

Your Game Plan for Growth

Seven Steps



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A photograph of a person with long blonde hair, seen from the side, reaching their hand up towards the word 'JESUS'. The person is wearing a dark top and a watch on their left wrist. The background is a soft, out-of-focus church interior with warm lighting. The word 'JESUS' is written in large, white, serif capital letters across the upper portion of the image. The entire image is framed by a dark teal border.

JESUS

Thank you for considering taking your **NEXT STEPS** of faith at Skyline Church!

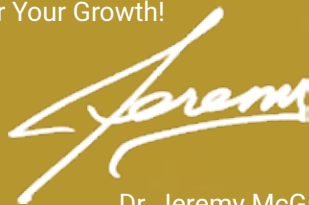
We have a passion for helping people find and follow Jesus **Seven** days a week. Finding Jesus is not the hard part for so many people, it's the "consistently following" part that can get challenging. Over more than 23 years of pastoring, I've learned that growing in faith as a Christian does not happen without a plan. No Christian accidentally stumbles into a growing faith in Jesus. Rather, it takes an intentional process and time to grow, step by step, into the person God created you to be.

2 Peter 3:18 says, "**Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**"

Our intentional plan to help you grow in faith is called **7 STEPS** and will help you gain the knowledge and tools necessary to ignite your growth and to be ready for whatever God has for you in the future.

The steps are truthful, helpful, enjoyable, and practical in your daily life and they will help increase your spiritual growth exponentially! Our team is here to serve, so please don't hesitate to ask if we can help you in any way.

For Your Growth!

A stylized, handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Jeremy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

Dr. Jeremy McGarity, **Lead Pastor**



Overview

7 Steps to Spiritual Growth

"Come near to God, and He will come near to you."

James 4:8

The Skyline Church game plan for helping people find and follow Jesus SEVEN days a week.

GAME PLAN

Definition: A strategy worked out in advance.

The key to spiritual growth is **INTENTION**. No one accidentally becomes spiritually mature. It takes time and it takes a clear process to help someone grow. In the Bible, we see God using processes to grow people all throughout history. He continues to use time, testing, and opportunities to grow his people into all he has created them to be.

When you commit to an intentional process of spiritual growth, great things can happen. The most important of which is not the end result, the accomplishment, or the achievement. The most important thing is what is happening on the inside of you as you commit to this process. God grows you in character and he prepares you to be all he has called you to be.

The following is an overview of the intentional process at Skyline Church to help you grow spiritually. To be clear, this is not the only way to grow as a Christian, this is just the way we believe is most effective at Skyline Church and we believe God will use it to make a big difference in your life as you intentionally commit to growing in Christ.

Skyline's process is divided into three sections with each class and each section building on the other. The first four classes are the **FOUNDATIONAL** knowledge classes you need to begin to grow.

The Bible says in Romans 12:2:

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Growth begins by renewing your mind by learning the basic habits God wants you to have in order to facilitate the growth that is needed in your life. The first four classes will help you understand Skyline Church, what it means to be a growing Christian, and how you’ve been given spiritual gifts that will help you discover your (Oikos) mission in life.

The second section is all about your personal commitment to growth through discipleship.

The Bible says in Galatians 5:22-23:

“But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”

As a Christian, growth is not supposed to be optional. It is commanded that we grow and produce the qualities that are mentioned in the above verse. But those qualities do not just magically appear in us. We must commit to the process of developing those qualities. Those qualities are the result or “fruit” of the Spirit of God working in our lives.

Discipleship is a key component for long term growth and those “fruit” qualities being ever increasing in our Christian lives. In this second section, it is all about a commitment to discipleship. This is the class that requires the most commitment of all of them. We believe that if you stay committed through Step 5 you will be more than ready to tackle the final two steps and in turn be equipped to make a bigger difference in the lives of those around you (Oikos). Step 6 requires a 33-week commitment divided into three sections of 11 weeks of discipleship at a time.

The final section is taking the foundational knowledge you have learned and the growth you have experienced through discipleship and learning to put it into practice in your every day life.

Jesus says in John 13:17: ***“Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.”***

Knowledge of what to do is only the beginning. Knowledge of growth does not automatically produce growth. It is only when faith is joined with action that the blessing comes. Notice in the above verse, “you will be blessed if....” If what? If you **KNOW** more? **NO**, Jesus says, you will be blessed if you **DO** the things you now know. In this third and final section, Step 6 and Step 7 will give you the tools to put all you’ve learned into action.

