



THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

DISCIPLESHP LEVEL 3
LUZ A LAS NACIONES CHRISTIAN CHURCH



VISION

INDEX

COME TO CHURCH.....	2-3
GET TO KNOW YOUR BIBLE.....	4-5
CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP.....	6-7
WHY TITHE?.....	8
WHY MAKE AN OFFERING?.....	9
YOU WERE MADE TO SERVE.....	10-11
FROM BELIEVER TO DISCIPLE.....	12

Come to Church

1. What is Church?

We are one sole body, and we become members of each other. **1 CORINTHIANS 12: 27:** "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."

We are the Army of God. **2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-4:** "For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds."

2 TIMOTHY 2: 4: "No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer."

2. Why we must attend

It is very common to hear people say that they do not need to go to church to learn about God, which is a demonstration of rebellion.

We are the body of Christ. We are members of each other, and no organ or member of the body can develop independently.

Congregating is a divine order.

HEBREWS 10:23-25: "Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

1 CORINTHIANS 12:25-26: "...so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it."

Submission of the Christian to Authority

It is necessary for us to submit to Church authority, to the Pastor and the Leaders. Submitting means obeying. Why we do it:

Jesus gave the example of submission in **MATTHEW 8:5-13** when he healed the servant of a centurion.

- a. Authority comes from being submissive
- b. Jesus was submissive to the Father
- c. Without submission there is no genuine spiritual power.

Why submit to the pastors?

HEBREWS 13:17: "Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you."

Not submitting is being rebellious and sinning against God.

1 SAMUEL 15:23: "For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry."

Participate in the Church

Get involved in the activities of the church in order to feel useful and so that the Lord may use you in his works.

GET TO KNOW YOUR BIBLE **10**

History of the Bible

1. Period of revelation

The first book that was written was Job, 2000 years before Jesus Christ, and the last was Revelation some 95 years after Christ; all of this happened within a period of almost 2,200 years.

2. Whom was the Bible written for?

It was written for all with specific purposes.

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17: "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

3. Why was the Bible written by those who wrote it?

2 PETER 1:21: "For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."

4. Has the Bible been altered?

REVELATION 22:18-19: "I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll. And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll."

5. SACRED CANON

"Canon" is understood as the list of Sacred, or Canonical, Books. The Catholic Church has added other books to the Bible that do not belong to the sacred Canon and are called **Apocryphal or Deuterocanonical**. It is known that they do not belong to the sacred Canon for two reasons.

They were never mentioned by the Lord Jesus or the Apostles within the New Testament.

They are not found in the Bible used by Jews, and they were those to whom the Lord gave the Scriptures.

6. STRUCTURE OF THE BIBLE

OLD TESTAMENT	NEW TESTAMENT
5 Pentateuch Books	4 Gospels
12 Historical Books	1 Historical Book (Acts)
5 Poetical Books	21 Letters, or Epistles
5 Major Prophets	1 Book of Revelations (Apocalypse)
12 Minor Prophets	
TOTAL: 39 Books	TOTAL: 27 Books

There are 66 Books in total; the whole Bible has 1,189 chapters in total. The original writings have no punctuation. The Old Testament was written in Hebrew, and the New Testament in Greek and Aramaic.

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

The Bible tells us that God is the owner of everything.

1. **PSALM 24:1:** "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it."
2. **PSALM 50:10-12:** "...for every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird in the mountains, and the insects in the fields are mine... for the world is mine, and all that is in it."
3. **HAGGAI 2:8:** "'The silver is mine and the gold is mine,' declares the Lord Almighty."

THE STEWARDS OF GOD RECOGNIZE THAT GOD IS THE OWNER OF EVERYTHING

King David knew that God is the owner of everything.

1 CHRONICLES 29:14

THE STEWARDS OF GOD DO NOT GIVE TO GOD, BUT RATHER ADMINISTER ON THE PART OF GOD

They must be faithful administrators.

1 CORINTHIANS 4:2

We must be faithful in the small things.

