

**OUR STORY - SESSION #1** 



# YOU BELONG HERE

Welcome home! Harvest Church is multicultural, multi-generational, and dedicated to helping every person know they belong here.

In the same way, though there are many of us, we are one body in Christ, and individually we **belong** to each other.

Romans 12:5

You weren't created to do life alone. We need each other. We need a church family. A place to call home. Our prayer is, as you hear more about our story, our mission, and our vision you will know that this is home for you too.

# **OUR STORY**

In 1998 God called our Pastors to pioneer Harvest Church. They have two adult children, Hannah and Joseph who serve in various roles at the church. Pastors place a high importance on basing everything we do from God's Word, prayer, and being led by the Holy Spirit. After receiving training at Rhema Bible College and serving for 8 years at St. Peter's World Outreach Church in Winston Salem, Pastors Joe and Misti stepped out in faith and began to teach the Word to those hungry for God. As they remained faithful to the call of God on their lives, God began to impact the lives of more and more families over the years. From the basement of a home, to a storefront building, to the place we call home today, the number of lives reached for Jesus continues to grow.

Though the methods may have changes and evolved over the years, the mission and vision has remained the same. Love God, Love People, Live with Purpose. Reach, Connect, Grow, and Serve.



# Harvest Code of Conduct

Everyone lives by a code - a set of values. These values shape how we make decisions. A church is no different. The values we cling to shape our culture. They keep us on the right path as we seek to fulfill the vision and purpose God has set before us. They define the DNA of Harvest Church.

- Our highest priorities are the Word of God and Prayer.
- The Word of God is our standard and our final authority.
- We identify with...The Kingdom Culture and hold a biblical worldview.
- We represent God and Harvest Church both publicly and privately.
- We value humility; we are approachable, coachable, and teachable.
- We practice accountability, team collaboration and how we can improve.
- We respect confidentiality, protocol, and always do our best to communicate clearly.
- We operate in a "NO STRIFE" zone where gossip and disunity are not tolerated.
- We pursue peace, balance, proper pace, and we value family.
- We walk in the Love of God & Honor towards EVERYONE. (1 Cor. 13:4-8 Amp.)

# THE MISSION

### LOVE GOD. LOVE PEOPLE. LIVE WITH PURPOSE.

'Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Matthew 22:37-39

### LOVE GOD.

We love him, because he first loved us. 1 John 4:19

In everything that we do loving God comes first. He and He alone is worthy of all our adoration and praise. By positioning our hearts to first love Him, everything in our lives begins to fall into place. We love Him by doing what He tells us in His Word and being led by His Spirit. There is no greater honor than loving God.



### LOVE PEOPLE.

'And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins." ' I Peter 4:8

Loving people is the reason Jesus came. "For God so loved the world that He gave is son..." (John 3:16). When we love others we are acting most like God. When someone experiences the love of God they are forever changed. We aren't created to do life alone but rather we are called to love one another "for the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit" (Romans 5:5).

### LIVE WITH PURPOSE.

'For I know the plans and thoughts that I have for you,' says the Lord, 'plans for peace and well-being and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.'

Jeremiah 29:11

You have been created and designed with and for a purpose. "You are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works." (Ephesians 2:10). Not only does God love you, not only has He saved you, but He has also equipped you to walk in the freedom He carries. We walk out this purpose together by practically and faithfully applying His Word to our lives daily. It is our aim to follow His plans, His purposes, and His pursuits.



# THE VISION

#### REACH. CONNECT. GROW. SERVE.

Where there is no vision, the people perish: But he that keepeth the law, happy is he.

Proverbs 29:18

### REACH.

'And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. ' Mark 16:15

Then He said to them, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest (*Luke 10:2*). Most all of us have been impacted in a divine way because someone cared enough to invite, share, or show godly kindness toward us. As Jesus lived His life for others, we also endeavor to reach others with the very same loving kindness He shows us everyday.

# CONNECT.

'A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, Is God in His holy habitation. God sets the solitary in families; He brings out those who are bound into prosperity; But the rebellious dwell in a dry land.'

Psalms 68:5-6

At Harvest Church we do life together. We are intentional about creating opportunities for our Harvest family to grow closer together. We aren't meant to do life alone. In fact, an essential quality of life, and key experiences with God are only found when we share our lives with others.

### 3 benefits to getting CONNECTED:

#### 1. Relationship

The connection of one or more individuals sharing common purpose, interest, or activities is the basis for relationship. Choosing to be vulnerable, encouraging, to invest, and to care for one another are all key aspects of healthy relationship.

