

“Being Who You Were Created to Be!”

Introduction

Welcome to the family of God and to your path to discovering **who God has created you to be**; God has a purpose and meaning for your life,

- Jeremiah 1:5 God says, “*I knew you before I formed you in your mother’s womb. Before you were born I set you apart...*”
- John 10:10 “*I come that you might have life and that more abundantly.*”

God intends for your life to have significance and you will begin to discover your purpose because you have now begun a personal relationship with Him.

- John 1:12 says, “*But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God.*”

Now you are a child of God and will begin a journey of discovery. A journey intended for you to experience all that God has for you and **who God has created you to be**.

Here at ECF your journey begins with our Mission of ‘Picking Up the Broken Pieces in the Lives of People’ and our Vision of “Creating Authentic Christians!” A Spiritual Connector will be assigned to walk with you over the next 4 weeks to make sure you are fully connected with us as your spiritual family and understand your role in helping fulfill our Mission and Vision.

- Ephesians 2:19 says, “*Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with*

the saints and members of the household (family) of God.”

- 1 Peter 2:17 encourages us to, “*Respect everyone, and love the family of believers.*”

Four Things You Need to Do!

To become a full-fledged member* of your new family there are at least **Four things** you need to do as you start down the path to **Being Who You Were Created to Be!**

1. The first thing you need to do is **CONNECT!** You need to be connected to our family. Over the next 4 weeks you are required to meet with your Spiritual Connector one on one. This Spiritual Formation process is designed to help you get acclimated to your new family environment.

- Romans 12:1 tells us to be transformed by the renewing of our minds! You will learn how God will renew and change the way you think.
- Proverbs 23:7 says as we think in our hearts so are we!

Once you have completed your 4 week Spiritual Formation sessions, you will be directed to the Biblical Base Classes where your Spiritual Foundation will be laid to give you the knowledge to understand our foundational beliefs, as well as discovering what your Spiritual Gifts are.

2. The second thing you need to do is to get involved with a HUGG! (Home Unity Growth Group). ECF has

small groups that meet in homes over the Inland Empire and we want you to get involved in one near you.

This not only helps you stay connected to our family, but also creates friendships and relationships with others in the family that will be there in your time of need and give help and support when you need it. HUGG's are sermon based which will give you an opportunity to discuss the sermon preached on Sundays and learn how to apply God's word to your life and your journey. Your HUGG will become an extended family within our larger family.

- Acts 2:46 says this about the first Church, "*Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart...*"

3. The third thing you need to do is SERVE! We have a great community with many needs to reach. Our Mission of "Picking Up the Broken Pieces in the Lives of People!" requires us to serve in a broken city with broken communities. Christ reminds us that His mission was to "seek and to save the lost!"(Luke 19:10) That's exactly what we desire to do in the Date Street/Del Rosa Community and throughout the world. ECF has formed "STREET LIFE TEAMS" and we expect every member to join a team. During your connection process, we would encourage you to pray about the team you would like to serve on. Your Spiritual Connector can help you in identifying who the teams are and may even suggest an appropriate team to match your personality; however, the choice is yours. Once you complete the Biblical Base classes and have discovered your Spiritual Gifts, you will see that there are many different ministries at ECF to use

your gifts. We ask you to choose only one ministry where you can serve, in order to bless the family of ECF and to help us grow spiritually and numerically.

4. The fourth thing you need to do is to GIVE! We are a tithing church! "Tithe" means "Tenth"! God commands us to tithe.

- In Malachi 3:10 He says, "*Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!*"

Here at ECF we teach tithing and we trust God to supply all our needs through the tithes and offerings of His people. We don't have fund raisers to support the operation of the ministry. Therefore, we ask you to become a tithing member of our family, thereby obeying God and securing your own financial future and supplying the needs of our ministry to fulfill our Mission and Vision.

* *Full-fledge Member is one who has full access to all services provided by ECF, based on their completion of all three Biblical Base Classes (12 week process)*

Five Things We Will Do!

Your journey to **Being Who You Were Created to Be** is fulfilled in obedience to God and in the place where He has placed you to grow and learn about Him. Your journey is not one sided, with you only doing what we

expect and require, there are some benefits to you for doing your part. We as your family commit to doing **Five Things** for you as you do the four things we request.

1. We will provide for you a SERVANT! Your Spiritual Connector is there to serve your needs as they walk with you through your Spiritual Formation sessions. Also, you will be assigned a Ministry Leader to contact when your immediate family has a need.
2. We will give you SUPPORT! As a full-fledged member of ECF the resources and services designated to help you will be available to you.
3. We will provide SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES! The sense of belonging is fulfilled when someone feels like they are needed; therefore, we will provide you with an opportunity to serve as God has uniquely gifted you.
4. We will encourage your SPIRITUAL GROWTH! by always providing opportunities to learn and gain knowledge from the Word of God and by encouraging you to get involved in the ministry programs already in place to assist your spiritual growth, such as HUGG's, BIBLICAL BASED CLASSES, SUMMER BIBLE STUDIES, and others.
5. We will provide STEWARDSHIP TRAINING! One of the greatest training classes we have is how to successfully manage your financial resources. Common Cents Financial freedom classes will be offered periodically throughout the year.

Biblical teaching on tithing and stewardship will be given annually and financial counseling is available upon request through our Finance Department.

Let the Journey Begin!

Our intent is to be for you who God wants us to be, so that you can become **Who You Were Created to Be**. Your journey will require you to follow the instructions and directions of the Leadership that God has placed you under. We are here to assist in your journey, but we cannot be what we are supposed to be for you, if you won't comply with what we are expecting and requiring you to do. Blessings come through obedience!

Your journey will now begin as you complete your first meeting with your Spiritual Connector and follow through with the accompanying three meetings. Do not hesitate to get started today and see what God has planned for you to fulfill your purpose and become **Who You Were Created to Be**. We are here to serve you!