7 Steps Overview

Newcomer Meet & Greet

A casual time for anyone who is new to Skyline Church and may want to know more about the vision, mission and values. It is a time to meet the staff and other Newcomers while having the opportunity to ask any questions you may have or simply hear what Skyline Church is about. Newcomer Meet & Greet is not required to go to step 1.

Step 1 | Membership

In this class, the student learns what Skyline Church believes, how leadership is structured, its history, its vision, goals, and plans for the future.

Step 2 | Christian Habits

In this class, the foundational habits of being a Christian are taught. The student will learn the foundational Christian habits of having a regular devotional time, how to develop the habit of prayer, giving, and the importance of practicing the habit of fellowship.

Step 3 | Spiritual Gifts & Abilities

The student will understand what gifts and abilities they've been given by God to be used for His purpose and how to use them in their life, in the church, and beyond.

Step 4 | Oikos: Life Mission

The student will gain an understanding of the New Testament Oikos concept and how our mission flows out of our everyday life.

Step 5 | Doctrine

The importance of essential Christian doctrine cannot be overstated. These are the very doctrines that distinguish Christianity from the many cults that exist.

Step 6 | Overcoming the Weaknesses that Bite

Every Christian faces the Sharks of life. They are swimming around us, waiting to bite. Being a believer does not exempt us from trials, tribulations and troubles. However, we have been given the tools to fight back. Although we may be bitten from time to time, we don't have to be devoured.

Step 7 | Apologetics

In this course you will learn the basic defenses of the Christian faith. While you've learned the key Christian Doctrines in step 5, this step will give you some of the tools to help you defend those doctrines.



Rancho Campus Map

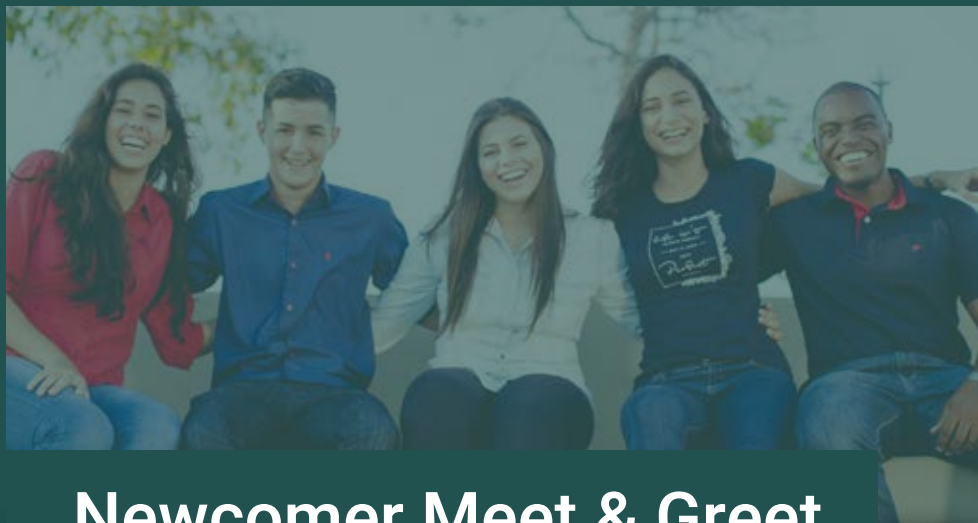
- ① Auditorium
- ② Cafe
- ③ Chapel
- ④ Gym
- ⑤ Lobby
- ⑥ Kids
- ⑦ Offices
- ⑧ Youth Center





Lakeside Campus Map

- ❶ Auditorium
- ❷ First Time Table
- ❸ Cafe
- ❹ Pre-K | Kinder
- ❺ Kids Check-In
- ❻ Toddlers
- ❼ Nursery
- ❽ 1st - 3rd Grade
- ❾ 4th - 5th Grade



Newcomer Meet & Greet

Introduction to Skyline Church

"... Always be eager to practice hospitality." Romans 12:13

Location: On campus

Description: A casual time for anyone who is new to Skyline Church and may want to know more about the vision, mission and values. It is a time to meet the staff and other newcomers while having the opportunity to ask any questions you may have or simply hear what Skyline is about.