#### 2. Discipleship

Christ commanded his followers to go and make disciples, teaching them to obey all that He had commanded them. He commands who we're to love – the Father, our neighbors, our enemies, and one another. Discipleship is the process of teaching people how to love. As we share our lives with one another, we learn how to love.

#### 3. Accountability

Accountability is giving another person permission to check up on us. When we share, we're truly connected. We open ourselves up to having others monitor our physical, emotional, relational, and spiritual health. Proper accountability is not intrusive or controlling and is mutually reciprocal in nature.



### 3 ways to get CONNECTED:

#### 1. HARVEST GROUPS

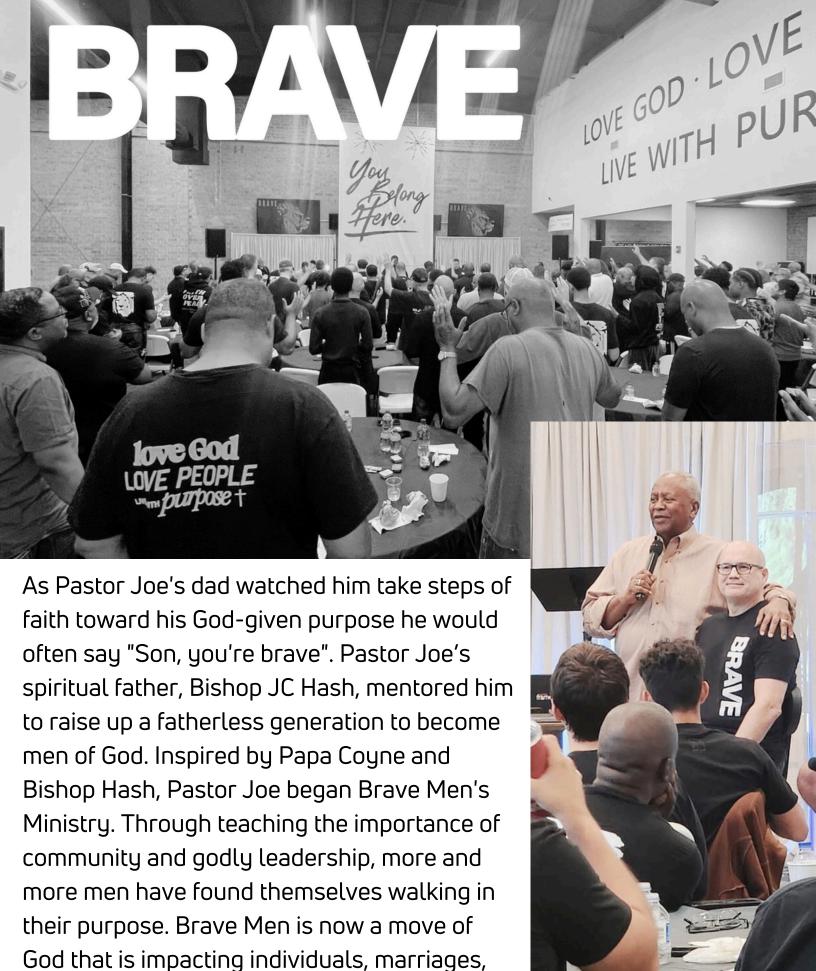
Harvest Groups are a key aspect of finding community at Harvest Church. Our groups are focused on connection and are centered upon any common interest or activity. In these small groups you will be introduced to people willing to pray, worship, or share testimonies and devotions together. Each group has a leader who is connected with the leadership structure. Harvest Groups operate on a trimester system. Signups are accessed on our website.

#### 2. JOIN A TEAM

The Dream Team is the heart of ministry at Harvest Church. Having completed all three classes of Next Steps, church members are invited to participate on the Dream Team, serving in a wide range of ministry opportunities. It is in serving others that we fulfill the call of God on our lives, witness the heart of God in action, and see His Kingdom expand.

#### 3. BRAVE MEN / AUTHENTIC WOMAN

Our mens and womens ministry's are a vital part of community at Harvest Church. Our Pastors are passionate about everyone knowing their identity in Christ and allowing that revelation to help each person grow into all God has called them to be. At Brave and Authentic you will meet new friends, join in corporate worship, and be equipped with the truth of God's word.



families, friendships and is drawing the hearts of men back to their Heavenly Father.



Pastor Misti's heart is for women to know their identity as God's daughter. She is also passionate about creating a culture where women are there for each other. An environment where women after God's heart can be vulnerable, transparently victorious, and "authentic" as they grow in their walk with the Lord. Our women have special Authentic Events planned throughout the year. These events provide a time where women experience the presence of God and build friendships. Our women at Harvest Church encourage each other, pray for one another, and do life together.