I am proud to be your Pastor;

Follow me as I follow Christ and let's walk this journey together!

GOD RICHES BLESSINGS BE UPON YOU!

First Meeting: “CONNECT!”

Hebrews 10:25 (NLT)

“And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.”

My former Pastor Dr. E.V. Hill would say, "If being in Church is Right, then being out of Church is Wrong!"

Church attendance is a necessity now that you have given your life to Christ. The key to connecting is putting yourself in the position where a connection can be made, and the place God has provided for us to connect is the Church.

Here at ECF, CONNECT means to be in relationship with each other. To know each other in a way that we have each other's back, especially in times of need. Now that you are a part of our family we want to get to know you and have a relationship with you, where you can trust us and we trust you, both being there for one another.

1. In one sentence describe what CONNECT means to you? (Understand there is no right or wrong answer, just what you think.)
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2. Do you agree that a good relationship requires both parties being willing to do their part? YES or NO
3. Are you willing to learn what your part is and do it? YES or NO

The Bible says, 1 John 3:14-18:

“If we love our brothers and sisters who are believers, it proves that we have passed from death to life. But a person who has no love is still dead. Anyone who hates another brother or sister is really a murderer at heart. And you know that murderers do not have eternal life within them. We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God’s love be in that person? Dear children, let’s not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions. Our actions will show that we belong to the truth, so we will be confident when we stand before God.”

We at ECF all seek to CONNECT so that we can be for each other what God wants us to be and in so doing fulfill the Vision he has given us to become "Authentic Christians", and to practice our Mission of " Picking Up the Broken Pieces in the Lives of People!"

Welcome to the family!!!

**Second Meeting:
H.U.G.G
(Home Unity Growth Group)**

Acts 2:42, 46-47

"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved."

Physical hugs make you feel cared for, hugs make you feel like you belong and that you are wanted, and for those reasons and others, that's what a HUGG at ECF is all about.

HUGG's are the primary education arm of our family. It's in a HUGG we learn how to apply the word of God to our lives. It's in a HUGG where we further our CONNECTION to one another. It's in a HUGG that we make sure that whatever we need our church family knows and can help.

HUGGs are specifically designed to do five things:

1. Increase your Capacity for COMMITTING • No church grows beyond the commitment of its members to grow spiritually and relationally.
2. Increase your Capacity for CONNECTING • No church outgrows its capacity to develop connecting relationships between groups of people.
3. Increase your Capacity for CARING • No church outgrows its capacity to care for people.

4. Increase your Capacity for CHANGING • No church outgrows its capacity to become more like Jesus Christ.
5. Increase your Capacity for CULTIVATING • No church outgrows its capacity to help each member:
 - Serve others
 - Share their faith

Reread the verse at the beginning of this lesson, and write in one or two sentences, what you think it is saying to you.

Once you have completed your base classes, our expectation of you is that you would join a HUGG, which will allow you to experience firsthand what you have just read in the Bible.

Your Spiritual Connector is in a HUGG, you can join their's if you choose. God Bless you and thank you for getting involved in your ECF family.

Third Meeting: SERVE

John 12:26

"If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor."

The way a believer shows that he or she has a relationship with God, is by how they serve others. Serving is using your gifts, talents, and experiences in the church to help others. Serving can be from ushering at the door, to directing people from the parking lot and giving directions about where things are on campus. Serving can be from singing in the choir, to babysitting in the nursery, to running a camera, to helping with sound or sanctuary projections. Serving is just about anything you can do to help others grow in their relationship with God.

Being Who You Were Created to Be comes out the most when you serve!

The verse above says, "If anyone serves Me..." Who do you think He is talking about?

And who do we honor when we serve Him?

Now that you are a believer and **Being Who You Were Created to Be**, all of your service will be motivated by your love of Christ and your desire to please Him with your life.

Now that you are a part of the ECF family, where do you think you would like to serve?

Serving is a way you can help us as a church to fulfill our Mission and Vision. In the Biblical Base classes, you will learn more about what it means to serve and you will learn about what gifts God has given you to use in your service.

Your Spiritual Connector will give you the information you need to enroll in the classes.

Fourth Meeting: Give

Luke 6:38

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, shall they give into your bosom. For with what measure ye mete it shall be measured to you again.

Jesus tells us to "Give". Giving is an essential part of serving God.

For several reason(s):

1. Because He Himself is a giver - Jn. 3:16 says, "God so loved the world that He GAVE His only begotten Son..."
2. Because it make us more like God!
3. Because it blesses us financially!
4. Because it provides resources for us to help others.

Giving is how the church has been organized to function by God. In Malachi 3:10-12 God says this:

¹⁰*Bring ye the whole tithe into the store-house, that there may be food in my house, and prove me now herewith, saith Jehovah of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.* ¹¹*And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast its fruit before the time in the field, saith Jehovah of hosts.* ¹²*And all nations shall call you happy; for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith Jehovah of hosts.*

The word "Tithe" means in the Hebrew language a "Tenth". The Store-house is the Church. The food is a metaphor for financial resources. But the "prove me",

means to "test". Yes, God is saying when it comes to the command to tithe we can test Him, and see if what He is saying is going to happen if we tithe will happen. The Devourer is the Devil. The fruit of the ground means your work/job. The vine casting it fruit is loss, you won't lose anything and delightsome means preferred, attractive.

Read the passage again and write down what God says will happen when you tithe.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____

Now you are ready to become an active part of our family. Complete your base classes so that you can become mature.

God has created you for a purpose and now you are on the path to fulfilling that purpose. Your Pastor and your ECF family are here to help you become all that God has created you to be!

God Bless You and Welcome to Our Family!!!!