Purpose: To get acquainted to Skyline Church and other newcomers for the purpose of discovering if this may be a place to call home.

Commitment: About 5-10 minutes

Next Step: Attend Step 1, Membership Class and discover in depth the vision, mission, and values of Skyline Church.

Membership

Step One

"Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other." Romans 12:4-5

Location: On campus

Description: In this class, you will learn who we are as a church, where we are going, and why we are doing what we are doing. You will also learn what Skyline Church believes, how leadership is structured, our history, vision, goals, and plans for the future. The requirements and commitments to being a member are clearly explained and any questions you may have are answered. You will also get an overview and booklet describing the 7 Steps process at Skyline Church and the various classes and learning opportunities that are available to you.

At the end of the class, there is a membership covenant outlining the commitments to be a member at Skyline Church.

Purpose: To know more about Skyline Church and to consider becoming part of the Skyline Church family.

Commitment: Attend one class of 2 hours on a Wednesday night with dinner served and childcare provided from 6-8PM.

Next Step: This is Step 1 of the 7 Steps. To move on to Step 2, we would be honored to welcome you to the family by becoming a member by signing the membership covenant and agreeing to be an active part of the vision, mission and values of Skyline Church.

Christian Habits

Step Two

"... train yourself to be godly. Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come." 1 Timothy 4:7-8

Location: On campus

Description: In this class, you will learn the foundational habits of being an active Christian. You will learn the biblical habits of having a regular personal devotional time, how to develop a consistent and effective prayer life, how to live generously, and the importance of practicing the habit of fellowship.

Purpose: To build a solid foundation by learning the basic habits of a growing Christian.

Commitment: Two classes of about 1½-2 hours each.

Next Step: This is Step 2 of the 7 Steps. To move on to Step 3, you complete the class and sign the growth commitment at the end of the class. The teaching pastor will also sign the commitment and it will be returned to the student.

Spiritual Gifts & Abilities

Step Three

"God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other, passing on to others God's many kinds of blessings." 1 Peter 4:10

Location: On campus

Description: You will understand the spiritual gifts, talents, and abilities you have been given by God for His purpose and you will learn how to use them in your life, in the church, and beyond.

Purpose: To help know and understand how God has gifted you and how your gifts are to be used to help others and bring glory to God. Many Christians go through life not knowing that God has gifted them for a specific purpose, *"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). That verse means God has already prepared what He wants you to do, you just have to figure it out. We are here to help you do that. As it says in Ephesians 4, *"(God) has given ... pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for works of ministry, so the body of Christ may be built up"* (11-12).

Commitment: A total of three classes, one class a week for three weeks. Each class is between 1½ to 2 hours in length. After the class, an interview is scheduled with a pastor or other church leader to help you find your best fit for serving in your church community based on what has been discovered through the Step 3 process.

Next Step: This is Step 3 of the 7 Steps. After your interview and you've been plugged into a ministry (if you haven't already) you are ready for step 4.

Oikos: Life Mission

Step Four

“Go to your own people (oikos) and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.” Mark 5:19

Location: On campus

Description: You will gain a thorough understanding of the New Testament Oikos (pronounced oy koss) concept and how your mission flows out of your everyday life. This course is a total of four classes, one class a week for four weeks.

Purpose: Understanding your purpose in life is a key component to a fulfilled life. Jesus said, *“I have come that they may have life and have it to the full”* (John 10:10). Step 4 first and foremost helps you understand your main God-given purpose in life. You will also learn how to prepare your own personal testimony and how to give it in a clear and concise way when the opportunity presents itself.

In this course, you will realize that you are **not** responsible for changing *the* world. However, God does want you to make a difference in *your* world. What is *your* world? God has supernaturally and strategically placed 8 to 15 people in your life (*your* world) for the purpose of helping them understand his love and grace and his desire for a relationship with them. The great news is he has chosen *you* to reach them! The problem is many Christians don't understand that reaching them does not mean awkward and uncomfortable “evangelism.” Rather, it means putting them on your Oikos Prayer list, building a stronger relationship with them, and being there for them when God moves in their heart. It is meant to be a very natural process and it is exhilarating when you realize God wants to use you to make a difference in *your* world.

Commitment: Four classes of 1½-2 hours each.

Next Step: This is step 4 of the 7 steps. After completing the classes, you are now ready to move on to Step 5 | Doctrine.

