

7 LIFE PILLARS



Christian Faith

We are designed to be a part of the church body, not just in the church building, but in all areas of our lives. God is the head of the church and we are the body of Christ, called to do His work here on Earth. When we don't belong, our soul is off balance because we feel alone and disconnected. This loneliness can cause us to feel angry, depressed and alienated. Being planted in your church creates a sense of belonging and allows you to continue to grow in relationship with people and with Christ.

***"Church is where we find where we belong. It's part of our design."
- Casey Treat***

Gathering #1 - Our Beliefs Form Our Lives

Gathering #2 - We are the Church

Gathering #3 - Pillar #1- CFC is a church where you can BeYou through Jesus.

Gathering #4 - Pillar #2- We do all we can to bring people to Jesus.

Gathering #5 - Pillar #3- We are a generational church, tearing down the walls of gender and racial prejudice.

Gathering #6 - Pillar #4- We believe your story matters and God is still writing it.

Gathering #7 - Pillar #5- We practice abundant generosity.

Gathering #8 - Pillar #6- We believe in the transformational power of God's renewal to become like Jesus.

Gathering #9 - Pillar #7- We believe it is all by His grace.

Gathering #10 - Personal Pillars

Romans 12:2 (NKJV)

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

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Gathering #1 - Our Beliefs Form Our Lives

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

John 3:16 (NKJV) For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever BELIEVES in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

MAIN POINT

"If our beliefs are true convictions, they will guide us to discover the full life God has for us."

What we believe determines how our life will look. The taller a building will be, the deeper the foundation needs to be. If you plan to build a big life, you need to first build a deep and strong foundation. Like these 7 pillars. What we think becomes a belief, our beliefs become how we live, and how we live defines our destiny. In the most basic way, a belief in God saves our life. God tells us if we believe in Him, and in His son, Jesus Christ, we will be saved from perishing.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How do beliefs from your past show up in your life today?
- Can you change your beliefs? How?
- Are your beliefs truly convictions that guide your life? Or are they simply conveniences that sound good in theory but don't stand up under trials?
- Share about a time when your beliefs were truer for you than your past or than a report from the world.
- Share about when you chose to believe in God and received everlasting life.

FURTHER STUDY

Proverbs 4:23 , 2 Corinthians 10:5

PRAYER

God, we thank You for planting us in this church body. We ask You to continue to help us transform our beliefs of the past to align with your Word as we discover our purpose. Thank You for Your strength, guidance, and wisdom. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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Gathering #2- We Are The Church

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 1:22-23 And He put all *things* under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all *things* to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

MAIN POINT

“Church is where we find where we belong. It’s part of our design.”
- Casey Treat

We are designed to be a part of the church body, not just in the church building, but in all areas of our lives. God is the head of the church and we are the body of Christ, called to do His work here on Earth. When we don’t belong, our soul is off balance because we feel alone and disconnected. This loneliness can cause us to feel angry, depressed and alienated. Being planted in your church creates a sense of belonging and allows you to continue to grow in relationship with people

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What do the different parts of the church body look like?
- How have you felt alone in your life?
- How has belonging to a church body changed your life?
- Why do people often return to the church when they have need in their life?
- How does being a part of the church body require you to think of more than just yourself?

FURTHER STUDY

Matthew 16:18 , 1 Corinthians 12:27-28, Psalm 92:13

PRAYER

Father God, thank You for bringing us together today to examine these things in our lives. Please help us to see our unique value and place in your body, your church. Thank you for giving us the confidence to pursue the lost and hurting and return them back to You. Amen.

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Gathering #3- Pillar #1- CF is a church where you can BeYou through Jesus.

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

MAIN POINT

“Choose to be the you that God sees, the you that He designed you to be!” – Casey Treat

At CFC we want you to BeYou. The world wants you to fit into a certain box but God designed you to be an individual. You can BeYou, the person that God designed, called and loves. Discover who God created you to be and daily ask Him to help chip away anything unnecessary that life has added onto you. Be the you that is being led by your spirit and not your flesh: the gifted, talented, confident, divine, spiritual, generous, able you.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How do you see the world trying to push us toward conforming to their image?
- What are some areas of your past that you know God can help chip away from you to reveal the real you that He designed you to be?
- What are some strengths that God has created within you?
- If you could talk to the younger you, what would you tell them about how to BeYou?
- What are some of the challenges of living a life that allows people to BeYou? How can we address those challenges?

