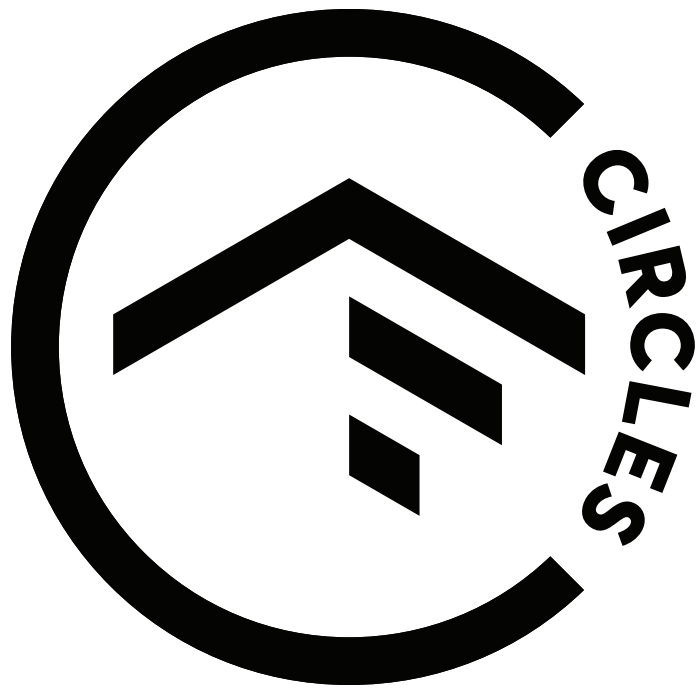
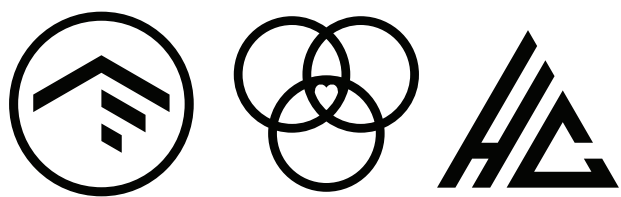
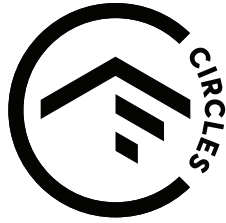




CIRCLE LEADERS





CIRCLES AT VALLEY CREEK

Circles are one of the five things we do at Valley Creek. We have Circles for kids, students, young adults, and adults! We believe life change happens through Circles, which is why our tagline is: Get in a Circle. Change your life.

A Circle is where three or more people gather together in relationship to discuss the weekend message, engage with Scripture, and pray together to grow as disciples of Jesus.

The win for Circles is to help people build relationships and grow as disciples.

FOUNDATIONAL SCRIPTURES

FOR CIRCLES

"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."

— MATTHEW 28:19 —

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER



— MARK 4:1-20 —

FOR CIRCLE LEADERSHIP

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him.

— MATTHEW 4:18-20 —

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

— EPHESIANS 4:1 —

He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach.

— MARK 3:14 —

WE ARE A MOVEMENT OF HOPE FOR THE CITY AND BEYOND.

OUR VALUES

1. We are Jesus-focused, Spirit-filled, Life-giving

Jesus-focused: We're more focused on what Jesus has done for us than what we have to do for Him.

Spirit-filled: We walk in the character and power of Jesus.

Life-giving: We're on mission to receive and release the life of Jesus wherever we go.

2. We are Quick to Repent

We want to think like God.

3. We Pursue Unity with Everything We Have

Our anointing is found in our unity.

4. We are a Family on Mission

We are beloved sons and daughters releasing our Father's kingdom.

5. We Do Everything with All Our Heart

Jesus is worthy of our all.

6. We are Passionate About the Presence of God

We are a worshipping church.

7. We love God's Word

We value His voice above all others.

8. We Embrace the Process

The journey is the destination.

