



HOPE PARTNERS

If you regularly attend Door of Hope Christian Church, have accepted Jesus Christ as your Saviour, are growing in your Christian faith, and call Door of Hope your church and spiritual home, our hope is that you would become a Hope Partner.

A HOPE PARTNER IS SOMEONE WHO IS BOTH DEEPLY COMMITTED TO GOD AND DEEPLY COMMITTED TO THE VISION, MISSION AND MINISTRY OF DOOR OF HOPE CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

A Hope Partner sees themselves as being in partnership with God and other people who are part of this local church. The purpose of a Hope Partner is to grow spiritually and to play their part in helping our church achieve its God-given Mission.

We hope that many people who are involved in and become part of Door of Hope Christian Church will also become Hope Partners.

Our Vision, Mission and Ministry could be summed up in the simple idea that we want to become increasingly "Jesus Centred, Others Focused, Together in Community". If we are Jesus Centred, Others Focused, Together in Community (MISSION) we will become a door of hope, through Jesus Christ, in a fragile and uncertain world (VISION).

Because of this, Door of Hope welcomes people who are at any stage of their spiritual journey with Jesus, and particularly people who are exploring the idea of commencing this journey, or who are simply curious about God.

OUR VISION

To be a door of hope, through Jesus Christ, in a fragile and uncertain world.

OUR MISSION

To be Jesus Centred, Others Focused, Together in Community

OUR KEY VALUES

These are the spiritual values that underpin and inform the Vision, Mission and Ministry at Door of Hope:

PRAYING

GROWING

CONNECTING

GIVING

BECOMING

INVITING



Scan here to register as a Hope Partner today!

doorofhope.au

HOPE PARTNERS

Not Everyone Will Be Ready Right Away

Not everyone who calls Door of Hope Christian Church their church, spiritual home, or community of friends will be ready to become a Hope Partner straight away.

It's About Relationship, Not Rules

We believe that being a follower of Jesus is not about religion or following rules. It's about growing a relationship with God through Jesus - getting to know Him, understanding what He has done for us, and putting Him at the centre of our lives. We can, however, build healthy activities into our everyday lives that will help us to be centred on Jesus and be shaped by the Holy Spirit.

Why There's No List of "Qualifications"

Because being a Christian and growing spiritually isn't about ticking boxes, our leadership team are reluctant to create a list of "qualifications" to become a Hope Partner. We all know that humans are not good at consistently following rules. That's exactly why the Son of God, Jesus, died on the cross and rose again. His righteous life paid the price for our sin (our failure to meet God's standards), and makes it possible for us to have a relationship with a perfect God, despite our imperfections. This is truly Good News.

Suggestions, Not Requirements

Instead of a list of qualifications, our leadership team have developed a list of suggested practices for Christians wanting to become more like Jesus. Each practice is based on Jesus' example, biblical principles and time-proven ways of living that honour God and reflect His best for our lives. They serve as a structure around which our lives can be centred on Jesus, despite the distracted world in which we live. They are highly recommended, but not required to be a Hope Partner.

A Yearly Commitment

Every year, the Elders invite everyone at Door of Hope Christian Church to prayerfully consider these practices, discuss them with others in our church community and in their households, and, if they feel ready, commit to becoming a Hope Partner for the year ahead.

A Commitment of the Heart

The decision to become a Hope Partner is a solemn commitment to honour God and live in partnership with Him and with Door of Hope Christian Church. Yes, we will all struggle, because we are sinners. But God's grace (His unearned favour) and the sacrifice of Jesus, who makes up for all our imperfections, will see us through and help us become more "Jesus Centred & Others Focused," as we continue to love and follow Him "Together in Community".



HOPE PARTNERS

THE PRACTICES

Previously known as “Guidelines for Hope Partners”, the leadership of Door of Hope encourages anyone becoming a Hope Partner to be actively pursuing Christlikeness – becoming like Jesus in the way they live.

Making us more like Jesus is the responsibility of the Holy Spirit – we cannot do this on our own. However, we can live a lifestyle that will make us more malleable in the Spirit’s ‘hands’ – using time-tested practices modelled by Jesus that draw us into God’s presence on a regular basis, we can each be shaped by the Spirit to be more like Him.

This looks different for every believer, and so the following suggestions may not fit your stage of life at the moment. If that’s you, that’s okay - prayerfully consider what else you may commit to so that Christ may be formed in you too.

The following are examples of daily, weekly and monthly ‘Core’ practices for you to consider, as well as 2 ‘Reach’ practices if you want to go deeper. They are applied to each of Door of Hope’s 6 key values. Supporting scriptures and helpful key resources are also provided.