FURTHER STUDY

1 Corinthians 12:27 , Genesis 1:26-27, Psalm 8:4-6

PRAYER

Father, thank You for carefully creating each of us an individual, reflecting all of Your goodness, glory, and love. Please help us to put away the identity that the world tries to put on us and to put on the identity that You have purposed for us to hold. We ask your Holy Spirit to guide us to fulfill the purpose and destiny that You have created for us. Thank you for the boldness and courage it takes to truly be me. Amen.

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Gathering #4- Pillar #2- We do all we can to bring people to Jesus

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

MAIN POINT

“God makes sure that every person gets an opportunity to accept Him. You may be the one who provides that opportunity.” – Casey Treat

We want all people to have salvation and know eternal life. If we truly believe Jesus is Lord and Savior, what other position could we take? What kind of Christian are we if we are ok that some people go to hell? We activate our Christianity and stir up our love for all people by being salt in a world that’s lost its flavor. We ask ourselves, “How can I be a part? How can I share this message?”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- If it is natural to share about things we like such as sports or a good sale, why do we hesitate to share Jesus?
- How is sharing our relationship with Jesus different than sharing our religion?
- God reminds us in Matthew 5:15 to let our light shine and not hide it under a bushel. What does that look like in your neighborhood, your workplace, your family?
- In Acts 1:8 it tells us that we receive the power of the Holy Spirit so that we can witness to people everywhere. How can this affect your approach to sharing Jesus with others?
- What could you share about how your life has changed since becoming a Christian?

FURTHER STUDY

John 14:6, Acts 1:8, Romans 1:14-16

PRAYER

God we thank you for saving us and putting within us a desire to help others know You. We ask that you help us to recognize opportunities to share your love with people and for the boldness to share Your message with them. We thank you that we get to be laborers in the harvest as we grow Your Kingdom. Amen.

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Gathering #5- Pillar #3- We are a generational church, tearing down the walls of gender and racial prejudice.

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

John 7:24 Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.

MAIN POINT

“How much could our prejudices keep God from bringing opportunities into our lives?” – Casey Treat

In God’s kingdom, we are all one in Christ, not separated in any way. God created us all equally, in His image and likeness, with no one better than another. Human nature fears things that are different but we are led by the love of God which casts out all fear. Through the Spirit of God and His grace, we are able to live together peaceably.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How have you felt judged by others based on your appearance?
- Can you think of a time when you have judged someone else based on their age, gender or race?
- Beyond just being accepting, how can you actively tear down the walls of prejudice?
- How does the Holy Spirit help us to walk together as one?
- If you find yourself with people you don’t understand, how could you initiate conversation to grow in unity?

FURTHER STUDY

Genesis 1:27, Acts 2:3-4, 2 Corinthians 5:16-17, Galatians 3:28, Ephesians 2:14-15, Colossians 3:10-11

PRAYER

Father, thank You for who you are in our lives. We know that each of us is important, loved, and included by You as Your divine creation. Help us to be led by your grace and faith, and not by fear or mistrust. Thank you for creating us as your kids and brothers and sisters in Christ. We love you. Help us to love one another. Amen.

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Gathering #6- Pillar #4- We believe your story matters and God is still writing it.

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

2 Corinthians 3:2-3 You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone. You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

MAIN POINT

"Most of the world may not open the Bible and read it but they are watching and listening to you. Your story is real and genuine. They will hear Jesus in the story of your life." - Casey Treat

The Bible is mostly a collection of stories. God tells us to be witnesses to the world and that simply means to share the story of our lives. We don't need to quote lots of scripture. We just need to be real, share our story, and let God do the rest. Remember that God is still writing your story. You can wake up every day looking forward to walking in the next chapter that He is writing. Will you stay with God long enough for the story to get to the good part? Owill you bail when it is hard?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Briefly name a few stories from the Bible that have impacted your life.
- Before today, have you valued the story of your life? Or wished that your story was more like someone else's?
- Describe a time when either you or someone else shared their testimony and how it impacted the listener.
- How can keeping your story in mind help you when you realize you are going through a trial or challenge?

FURTHER STUDY

Acts 1:8, Rom 8:29, Mark 5:19-20

PRAYER

God, thank You for making me and my story unique. Let me be used by You to make You known in my life and in my world. We ask your Holy Spirit to guide us in ways of telling our story and sharing our experiences so that we may glorify You. We know that you are not done with us and we trust You as You continue to write our story. Amen.

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Gathering #7- Pillar #5- We practice abundant generosity.

