



# ***Church Jumpstart:***

## ***A 10-Week Journey Towards Reviving Our Church***

### ***Session 1: Finding Our Way Back Home***

*“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness...” – Isaiah 43:19*

*“I am making all things new.” – Revelation 21:5*

### ***Welcome! What’s the purpose for this class?***

1. To pursue a season of personal **growth** and **revival** in my walk with Christ.
2. To commit to doing my part to help my church return to **health** and **fruitfulness**.
3. To learn the stages of the **lifecycles** of believers and churches. And to learn to recognize the **thought**-patterns and **habits** that lead to spiritual decline.

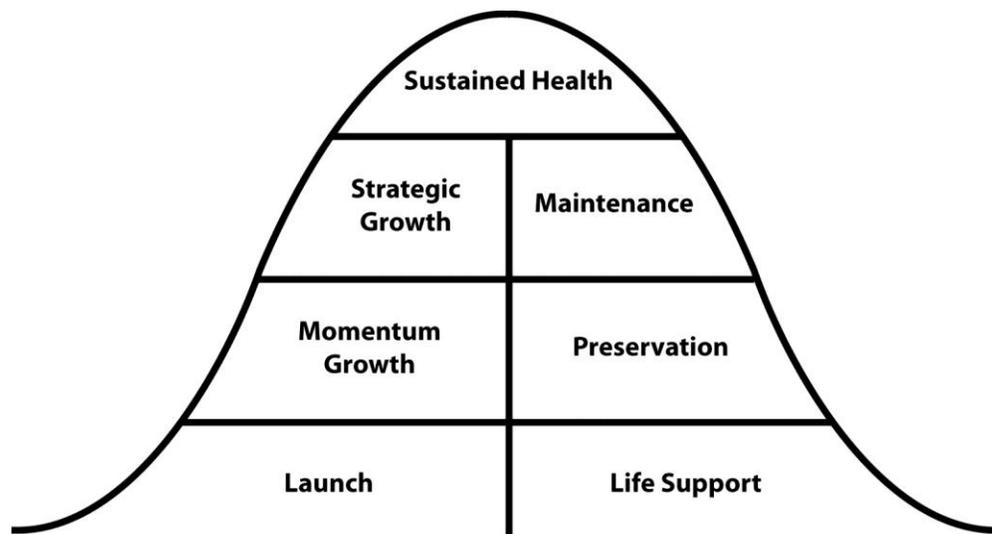
*“Organizations, including churches, can get stuck in any season...That’s why it’s important to determine what season the organization is in. Then we can interrupt it...Without the interruption, the church will remain stuck, and the natural pull will be toward decline and death. Without interruption, death is inevitable.” ~ Tony Morgan*

4. To seek God to discern a fresh **mission** and **vision** for my life and for First Baptist. My life is best-lived when I learn to live **prayerfully** and **strategically**.
5. To affirm that as I grow, the church will grow; as the church grows, the Kingdom of God around me will grow; and as the Kingdom of God grows, new **disciples** will be won to Christ.

*“Churches that survive and move on to the next season of growth have one thing in common: they want to reach more people for Jesus.” ~ Tony Morgan*

## Why offer this class now?

Draw a bell curve in the space below, leaving room for 7 categories.



Here are the 7 categories in alphabetical order. Insert them into the bell curve in the spaces you think they should go in.

**LAUNCH \* LIFE SUPPORT \* MAINTENANCE \* MOMENTUM GROWTH \*  
PRESERVATION \* STRATEGIC GROWTH \* SUSTAINED HEALTH**



*Now...big question: Where do you think FBC is right now on the church-health lifecycle? Write down your answer and a reason or two why you gave this answer.*

Earlier this year, our church called on *Transformation Ministries* to provide help and guidance in moving toward better health. TM took the church through a detailed assessment process. The results are on the next page.

## ***Review Of The Church Assessment***

### **I. Assumptions**

1. Abundant accurate information makes us good stewards of God's grace.
2. It's natural for a church to grow and when it isn't, we ought to pause and ask why.
3. The future God has in store for us is not simply an extension of our past. We cannot continue to do what we've always done and expect a different result.

### **II. Notes From The Survey**

1. 75% of the people have some role, which is good. But where and how the energy is placed should be examined.
2. The majority of the survey were both long term members and older. The danger to be aware of is the tendency to want to recreate yesterday.
3. Over 160 "oikos connections" were identified as friends but not yet Christ-followers. This would be the easiest place to start revitalization.
4. The website is not compelling. New people are often first drawn to a church through its media resources.
5. Growing churches are praying churches and the survey shows awareness that this needs to be strengthened.
6. A third of the church is involved in regular community engagement. But remember: community engagement is not missional engagement.
7. Only 10% can accurately state the vision/purpose of the church. The primary failure of many organizations is ambiguity of purpose.
8. Most of the respondents are not aware of any process for developing leaders and don't know of any leaders who have been trained.
9. It appears that most of those involved in leadership roles are on committees. When a church begins to substitute administration for ministry, committees grow beyond what it needed or healthy, and power gets "siloed", which leads to a "culture of no" (where leaders become resistant to change, to guard their tradition or "turf".)
10. Many say they want to grow. But wanting to grow must be accompanied by applying the principles of health and growth, and also paying the price required (which is usually not monetary.)
11. A majority believe that the church has a great future but there is considerable resistance to change. These two ideas are incompatible. Mission, not methods, is what matters.