PRAYING

*We believe God is both accessible to us and interested in us.
Prayer is the backbone of Door of Hope.
We expect that we will witness God's goodness,
supernatural power and guidance in all areas of our lives.*

Core Practice *Daily*

10 minutes of prayer

Core Practice *Weekly*

**Spend an additional
5 minutes
in silent reflection
3 times per week –
deliberately asking
the Holy Spirit
to speak to you**

Core Practice *Monthly*

**Pray with others,
for others and
for each other
(e.g. Hope Rising
nights, MissionsPray,
connect groups,
or form a 'prayer
huddle')**

Reach Practice 1

**Take 1 full day (or overnight)
retreat with no technology
or distractions and invite
the Holy Spirit to speak**

Reach Practice 2

**Engage deeply in our annual
40 Days of Prayer and
Fasting season**

Supporting Scriptures

**Matthew 6:5-15
Matthew 7:7-12
Romans 8:26-27
Ephesians 6:18-20**

**Philippians 4:4-7
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
2 Thessalonians 1:11-12
James 5:15**

Key Resources

-  **Praying Like Monks, Living Like Fools** (Tyler Staton)
 **Practicing the Way** - Prayer Practice  **How to Hear God** (Pete Greig)
 **Practicing the Way** - Solitude Practice  **The Prayer Course**

GROWING

We choose to actively follow Jesus; committed to continual growth, dependent on the Holy Spirit to be disciple makers. We live as an expression of what we believe; God uniquely created each of us to be in relationship with Him, a reflection of Jesus.

Core Practice *Daily*

**Read and meditate
on scripture
(e.g. Lectio365 app,
reading plans)**

Core Practice *Weekly*

**Engage with scripture
weekly in community
(e.g. Discovery Bible,
connect groups)**

Core Practice *Monthly*

**Engage with
spiritual study
regularly (e.g.
reading/listening to
spiritual books,
podcasts, courses)**

Reach Practice 1

**Fast from food during daylight
hours for 1 day per week to
intentionally draw closer to
God and seek His voice**

Reach Practice 2

**Memorise 1 short passage of
scripture each month**

Supporting Scriptures

**Psalm 119:11
Matthew 6:16-18
Acts 2:42-47
Acts 17:11-12**

**Philippians 1:9-11
Colossians 2:6-7
1 Timothy 4:16
2 Timothy 2:14**

Key Resources

 **Discovery Bible**
 **Lectio365 App**
 **The Bible Project**

 **How Not to Read the Bible** (Dan Kimball)
 **Practicing the Way** – Scripture Practice
 **Practicing the Way** – Fasting Practice

CONNECTING

We connect with, and care for, all people authentically; creating safe, radically inclusive environments that offer support in all stages of life.

Core Practice *Daily*

Provide margin for more personal connection
(e.g. limiting social media and digital device usage)

Core Practice *Weekly*

Participate in a Sunday worship gathering



Core Practice *Monthly*

Invest in deep spiritual relationships
(e.g. host a meal with close Christian friends)

Reach Practice 1

Engage meaningfully in the big decisions of the church
(e.g. Hope Partners meetings / elections of leaders)

Reach Practice 2

Host a meal and invite someone/people you don't know well – showing genuine 'hospitality to strangers'.

Supporting Scriptures

John 17	Hebrews 3:13
Acts 2	Hebrews 10:24-25
Romans 12:13	Hebrews 13:2
Romans 15:5	1 Peter 2:17
Galatians 6:10	1 Peter 4:9

Key Resources

 **The Gospel Comes with a Housekey** (Rosaria Butterfield)

 **Practicing the Way** – Community Practice

GIVING

We profit the Kingdom of God by fully leveraging our God-given time, talents, resources and finance. This allows us to lead the way with extravagant generosity, courageously investing our resources to advance His Kingdom.

Core Practice *Daily*

Actively look for 1 opportunity to bless somebody else either by word or deed

Core Practice *Weekly*

Put God first in your finances by moving towards tithing (giving 10% of your income) and beyond

Core Practice *Monthly*

Put money aside for giving to others

Reach Practice 1

Review your budget and look to increase your margin to be generous every 3 months

Reach Practice 2

Every 6 months, simplify your wardrobe and other storage areas, donating items to charity, or selling items and giving the money away

Supporting Scriptures

**Matthew 6:19-34
Matthew 19:16-30
Matthew 23:23
Luke 12:1-48**

**Luke 16:11
2 Corinthians 8:8-15
2 Corinthians 9:6-12
1 Timothy 6:17-19**

Key Resources



Giving is the Good Life (Randy Alcorn)



Practicing the Way – Generosity Practice

BECOMING

We use our spiritual gifts and talents to serve our church, local community and world. Our personality, natural abilities, past experiences and spiritual gifts allow us to live full, expansive lives, to honour God and love others.

Core Practice *Daily*

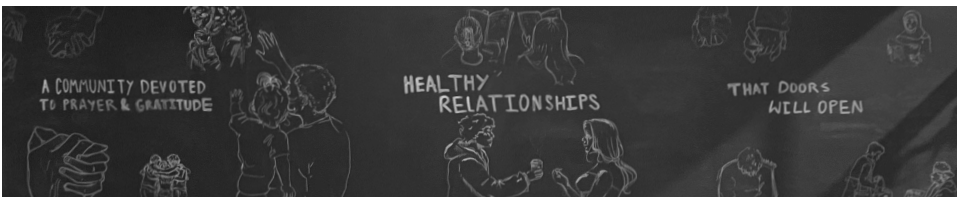
Reflect on your day
with a brief
journal entry
(e.g. The Examen,
gratitude journal)