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 11:24-25 One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

MAIN POINT

“Christianity is not meant to be a small, barely getting by life. God is a big generous God and He wants us to live in the abundance that comes by the grace of Jesus”

– Casey Treat

The spirit of the world wants us to stay focused on ourselves and our lack rather than thinking of others and living a generous life. God wants to enlarge your life, not take from you and we know Jesus has come that we would have abundant life. Your heart is the door through which God gives all that He has for you. God can enlarge your vision and your faith and bring you to a bigger place in life.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Discuss some of the good or generous things that God has done in your life.
- How do we see and know that the Lord is good?
- Talk about the difference between believing in generosity and practicing generosity.
- What are some thoughts that might keep you from living a generous life?
- Talk about someone you know who practices abundant generosity.
- What specifically can you do over the next week to step out in generosity?

FURTHER STUDY

**John 10:10, 1 Peter 2:11-12, 2 Cor 8:9, 2 Cor 9:5-7, Mal 3:10, Gal 6:7
Luke 10:33-36**

PRAYER

Lord, we thank You and praise you for all of the many blessings you have given to us. Help us to recognize opportunities in our lives to live generously and far beyond ourselves. Expand our minds and hearts to trust in you more and more each day. Amen.

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Gathering #8- Pillar #6- We believe in the transformational power of God's renewal to become like Jesus.

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

MAIN POINT

"Each moment that you choose to believe a god thought makes your life a tiny bit better, closer to the transformed life with Jesus. Day after day, month after month, those will add up until your life looks totally different." – Casey Treat

Many Christians want to live on cruise control and not be confronted with anything to be changed. However, we can have faith, discipline, diligence, patience and desire to renew in order to be transformed. Renewal is not easy, but it is possible with the grace of God and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. You have two camps of thoughts to choose from: worldly or Godly. The thought you pick will decide your future.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How can we be conformed to this world?
- What does renewing your mind mean to you?
- Which areas of your life do you most want to be transformed to become more like Jesus?
- A caterpillar is transformed into a butterfly, not a better caterpillar. How is this similar to us being transformed by the renewing of our mind?

FURTHER STUDY

James 4:4, Col 3:10, 1 Cor 2:12,14,16

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You for allowing us to be together today to study Your word. Help us to identify the areas of our life that need to be renewed and transformed. Don't allow us to become comfortable and content. We desire a purposeful, disciplined, and full life. Amen.

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Gathering #9- Pillar #7- We believe it is all by His grace.

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

MAIN POINT

“Grace is defined as unearned, undeserved, unmerited favor or blessing.” – Caleb Treat

Grace is a gift from God that we cannot earn. We are saved by grace and so it follows that the rest of our life with God will also happen through grace. It is all by grace that the other 6 pillars can stand and be functional in our lives. How is grace expressed and realized in these pillars? ** see below for grace in the CF 7 Pillars.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What does “saved by grace through faith” mean to you?
- Does having God’s grace mean that life will always be easy?
- Share a time in your life when you know God was acting in grace toward you.
- How do you balance your life between living in grace and not trying to earn it through your works.
- Choose one of the pillars and share how you see the grace of God in that pillar.

FURTHER STUDY

John 1:14-17, Romans 3:24, 2 Cor 9:8, 2 Cor 12:9 Hebrews 4:16

PRAYER

Jesus, thank You for saving us, even though we did not deserve it. We devote our lives to sharing your love and mercy with those around us. We thank you for the purpose you have given us and the grace on our lives to fulfill our God-given destiny. Guide us in ways that we can share your goodness always. We love you. Amen.

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Gathering #10- Personal Pillars

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 3:10-11 According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

MAIN POINT

"The work you are willing to put into your foundation and pillars will directly affect the fruit of your life." – Caleb Treat

Each person has their own set of personal pillars based upon what God is building in their lives. They will look similar to your giftings, talents and interests. To have strong pillars, you need a strong foundation. The taller you want a building to be, the deeper the foundation needs to be. Jesus is our true foundation. Don't waste your time building on the wrong foundation.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Is Jesus the foundation of your life? What does that look like?
- Discuss some of the existing pillars in your life. What do your calendar and budget say are important to you?
- What areas of your life could you focus more on being built upon Jesus?
- How can you personalize these pillars? Rewrite them to be things you want to build yourself/your family upon.

FURTHER STUDY

Eph 2:20-22, 1 Cor 3:10-11, Luke 6:47-49, Prov 10:25

PRAYER

Jesus, help us to make You the center of our lives. We know that we cannot be truly strong and satisfied in our lives until we make You our foundation. Help us to identify and make changes to ensure we are prioritizing what is truly important, Godly, and in line with Your Word. Amen.

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