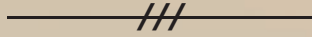




SADDLE UP



*A guide to becoming a successful Christian in the
Cowboy Church and in your community.*



Gather

Grow

Produce

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2020.09

Gathering together, growing disciples, and producing for the Kingdom.

Congratulations on beginning this exciting new chapter in your journey with Jesus by joining a cowboy church in your community. The American Fellowship of Cowboy Churches is here to support you through all the ups and downs of your new life in Christ.

This booklet was designed to help you better follow Jesus. By discovering what it means to gather, grow, and produce for Him, you will find direction, purpose, and meaning that will enable you make a spiritual difference in your church and community.

We pray that it will enlighten and encourage you for years to come.

“If we are not gathering, growing, or producing, why are we doing it?”

—Josh Sparkman, No Fences Cowboy Church

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GATHER



“If you gather cattle, it’s for a reason.”

Chapter 1

Whether it's branding, doctoring, or weaning, no one gathers cattle without a reason. Likewise, God would not command us to gather if it weren't important.

“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.” (Hebrews 10:25)

Why We Gather

- » To hear the _____.
(*John 3:16*)
- » To experience God's _____.
(*Matthew 18:20*)
- » To _____.
(*Ephesians 4:11-16*)
- » To build _____.
(*Ecclesiastes 4:9-12*)
- » To _____ others.
(*Hebrews 10:24-25*)
- » To _____ God.
(*Romans 12:6-8*)



How We Gather

Worship Services

Worship services are a time we set aside each week to:

_____ together.

_____ together.

_____ to God's word together.

Since the very purpose of the worship service is to bring people together in Jesus name, it comes with a promise. (*Matthew 18:20*)

For this reason, many have experienced some of their most meaningful moments with God praying, worshiping, and learning with other believers.

“You may worship God anywhere, at any time, but the chances are that you will not do so unless you have first learned to worship Him somewhere in some particular place, at some particular time.” – Theodore Roosevelt

Small Groups

Small groups are people we regularly gather with for the purpose of living the Christian life together.

Small groups provide:

A place to _____ with others.

The early church met in the temple for worship and in homes for fellowship. (Acts 2:42-47) They recognized the difficulty of building deep friendships in a structured environment. That really hasn't changed. Small groups are a great place for us to get to know one another on a deeper level.

A place to _____ from others.

We don't always get the chance to have our questions answered in church. Small groups provide us the opportunity to openly ask questions and share what we have learned with others.



A place to _____ .

It can be hard sharing our deepest needs in a crowd. Small groups provide a place where we can share our hearts with a select few.

Then they can pray for us and we can pray for them. Small groups are, above all, a place of ministry and healing.

Small groups aren't something new. They are something very old and very important. We strongly encourage everyone to participate in a small group.

“They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity — all the while praising God and enjoying the good will of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:46-47)

Special Events

Special events are activities sponsored by the church for the express purpose of telling others about Jesus.

Special Events may include:

- » _____ activities.
- » _____ or _____ events.
- » _____ outreaches.
- » _____ that provides the church an opportunity to tell others about Jesus.

Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

(Matthew 28:18-20)



A Final Word

The biggest reason God gathers us is so we will become one of his children.

But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.

(John 1:12)

To become a child of God you must:

_____ you are a sinner.
For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. (Romans 3:23)

_____ Christ died for you.
For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.
(John 3:16)

_____ upon his name.
For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. (Rom 10:13)

How to Call Upon Christ

Calling upon Christ simply means praying and asking him to save you.

A simple prayer coming from a sincere heart is enough:

Heavenly Father,

I ACCEPT that I am a sinner. I confess that going my own stubborn way has hurt you, myself, and others.

I BELIEVE that Jesus died for me and took my punishment on the cross.

I CALL upon you and ask you to save me. I humbly ask you to receive me as one of your children because of what Jesus did for me on the cross. Amen.

WARNING!

This prayer is not a magic formula. You must hate your sin and long for forgiveness before you are truly ready to receive God's mercy. God can't fix a heart that hasn't been broken.



Next Steps

- ☐ If you accepted Christ, discuss baptism with your pastor.
- ☐ Begin exploring small groups.
- ☐ Mark your calendar for the next session of Saddle Up.