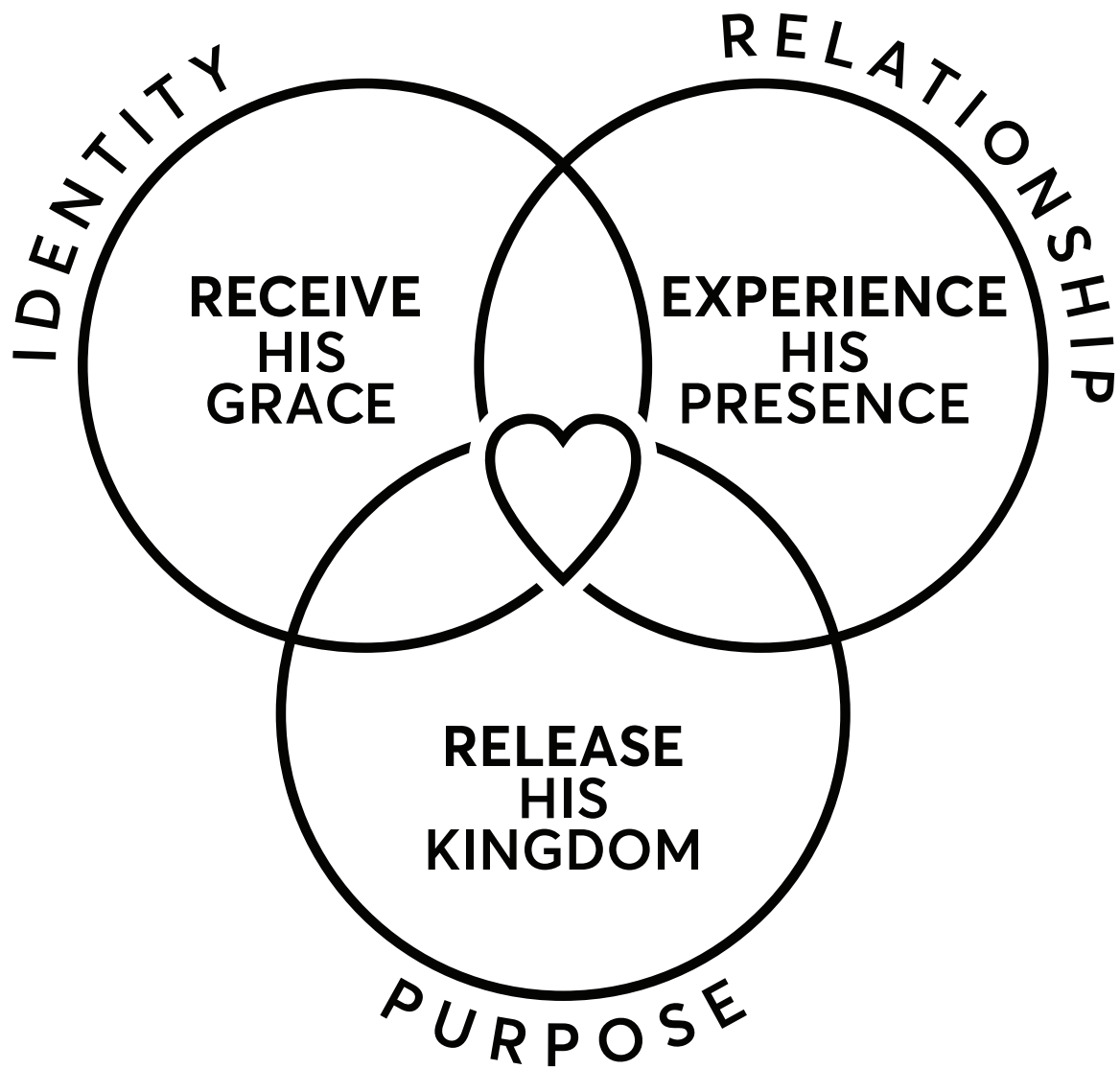
9. We Have a Responsibility to Give What We Have Received

We owe the world what God has done for us.

10. We Believe There is Always More

There's no end to God's kingdom.

THE THREE CIRCLES



CIRCLE LEADER ROLE

LEADER DEFINITION

A disciple of Jesus who takes responsibility to create kingdom culture and make disciples while accomplishing a specific task.

5 COMMITMENTS ALL LEADERS MAKE

1. Live by our Valley Creek values *(on page 2)*
2. Tithe according to Scripture *(Proverbs 3:9-10)*
3. Lead in only one role for a full year and in at least 75% of opportunities *(we have a spring, summer, and fall semester)*
4. Memorize specific passages of Scripture together *(provided each spring and fall semester)*
5. Engage with ongoing development opportunities *(Leader Summits, Leader Labs, and our Discipleship Conference)*

ROLE OF A CIRCLE LEADER

REACH: Create a culture of invitation

CONNECT: Cultivate meaningful relationships

DISCIPLE: Follow Jesus and help people take next steps

DEVELOP: Share your leadership

CIRCLE LEADER TOOLKIT



CIRCLE GUIDE: A tool for your Circle discussion



GROUPME: An app to communicate



LEAD APP: Tracks your roster, attendance, and debrief notes



CIRCLE LEADER RESOURCES: A webpage with all your leader tools



WEEKLY PRO TIP: Training best practices for Circle Leaders



CIRCLE LEADERSHIP SNAPSHOT: Helps you see your Circle's growth each semester

SUNDAY ASSIGNMENT

Sunday is the first place where we experience the life of our church. It's where people gather in rows before they gather in Circles. It's where people move from attending church into belonging to a family and from showing up to taking next steps.

SUNDAYS AND CIRCLES WORK TOGETHER

Circles don't exist separate from the church experience. For many people, Sunday is the first step that eventually leads them into a Circle.

Before someone joins a Circle, they often:

- walk through our doors or engages online
- experience a service
- meet people
- encounter the presence of God

WE HELP CREATE THE ENVIRONMENT WE WANT PEOPLE TO EXPERIENCE

Healthy Circles don't happen by accident. Neither do healthy Sundays.