Core Practice *Weekly*

Use your gifts
and passions
to serve
the church family

Core Practice *Monthly*

Join with church
friends or your
connect group to
serve vulnerable
and/or marginalised
people in your area



Reach Practice 1

Dedicate 1 full day per week
to stop normal work,
rest and recharge, delight in
God's provision and worship
in community (Sabbath)

Reach Practice 2

Seek out a mentor or
Spiritual Director and
meet 6 times per year

Supporting Scriptures

Genesis 2:2-3
Exodus 20:8-11
Deuteronomy 5:12-15
Matthew 25:31-46

Mark 2:27-28
1 Timothy 4:14-15
2 Timothy 1:6

Key Resources

- ▶ **The Examen** (Strahan Coleman)
- ▶ **Practicing the Way** - Sabbath Practice
- ▶ **Practicing the Way** - Service Practice

 **S.H.A.P.E.**

INVITING

We are relentless in reaching people who are yet to know Jesus, inviting them into His love and forgiveness.

Core Practice

Daily

Ask the Holy Spirit for opportunities to love, care and share Jesus with someone

Core Practice

Weekly

1 rich conversation that authentically reveals your faith with a non-Christian friend and/or family

Core Practice

Monthly

Invite someone on your 'daisy' to coffee once per month, with no agenda other than to be present



Reach Practice 1

Invite a friend to Alpha or a Discovery Bible group

Reach Practice 2

Be trained in Door of Hope's Intentional Disciple-Making Pathway

Supporting Scriptures

Matthew 5:13-16
Matthew 28:19-20
Luke 15

2 Corinthians 5:20-21
1 Peter 2:9

Key Resources

🎓 MyFriends
🎓 Planting Hope
🎓 Alpha

🎓 Discovery Bible Method
🎓 Practicing the Way – Witness Practice
🎓 Intentional Disciple-Making Pathway

HELPFUL INFORMATION

FORMAL MEMBERSHIP

The “roll of members” of Door of Hope Christian Church described in our constitution will be the annually renewed list of Hope Partners. Prospective Hope Partners must be approved by the Elders before they can be added to the list of Hope Partners.

The Eldership reserves the right, if required, to remove individuals from the list of Hope Partners from time to time.

And Hope Partners can also opt out at any time.



VOTING

Hope Partners will have certain specific responsibilities to do with decision-making before God about the future of Door of Hope Christian Church in terms of its property and leadership.

- On the sale and purchase of property – Hope Partners will vote
- On appointment of Ministers and Elders Hope Partners will receive an invitation to give feedback as per Matthew 18 on any concerns they have about the candidate's appointment. A general invitation from the stage will be made to the whole congregation to give relevant feedback as per Matthew 18 as well. After considering any feedback in writing, the Elders will either put forward the candidate for Hope Partners support through voting or not. Hope Partners will vote on the appointment of Ministers and Elders indicating their support or otherwise of the candidate put forward.

MEETINGS

Hope Partners are invited to regular gatherings throughout the year to receive helpful updates, celebrate God's activity and to be encouraged on the journey. These meetings happen every quarter or so after a Sunday morning service, and usually include a light lunch.

On occasion, special Hope Partners meetings are called for the purpose of making significant decisions together.

NEWSLETTERS

Hope Partners are communicated to regularly via email newsletters, with helpful information about significant seasons in the life of the church, current opportunities to serve, upcoming events and updates on relevant changes.

While newsletters are infrequent, they can be opted-out of at any time.

DEFINITIONS

Matthew 18 Feedback

To help in the process of appointing Elders and Ministers, we provide an opportunity for the whole congregation to contribute to the decision-making. From time to time the Elders will carefully select suitable candidates to join them as Elders for a 3-year term and carefully select suitable people to be appointed as Ministers for various periods. At Door of Hope, we teach the process as described in Matthew 18 as the Biblical way to handle any disagreement or conflict. If anybody has an objection to the appointment of any of these individuals, on the basis of their character or Christian witness, then they should go directly to the candidate concerned, in private, and express those concerns. If they are dissatisfied with the candidate's response, then they should write to the Elders expressing the concerns that they have already discussed with the candidate, so that the Elders can look into the matter prior to the candidates going forward for appointment. Any written expression of concern must be received by the Chairman of Elders.



Grievances

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy. Proverbs 31:8-9

These verses must be prioritised theologically and guide the process where the concern is of a serious nature or the grievance has affected a vulnerable person or child, someone who cannot speak for themselves, a person who is destitute, poor or needy, or in any other way unable to advocate for themselves.

Once Proverbs 31:8-9 has been satisfied, Matthew 18:15-19 applies as a guiding scriptural and theological basis for this policy.

What is a Junior Hope Partner?

Door of Hope is a cross-generational community, and people of all ages are encouraged to become Hope Partners. However, due to our constitution, only people aged 16 and above will be eligible to vote. Anybody under the age of 16 is welcome to become a Junior Hope Partner and be included in all activities of Hope Partners except for voting. Junior Hope Partners will automatically be given full membership if they turn 16 within the same year.



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