The next session of Saddle Up will be:

Date _____

Time _____

Place _____





GROW



“Healthy herds don’t just happen.”

Producers work hard to ensure their cattle have everything they need to grow and thrive. Likewise, we must take care to provide for our spiritual growth. It won't happen by accident.

Spiritual Nutrition

“Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, now that you have had a taste of the Lord’s kindness.” (1Peter 2:2-3)

The Bible

» The Bible _____ us.

It is how we learn what is right and wrong in God’s eyes so we can live for him.
(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

» The Bible _____ us.

It helps us to fight temptation and withstand Satan’s attacks.
(Matthew 4:1-11)



- » The Bible _____ us.
It allows God to speak directly into our heart and judge our motives and actions.
(Hebrews 4:12)
- » The Bible _____ us.
Its words can pick us up when we are feeling down.
(Psalm 19:7-8)
- » The Bible _____ us.
The more we fill ourselves with God's word, the better we will know his will for our lives.
(Romans 12:1-2)
- » The Bible _____ us.
It gives us access to his promises, helping us to live a godly life.
(2 Peter 1:4)

“People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”
(Matthew 4:4)

Prayer

- » Prayer is how we _____ with God.

He promises that if we seek him, we are sure to find him.

(Matthew 7:7-8)

- » Prayer is how we _____ from God.

He promises to answer our prayers when we pray according to his will.

(1John 5:14-15)

- » Prayer is how God _____ us in our time of need.

He promises to help and protect us when we cry out to him.

(Psalm 91:14-15; Psalm 107)

- » Prayer is _____ to our spiritual health.

If even Jesus needed time alone in prayer, we will too.

(Mark 1:35; Luke 5:16)



Daily Quiet Time

The best way to ensure that we receive a steady spiritual diet is to combine Bible reading and prayer into a daily quiet time.

Here's how to get started:

Pick a regular _____ and _____.

Begin with a _____.

Open your _____ and begin reading.

If something _____ to you, stop and meditate. God is trying to speak to you.

Spend time in _____, asking God to help you understand and apply what you have read.

Remember to _____ praying throughout your day. The goal is prayer as a lifestyle.

“The secret to loving the Lord is knowing Him. And the secret to knowing Him is Bible study and prayer.” — J. H. Keithley, III

Spiritual Health

It takes a herd. Cattle not only need nutrition but other cattle to be healthy and balanced. Without this, all kinds of problems arise. The same is true of Christians. We cannot properly grow and develop without other Christians.

“You must warn each other every day, while it is still “today,” so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God.”

(Hebrews 3:13)

Small Groups

- » Small groups ensure there is someone there to _____ for us when we face trials.
- » Small groups provide a _____ for us to ask questions and discuss our problems.
- » Small groups enable us to hold each other _____.



- » Small groups give us the chance to _____ from other Christians.
- » Small groups help us to _____ into the Bible.
- » Small groups provide opportunities for _____.
- » Small groups build deep and lasting _____.
- » Small groups are _____.

According to a Lifeway survey, members of small groups report they:

- Feel closer to God (69%)
- Understand the Bible better (74%)
- Trust God more (66%)
- Grow more loving (48%)

“When Jesus started his ministry, the very first thing he did was form a small group.”

— Rick Warren

Join a Group

Joining a small group is one of the fastest ways to accelerate your spiritual growth!

You can join a small group in the following ways:

- By _____.
- By _____.
- By _____.
- By _____.

If you need help finding a small group that works for you please contact:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



Next Steps

- ☐ Pick a time and place and begin a regular quiet time with God.
- ☐ Begin attending a small group.
- ☐ Mark your calendar for the next session of Saddle Up.

The next session of Saddle Up will be:

Date _____

Time _____

Place _____





PRODUCE



“If a cow doesn’t produce, sell her.”

No rancher wants an unproductive cow. She uses valuable resources but offers nothing in return. She is usually culled from the herd. Likewise, God wants us to be fruitful for him. It brings him great glory and he provides us with everything we need to do it.

