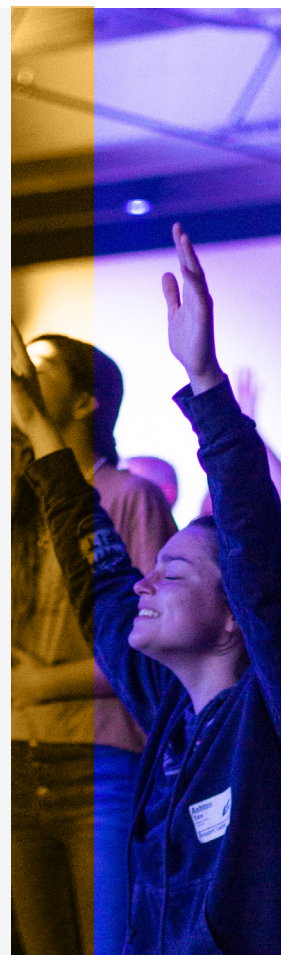
## What does it look like to pursue holiness?

We stay alert and sober minded by staying away from excessive alcohol and drug use.

- Ephesians 5:18
- Galatians 5:19-21
- 1 Peter 5:8

If we use social media, we will use it responsibly by ensuring our posts and comments honor God and others.

- Hebrews 13:18
- Romans 14:19
- Colossians 3:17





We honor ourselves and others by avoiding pornography and other graphic content that dehumanizes and objectifies others.

- Matthew 5:28
- Genesis 1:27
- Proverbs 4:23

## **What does a generous life entail?**

We look to the interests of others and share with those in need.

- Matthew 25:34-40
- Acts 2:42-47
- Philippians 2:3-4

We practice stewardship by living within our means.

- Matthew 6:19-24
- Hebrews 13:5
- Philippians 4:12-13

We honor God with our finances by pursuing the tithe.

- Malachi 3:10
- Matthew 23:23
- 2 Corinthians 9:6-9

## **How does our faith in Jesus shape our beliefs about sexuality?**

We believe God created human beings in His own image, male and female.

- Matthew 19:4-6
- Genesis 1:27

We believe marriage is a lifelong covenant between one man and one woman before God.

- Matthew 19:4-6
- Genesis 2:22-24

We reserve all sexual activity for the union of marriage.

- Romans 13:13
- 1 Corinthians 6:9-10
- 1 Corinthians 6:18

We avoid unnecessary sexual temptations by choosing not to live with our significant other before marriage.

- Ephesians 5:3
- 1 Corinthians 6:18
- 1 Timothy 4:12



## Finding Your Place

Whether you serve with kids and students in NextGen, or in another area of our church, there is a place for you! All of us have been given different gifts by the Holy Spirit that are meant to build the Church. These differences are a big part of what makes the Church so beautiful. When we bring our differences together for a greater mission, we best reflect God's character and share His love with the world.

## Questions for Discussion:

- What questions do you have about the different serving teams?
- What questions do you have about serving in NextGen?
- When you look at some of the things we teach in NextGen, is there anything you have questions about or would like to discuss further?

## Bringing It All Together

We lead people closer to Jesus, starting with ourselves.

How can we come alongside you as you grow in your faith? Is one of these next steps right for you?

Get baptized

Grab coffee with a pastor

Pray or read my Bible daily

Learn how to share my faith

Start a Bible Plan with a friend

Pursue counseling

Give financially

Pursue a passion God has given me

Find a mentor

Commit my life to Christ

Find a LifeGroup

.....  
(Other)

**God can use you to make a difference.**

**I want to serve with ...**

LifeKids

Tech + Worship

Switch

LifeGroups + LifeMissions

Host Team

I'm still not sure

Operations Team