Doctrine

Step Five

"Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers." 1 Timothy 4:16

Location: On campus

Description: The importance of essential Christian doctrine cannot be overstated. These are the very doctrines that distinguish Christianity from the many cults that exist. These essential doctrines are the North Star by which the course of Christianity is set. Just as the North Star has safely guided sailors and their ships over the years, essential Christian doctrine safely guides the Church through the doctrinal storms that have tried to sink it over the centuries.

These doctrines are the foundation on which the gospel of Jesus Christ stands. All other religions compromise, confuse, or completely contradict these essentials. Muslims, for example, dogmatically reject the doctrine of Christ's deity. They actually affirm the sinlessness of Christ but adamantly deny His sacrifice on the cross and His resurrection as the only hope of salvation. Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses among many doctrinal differences deny the Trinity. The list goes on and on.

To solidify what you believe, I have organized the essential Christian doctrines around the acronym D.O.C.T.R.I.N.E.

- Deity of Christ
- Original Sin
- Canon of Scripture
- Trinity
- Resurrection
- Incarnation
- New Creation
- Eschatology

(continued on next page)

Purpose: To understand what you believe, you must also understand why you believe what you believe.

Commitment: Five classes of 1½-2 hours each.

Next Step: This is step 5 of the 7 steps. After completing the classes, you are now ready to move on to Step 6 | Discipleship.

Overcoming the Weaknesses that Bite

Step Six

"We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away." Hebrews 2:1

Location: On campus

Description: In these sessions you will be given the tools to overcome the most common weaknesses we face as human beings.

Every Christian faces the sharks of life. They are swimming around us, waiting to bite. Being a believer does not exempt us from trials, tribulations, and troubles. However, we have been given the tools to fight back. Although we may be bitten from time to time, we don't have to be devoured.

"Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith." 1 Peter 5:8-9

Purpose: The goal of this course is to give you practical help in your fight against the enemy who is always prowling around looking for weaknesses in us. These sessions will help you become the Conqueror you were created to be.

"Now, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us." Romans 8:37

In step 6 you will learn the keys to conquering:

1. Drifting away from God
2. Worry
3. Temptation
4. Complaining
5. An Uncontrollable Tongue
6. General Bad Habits

Commitment: This course is one class a week for six weeks.

Required book: *Shark Weak, Overcoming the Weaknesses that Bite*.

By Pastor Jeremy McGarity.

Next Step: You are now ready to move on to Step 7 | Apologetics.

Apologetics

Step Seven

"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect ..."

1 Peter 3:15

Location: On campus

Description: Apologetics Definition: *Reasoned arguments or writings in justification of something, typically a theory or religious doctrine.*

Welcome to Step 7. You've made it to the final course in our 7 Steps Process. You have been committed and we are grateful for your participation. We hope it has blessed you, encouraged you, and built you up in the faith!

Purpose: In this course, you will learn the basic defenses of the Christian faith. While you've learned the key Christian Doctrines in Step 5, this step will give you some of the tools to help you defend those doctrines.

Commitment: This is a four-week starter apologetics course. One class a week for four consecutive weeks about 1 hour in length.

Next Step: Upon completion of the 7 Steps you may be wondering, "Where do I go from here?"


There are many options. Here are just a few:

1. Make sure you are serving in a ministry at Skyline
2. Continue taking apologetics classes. We offer a weekly course that you can join.
3. We have a 33-week discipleship course.
4. Consider taking formal Christian College or Graduate Classes at San Diego Christian College. We have a partnership with them providing you a significant discount for attending SDCC.









The most important thing in life (after accepting Jesus) is to grow spiritually.

Jesus said:


“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” Matthew 6:33

When you put Jesus first by seeking and growing in Him everything else in your life is taken care of. His promise is that you will have everything you need. That means your relationships will be better, your job will be more fulfilling, your neighbor will be more important to you and your life will have the meaning and purpose it was meant to have. These 7 Steps are designed to help you put Jesus first and grow to your fullest potential so you can experience Jesus’ promise in John 10:10,

“I have come that they may have life and have it to the full”

Our prayer is that you would take what you learn through these steps and produce the kind of life you were created for, a life of adventure, joy, and excitement in serving our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Serving Him With You,



Dr. Jeremy McGarity, **Lead Pastor**



Helping people
find & follow Jesus
seven days a week.

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