“When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.” – John 15:8

Spiritual Gifts

- » Are given by the _____.
(1 Corinthians 12:4-6)
- » To every _____.
(1 Corinthians 12:7-11)
- » When they are _____.
(Ephesians 1:13-14)
- » To _____ others.
(1 Peter 4:10-11)
- » And grow _____.
(Ephesians 4:11-16)



Discovering Your Gifts

God equips every Christian with the potential to produce fruit for him. Take the quiz below to discover ways you may be gifted to serve him.

GIFTS	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL
Administration	<input type="checkbox"/> I delegate responsibility <input type="checkbox"/> I organize effectively <input type="checkbox"/> I complete projects <input type="checkbox"/> I enjoy planning <input type="checkbox"/> I set and achieve goals	___ of 5
Craftsmanship	<input type="checkbox"/> I design things <input type="checkbox"/> I build things <input type="checkbox"/> I repair things <input type="checkbox"/> I enjoy arts and crafts <input type="checkbox"/> I appreciate quality	___ of 5
Discernment	<input type="checkbox"/> I easily recognize truth <input type="checkbox"/> I easily recognize error <input type="checkbox"/> I can sense insincerity <input type="checkbox"/> I can sense character <input type="checkbox"/> My hunches are right	___ of 5

GIFTS	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL
Evangelism	<input type="checkbox"/> I share the gospel <input type="checkbox"/> I worry about the lost <input type="checkbox"/> I pray for the lost <input type="checkbox"/> I celebrate salvations <input type="checkbox"/> I seek out the lost	___ of 5
Exhortation	<input type="checkbox"/> I encourage people <input type="checkbox"/> I give good advice <input type="checkbox"/> I accurately apply truth <input type="checkbox"/> I am a good counselor <input type="checkbox"/> I use Biblical solutions	___ of 5
Faith	<input type="checkbox"/> I always trust God <input type="checkbox"/> I rarely worry <input type="checkbox"/> God cares about my life <input type="checkbox"/> God always provides <input type="checkbox"/> I experience miracles	___ of 5
Giving	<input type="checkbox"/> I manage money well <input type="checkbox"/> I tithe consistently <input type="checkbox"/> I love to give <input type="checkbox"/> I sacrifice to help others <input type="checkbox"/> My money is not mine	___ of 5
Hospitality	<input type="checkbox"/> I enjoy having guests <input type="checkbox"/> I give food or shelter <input type="checkbox"/> I make others welcome <input type="checkbox"/> I share my home <input type="checkbox"/> Others are important	___ of 5



GIFTS	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL
Intercession	<input type="checkbox"/> I love to pray <input type="checkbox"/> I often pray for others <input type="checkbox"/> I pray for the world <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer is a priority <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer always works	___ of 5
Knowledge	<input type="checkbox"/> I often study the Bible <input type="checkbox"/> I know key doctrines <input type="checkbox"/> I discover new truths <input type="checkbox"/> I am a good teacher <input type="checkbox"/> Truth is important	___ of 5
Leadership	<input type="checkbox"/> I am decisive <input type="checkbox"/> I am a leader <input type="checkbox"/> I motivate others <input type="checkbox"/> I help others succeed <input type="checkbox"/> Others follow me	___ of 5
Mercy	<input type="checkbox"/> I hurt for the hurting <input type="checkbox"/> I care about the needy <input type="checkbox"/> I visit with the lonely <input type="checkbox"/> Too many are ignored <input type="checkbox"/> I feel I should do more	___ of 5
Missions	<input type="checkbox"/> I help new churches <input type="checkbox"/> I enjoy mission trips <input type="checkbox"/> I can train leaders <input type="checkbox"/> I pray for the world <input type="checkbox"/> All cultures need Jesus	___ of 5