When we pray before service, we're asking God to:

- move in people's lives
- help people feel seen and welcomed
- draw people into relationships and community
- prepare hearts for what He wants to do

WE LEAD FROM DEPENDENCE, NOT JUST PREPARATION

- God is the one who changes lives
- We're partnering with what He's doing
- Leadership starts with surrender and dependence

WHAT THIS LOOKS LIKE

- Circle Leaders serve once per month in a pre-service prayer rotation
- Leaders will arrive at 9am to huddle with a staff leader then pray

YOUR NEXT STEP

- Choose which Sunday of the month you'd like to consistently engage in pre-service prayer
- Staff will provide a reminder in GroupMe the Thursday before the Sunday you're on rotation to pray

LEADING A GREAT CIRCLE FOR THE WHOLE YEAR

FOUR WAYS TO PREPARE FOR EVERY CIRCLE

1 PRAY & INVITE (REACH)

- Pray by name for the people in your Circle
- Ask God who He's drawing and who you can invite
- Personally invite people to join your Circle

2 COMMUNICATE & BUILD RELATIONSHIPS (CONNECT)

- Share clear details and reminders in GroupMe
- Help people connect with each other, not just you
- Follow up with people throughout the week

3 PREPARE PERSONALLY (DISCIPLE)

- Spend time with the message and Circle Guide
- Ask the Holy Spirit what He's saying to you
- Lead from the overflow of your time with Jesus

4 MAKE A PLAN TO SHARE YOUR LEADERSHIP (DEVELOP)

- Make a plan to involve others in your Circle
- Give people opportunities to lead and contribute
- Look for ways to bring out the potential in others

IDEAS ON HOW TO
MAKE A PLAN



THREE STEPS TO LEADING A CIRCLE EXPERIENCE

A sample schedule

WELCOME AND CATCH UP

To help build relationships with those in your Circle

10 minutes or less

- Greet people by name and create a relational environment
- Help people connect with each other and with God
- Follow up on anything from the previous gathering



CIRCLE CONVERSATION

To grow as disciples of Jesus

45-60 minutes

- Use the Circle Guide to discuss the weekend message, engage the Scriptures, and pray together
- Listen more than you talk (70/30)
- Ask follow-up questions that help people process and respond



RECAP & NEXT STEPS

Because moments are meant to lead to movement

5 minutes

- Summarize what God did in one or two sentences
- Help people identify a next step to follow Jesus
- Encourage people to follow through and invite someone to come with them

AFTER YOUR CIRCLE

DEBRIEF

through the Lead App 📱

To help us see and steward what God is doing in Circles

We believe God is moving in every Circle. Your debrief helps capture the story of what God is doing across our church while giving you one place to document His faithfulness in your Circle and look back on all He's done.

PRACTICAL STEPS

- Record attendance within 24 hours of your Circle
- Share a short reflection of what stood out from your Circle (see examples on the next page)
- Periodically, we'll share a summary of what God is doing across Circles so you can see the bigger story you're part of



FOLLOW UP

using GroupMe 📱, text 📞, social media 📺 or a call 📞 to stay connected

Because relationships grow beyond the Circle gathering

- Reach out to new people or those who haven't been in a while
- Encourage people in their next steps
- Celebrate what God is doing (big or small)

EXAMPLE DEBRIEF NOTES

BULLET POINT EXAMPLE

- Attendance was strong, and everyone shared.
- The conversation focused on hearing God's voice and responding in obedience.
- People were honest about areas where they are struggling to slow down and make space for God.
- Several people identified practical next steps for this week.
- There was a meaningful time of prayer and encouragement.
- Overall, it felt like people moved from reflection into action.

SHORT

We had a great Circle with honest participation from everyone. Our conversation centered on where God is inviting us to respond, especially around creating margin and prioritizing time with Him. Several people identified clear next steps, and we closed in prayer together. I'd also like to follow up with staff to add [new person's name] to my roster—I couldn't find them in the Lead App.

MEDIUM

Circle was strong this week—everyone engaged and shared openly. We talked through what it looks like for our faith to be real and not just routine, which led to identifying areas where God is inviting us to respond. A common theme was creating margin and being more intentional with time, especially in prayer and Scripture. Several people shared specific next steps around rearranging their schedules and removing distractions. There was a meaningful moment of vulnerability that led into prayer for one another. Overall, it felt like a step forward as people are not just discussing but responding. I have a question about prayer too and would like follow up!

LONG

We had a really impactful Circle this week with strong engagement and honest conversation from everyone. We spent time discussing what it looks like to live with real faith rather than just going through the motions. This led into identifying areas where God is inviting each of us to respond personally. A consistent theme was creating margin and being intentional with our time so we can prioritize being with God. Several people shared specific next steps, including rearranging their schedules, spending time in Scripture, and being more aware of God throughout the day. There was a moment of vulnerability where people shared areas of struggle, which created a deeper sense of trust in the group. Others responded with encouragement and prayer, and it was clear God was working in the room. The conversation stayed focused and helped people move from reflection into response. We closed by praying together and committing to follow through on what God is doing.

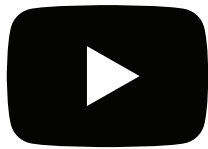
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