***So...why take this class now?***

## *The Roadmap Of Our Journey Together*

While revival cannot be scheduled like a vacation, there are steps we can take, and postures we can adopt, to position ourselves in such a way that the Lord can meet us in a fresh and new way. This journey will have five stops along the way. Beside each one, write down a reason why it's important.

We'll take time to...

1. Look **up**. *Unless we begin our journey by seeking the Lord in a fresh way, we will fail.*
2. Look **back**. *By remembering how God blessed us in the past, we can draw new inspiration for the future. We can also learn lessons of what NOT to do.*
3. Look **around** us. *By looking around us at our community, and asking God to help us see things through his eyes, we'll see the difference the gospel can make.*
4. Look **within** us. *By examining how God has "SHAPED" us, we can learn how we can make a difference.*
5. Look **ahead**. *Because of the work we have done up to this point, we will be better equipped to think strategically in planning for future ministry.*

## *What do I need for the journey?*

Besides the obvious (a Bible, a teachable heart, a willingness to work, prayer, etc.) we encourage you to pick up a copy of our guidebook.



While a number of you have already worked through the first few chapters of this book in our recent *Leadership Jumpstart* class, this class is mostly independent from that one. Where we make reference to the earlier class, we will make sure that everyone is fully up-to-speed on what we're talking about. Readable notes and answer sheets are available at the church website, fbctaft.com, for anyone who would like to download and review them

## *So let's begin the journey.*

The first thing, the essential thing, we must do in a journey toward revival is to admit that there's **nothing we can do**. *We need a fresh vision of Jesus, that will cause us to fall in love with him all over again.*

And so we must *LOOK UP*.

*"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." – John 15:5*

*"Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain." – Psalm 127:1*

But how do we recapture our love for Christ?

*"But this I have against you, that you have abandoned the loved you had at first. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place." – Revelation 2:4*

**1. We need to remember.** Remember....what's so amazing about Jesus breaking into your life and rescuing you from your sin, your selfishness, your hopelessness.

Here's is where two important exercises we've talked about come into play.

*I Love Jesus Because... (write out at least 3 things)*

*My 30-Second Testimony: (3-5 sentences at the most)*

**2. Then we need to *repent and do the works we did at first*.** This points to the recovery of our mission as a church.

This was one of the major projects we worked on in our *Leadership Jumpstart* class, which now awaits *this class* for its completion.

Over the past several sessions, we went to work drafting a new mission statement for FBC. But we did some *serious homework* to get there.

1. We first wanted to look at what Jesus was passionate about in his work and ministry. So we looked up dozens of verses where we could watch Jesus in action. Verses like:

*"The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*  
~ Mark 10:45

*"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."* ~ Luke 19:10

*"I will build my church."* ~ Matthew 16:18

*"And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world."* ~ Matthew 24:14

*"For this purpose I have come to this hour...And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."* ~ John 12:27, 32

*"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..."* ~ Matthew 28:18-20

2. Then we looked at what the early Church was passionate about in its work and ministry. Again, we studied dozens of verses where we could observe the first Christians on mission for Jesus.

3. Then we put took all those verses and broke them up into obvious categories, writing them out on poster board.

4. Then we winnowed down those categories into a smaller handful. We ended up with these categories:

*Discipleship / Equipping / Shepherding / A Growing & Healthy Church*

*Evangelism / Witnessing*

*Service / Love / Caring For The Weak / Welcoming / Health*

*Worship / Staying Close To God / Prayer*

*Holiness / Forgiveness / Repentance*

5. Taking these categories, we did one more exercise, where we shared stories of our church living out these activities in our community, and the impact they made on others. Out of this work, we then each went to work drafting missions statements for the Church. We ended up with this list, arranged alphabetically:

- Become the hands and feet of Jesus: seek, save, teach and duplicate.
- Bring Jesus Christ's beliefs to our community.
- Bring people to Christ, by sharing the love of Jesus.
- Develop fully devoted followers of Christ.
- Empower and encourage our community with the love of Christ.
- Help everyone know Jesus, love Jesus, and to disciple others.
- I'm busy!
- It is our mission to lead people to the Lord Jesus Christ through his love.
- Love people the way Jesus loves us.
- Meet Jesus, show him, mobilize and grow disciples.
- Our mission is to help Christ bring people to him, allow our community to love Christ, and love people as themselves.
- Our mission is to love God, love others, and magnify the name of Jesus.
- To connect with people, equip them with the truth, and set them free in Christ Jesus.
- To shine for Jesus and bring in the lost.
- To show the love and commitment of Jesus Christ.
- To spread God's love through our community and the world.
- We are a church that reaches our world one person at a time.

### And now your homework for next week:

- We want you to prayerfully look over this list of sample statements this next week. Choose your top five. Then we want you to number your top five, 1 to 5. Put a 5 for the one you are most excited about. Then a 4, down to 1, which is the one that you are least excited about. Bring your answers back next week, or email them to me at [pastorbearclifton@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbearclifton@gmail.com).
- Also for next week, we want you to read through Chapter 4, "Sustained Health" in "The Unstuck Church." (Don't lose sleep that it's out of order.)
- Continue your work on "I Love Jesus Because..." and your "30 Second Testimony".