GIFTS	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL
Prophecy	<input type="checkbox"/> I hate sin <input type="checkbox"/> I confront sin <input type="checkbox"/> I must speak out <input type="checkbox"/> I hear from God <input type="checkbox"/> God's truth compels me	___ of 5
Serving	<input type="checkbox"/> I am quick to offer help <input type="checkbox"/> I do jobs others won't <input type="checkbox"/> No job is beneath me <input type="checkbox"/> I work to serve God <input type="checkbox"/> I don't just sit around	___ of 5
Shepherding	<input type="checkbox"/> I help others spiritually <input type="checkbox"/> I try to be an example <input type="checkbox"/> I like to facilitate groups <input type="checkbox"/> I enjoy helping people <input type="checkbox"/> People trust me	___ of 5
Teaching	<input type="checkbox"/> I help people learn <input type="checkbox"/> I can prepare lessons <input type="checkbox"/> I enjoy teaching others <input type="checkbox"/> I am creative <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching is important	___ of 5
Wisdom	<input type="checkbox"/> I know how things end <input type="checkbox"/> I have unique insight <input type="checkbox"/> I can pick the best plan <input type="checkbox"/> My judgments are right <input type="checkbox"/> Others learn from me	___ of 5



GIFTS	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL
Worship	<input type="checkbox"/> I love making music <input type="checkbox"/> I am a skilled musician <input type="checkbox"/> I sense God in my music <input type="checkbox"/> My music inspires <input type="checkbox"/> Worship is my passion	___ of 5

Scoring

5 = Probably DO have this gift.

3-4 = MAY have this gift.

1-2 = Probably DON'T have this gift.

List your top three gifts

(If you have multiple high scores, choose the three you feel best about.)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Caution!

Spiritual gifts tests are neither perfect nor infallible. They only offer you guidance as to what your spiritual gifts MAY be. To get further confirmation, evaluate your past experiences and ask others for feedback.

Developing Your Gifts

Like babies, our spiritual gifts don't come to us fully developed. They need to be nurtured. Here are some ways you can develop your spiritual gifts.

- » _____ about your gift.
Seek out biblical passages and books that teach about your gift.
- » _____ about your gift.
Ask God to give you insight into how your gift may be best used and developed.
- » _____ your gift.
Put your gift to work when others ask for help. Most ministries need almost every gift.
- » _____ your effectiveness.
As you serve you will discover where your gifts are most effective. Use them there.
- » _____ your life.
Your gifts reflect God's purpose for your life. Consider them in every decision you make.



Using Your Gifts

Join a Team

Almost all ministry departments in our church are run through teams. In our church, you can join a team by:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Current Needs

Below are some teams in our church that currently need help.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Next Steps

- Join the church!
- Begin learning and praying about your spiritual gift.
- Begin the process of joining a team.

Answers

- Pg 6 gospel; presence; grow spiritually;
relationships; encourage; serve
- Pg 7 pray; worship God; listen
- Pg 8 connect; learn
- Pg 9 experience healing
- Pg 10 arena; children, youth; community; anything
- Pg 11 accept; believe; call
- Pg 16 teaches; protects
- Pg 17 convicts; encourages; directs; empowers
- Pg 18 connect; receive; helps; essential
- Pg 19 time, place; prayer; Bible; speaks; prayer;
continue
- Pg 20 pray; safe place; accountable
- Pg 21 learn; dig deeper; service; friendships;
biblical
- Pg 26 Holy Spirit; Christian; saved; serve;
God's church
- Pg 32 learn; pray; offer; evaluate; structure

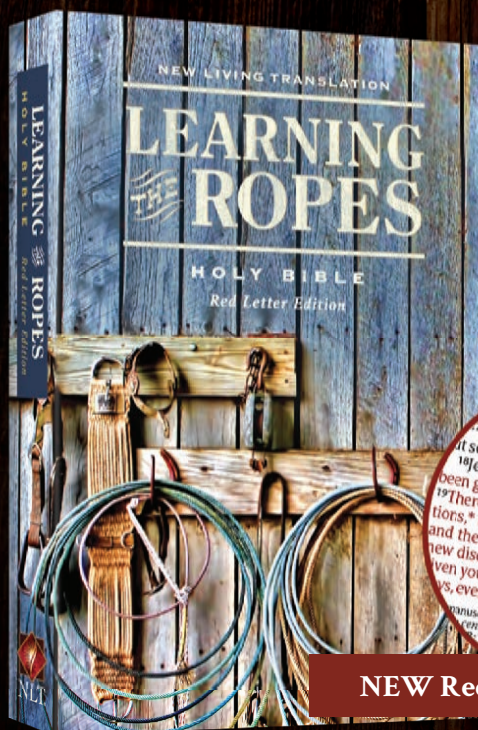
Notes

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