## GROW.

'as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, ' I Peter 2:2

God calls all of us to Him just as we are. However, He dosen't leave us as we were. It is His will that we grow into His image. He fathers us to grow into the fullness of who He created us to be. We believe growth comes by hearing the Word of God and learning to apply it to our lives. Throughout the year you will have the opportunity to sign up for many discipleship classes, including classes on marriage, parenting, grief recovery, as well as Financial Peace University. These among others are great ways to learn what the Word says about our everyday life and to grow as we implement these new found truths.

### SERVE.

'You will lead by a completely different model. The greatest one among you will live as the one who is called to serve others, because the greatest honor and authority is reserved for the one with the heart of a servant.'

Matthew 20:26-27

In the Kingdom of God, serving is the way to fulfill your purpose. Noone models this better than Jesus. You will hear our Pastors say
"serve your way to your destiny." It is the heart of our leadership and
a treasured part of our culture that promotes a welcoming
atmosphere to all looking for a church home. There are many ways
to join a team and serve your way to your destiny here at Harvest.
From Hkids to production, to the worship team, to outreach
opportunities, you can find a place that best fits your passion and we
are here to help! Upon the completion of this course you will receive
clear direction on how to find your place and join a team.



# **LEADERSHIP**

As you consider investing your heart, time, and finances into the life of a church, it is important for you to feel confident in church leadership. Our church government is structured to support the values of integrity, accountability, and spiritual authority.

#### 1. We are covered by spiritual leaders.

Every pastor should have a pastor. For over 30 years our Pastors have served Bishop J.C. and Lady Joyce Hash in Winston-Salem, NC as well as Pastors Kenneth and Lynette Hagin in Tulsa, OK. We thank God for the covering they provide for our ministry.

#### 2. We are guided by Church Staff.

The Church Staff is led by our Senior Pastors Joe and Misti Coyne and oversees the day-to-day ministry and operations of the church. Our Church staff serves the congregation and helps to develop the spiritual life of the church.

#### 3. We are strengthened by Ordained Ministers.

Our ordained ministers serve our Harvest family as an extension of our Pastors. From hospital visits, to officiating weddings and funerals, our team of ministers are here to do life with our Harvest Church family.

# **FINANCES**

At Harvest Church, we practice tithing for the support of Christ's body, the Church, as God commands. We recognize that giving 10% of our income is the Biblical standard for supporting the ministry.

"Every Sunday each of you make an offering and put it in safekeeping. Be as generous as you can. When I get there you'll have it ready, and I won't have to make a special appeal."

1 Corinthians 16:2

"Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year."

Deuteronomy 14:22

"'Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,' says the Lord Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."

Malachi 3:10

Giving is one of the central themes in the Bible. To understand what it means to be a Christ-follower, we must also understand what it means to be a giver.

**TITHE:** The tithe, or "first fruits" of our labor/income, belongs to God. We find this principle throughout God's Word. Tithing, giving God the first 10% of our income to the local church, is the primary, practical way we acknowledge that God is first. (Proverbs 3:9–10).

**OFFERING:** An offering is giving over and above the tithe. The Bible says that by giving generously, we are able to "take hold of the life that is truly life." You aren't really living unless you are freely giving. (1 Timothy 6:18–19).

Many people love to give to God; and as they do, they want to feel confident in the organization through which they give. At Harvest Church, we want people to understand they are giving to God through the church, not to the church, and that their obedience to give is making a difference. Every amount given as tithes or offerings is strategically invested in local, national, and worldwide outreach. We take time throughout the year to share a report of all God has done through the generosity of Harvest Church!

# **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership at Harvest Church is not about adding your name to a roster; it's about connecting with the people and the vision of the church. Everyone is welcome to attend Harvest Church. We reserve membership for those who have determined in their heart to commit to and join in with the ministry of the church as we, together, advance the Kingdom of God in our communities. Upon the completion of all 3 courses of Next Steps, you will be invited to join Harvest Church as a member.

#### 3 benefits of church membership:

#### 1. Spiritual Covering

The leadership of Harvest Church, take responsibility in praying for and ministering to the congregation and its members.

Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.

Proverbs 11:14

#### 2. Support System

Harvest Church is committed to cultivating an atmosphere of disciples that can surround each other in support of one another. The essence of growing our members is teaching them to love – both God and others – as Jesus did. This is the fundamental aspect of discipleship. This discipleship is expressed as a support system through a means of multiple avenues such as benevolence, funeral support, and other ministries that are only available to our members.

From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Ephesians 4:16

#### 3. Opportunity to grow

Harvest Church is a place where we serve our way to our destiny. Every believer is afforded the opportunity to grow and mature into the finished work God intended for them to walk in.