

*Essential Equipment for Life*  
**Belonging to a Spiritual Family**

**I. Introduction**

- A. You need the right equipment in order to succeed in life!
- B. I Timothy 3:14-15 (NLT) *14I am writing these things to you now, even though I hope to be with you soon, 15so that if I am delayed, you will know how people must conduct themselves in the household of God. This is the church of the living God, which is the pillar and foundation of the truth.*
- C. Ephesians 2:19 (NLT) *So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family.*
  - 1. You can measure your spiritual commitment by how much you love the Church!
  - 2. There's a big difference between attending a church service and belonging to a church family!

**II. How Will a Church Family Equip Me for Life?**

- A. It will help me focus on God
  - 1. God says every seventh day you take a day off and you refocus on God!
  - 2. Matthew 22:37-38 (NAS) *37"YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND." 38This is the great and foremost commandment."*
- B. It will help me face life's problems
  - 1. I Thessalonians 5:10-11 (NLT) *10Christ died for us so that, whether we are dead or alive when he returns, we can live with him forever. 11So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.*
  - 2. Galatians 6:2 (NAS) *Bear one another's burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ.*
  - 3. Some ways to connect with others here at VCNP:
    - a. Small Groups
    - b. Recovery Groups (Living Free/HIO/GriefShare/DivorceCare)
    - c. Marriage Classes
    - d. Men's events
    - e. Women's events
    - f. Serving with others in a ministry
- C. It will strengthen my faith
  - 1. Hebrews 6:1a (NAS) *Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity.*
  - 2. God's will for your life is that you mature in Christ and become spiritually strong!
  - 3. How do we grow spiritually?
    - a. Reading the Bible
    - b. Prayer
    - c. Fellowship
    - d. Worship
    - e. Church attendance
      - i. If church attendance is not fought for (planned out, prioritized, etc.), you'll lose the battle!
    - f. Tithing
    - g. Training classes
      - i. Newcomers' class/Membership class
      - ii. Ministry Training classes
      - iii. Bible Study classes
      - iv. Marriage classes
      - v. Leadership Training classes
  - 4. There's a big difference between being a follower of Jesus and being a growing follower of Jesus!
- D. It helps me find my ministry
  - 1. S.H.A.P.E. class
  - 2. "Ministry" is anything you do when you're using your talents, gifts, abilities, resources, etc., to help other people.
  - 3. Ephesians 2:10 (NAS) *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*
- E. It will help me fulfill my life's mission
  - 1. Matthew 28:18-20 (NAS) *18And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*
  - 2. There are only two things you can't do in heaven
    - a. Sin

- b. Tell others about Christ who don't know Him
- 3. Romans 10:13-14 (NLT) *<sup>13</sup>For "Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved." <sup>14</sup>But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?*
- 4. One of the easiest ways for you to help fulfill your life's mission:
  - a. Regularly invite people to church!
- 5. What's the difference between joining a church family and just attending a church? One word: commitment!

### III. How Do I Become a Member of a Church Family?

- A. Acts 2:41 (NAS) *So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and there were added that day about three thousand souls.*
  - 1. Salvation
    - a. Acts 4:12 (NAS) *"And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."*
    - b. John 14:6 (NAS) *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."*
  - 2. Water Baptism
    - a. Our next baptism is: March 21-22, 2020
  - 3. Join the church family
    - a. Newcomers' class next Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
- B. The most significant thing you may ever do in your life is to join Vineyard Church of North Phoenix and get involved in a ministry here!

### IV. Conclusion