LUKE 16:10

IN FAITHFULNESS GOD BLESSES US

We develop more of the Character of God within ourselves.

LUKE 16:11-13

The presence of Jesus is made more evident.

JOHN 14:21

We begin to have financial stability.

God is pleased when we are administrators and not owners of money.

God is pleased when we are faithful and apply Biblical principles.

PSALM 35:27

Scriptural Basis: **1 CORINTHIANS 4:2:** "Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful."

1. **Now** – That means above all things. The living Bible says: NOW MOST IMPORTANTLY. It is necessary for us to understand that being faithful is what is most important in our lives.
2. **It is required** – This means that it is not optional. Many things may be designated as optional. But with regard to stewardship, **there is no option**; we must be faithful.
3. **Those who have been given a trust** – These are the administrators, agents, stewards or treasurers. They are people trusted with property that is not their own, but who safeguard it and work with it as though it were their own.
4. **Must prove faithful** – This speaks to us of the time in which the faithfulness of the stewards is tested to see its quality and to promote them to greater things. (**MATTHEW 25:21, 29**)
5. **This is God's time for us to be faithful. MATTHEW 24: 45-47:** We must learn to be faithful and careful with the things that God has given us, and to be wise in order to take advantage of the time for glorifying God.



WHY TITHE?

A Verse to Memorize: **MALACHI 3:10**: "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."

Name of Christ: The Sower. **MATTHEW 13:37**

God receives the attitude and praise of the person who tithes. God does not need things or money; he is the owner of everything, but the people must provide for his house and his servants.

PSALM 50:10-14: "...for every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird in the mountains, and the insects in the fields are mine. If I were hungry I would not tell you, for the world is mine, and all that is in it. Do I eat the flesh of bulls or drink the blood of goats? 'Sacrifice thank offerings to God, fulfill your vows to the Most High....'"

1. WHAT IS THE TITHE?

It is one tenth of what we receive on the part of God.

DEUTERONOMY 14:22: "Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year."

LEVITICUS 27:30: "A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord."

2. WHERE THE TITHE IS BROUGHT

It was brought to two specific places:

It was given to the Levites. (**LEVITICUS 6:14**)

It was brought to the granary (large place of storage next to the temple).

RESULTS OF TITHING

What has been asked for is received. (**DEUTERONOMY 14:26**)

Happiness and joy is received in the family. (**DEUTERONOMY 14:26**)

The doors to heaven are opened.

MALACHI 3:10: "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."

WHY MAKE AN OFFERING?

Text to Memorize: **LUKE 6:38**: "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap."

Name of Christ: Offering and Sacrifice to God. (**EPHESIANS 5:2**)

1. **WHAT IS THE OFFERING?** It means a present for the Lord.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:7: "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

1 CORINTHIANS 16:2: "On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income."

2. **WHERE IS THE OFFERING BROUGHT?**

EXODUS 35:5: "From what you have, take an offering for the Lord. Everyone who is willing is to bring to the Lord." **DEUTERONOMY 12:11-14**

3. **RESULTS OF THE OFFERING**

MALACHI 3:10: "...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.'"

LUKE 6:38: "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap."

4. **SPECIAL BLESSING FOR THE OFFERING:**

NUMBERS 6:22-26

5. **SPECIAL PROMISE FOR THE OFFERINGS:**

PROVERBS 3:9-17

6. **FIRST FRUITS**

EZEKIEL 44:30: "The best of all the first fruits and of all your special gifts will belong to the priests. You are to give them the first portion of your ground meal so that a blessing may rest on your household."

YOU WERE MADE TO SERVE GOD

SCRIPTURAL BASIS: "WHAT, AFTER ALL, IS APOLLOS? AND WHAT IS PAUL? ONLY SERVANTS, THROUGH WHOM YOU CAME TO BELIEVE — AS THE LORD HAS ASSIGNED TO EACH HIS TASK. I PLANTED THE SEED, APOLLOS WATERED IT, BUT GOD HAS BEEN MAKING IT GROW." **1 CORINTHIANS 3:5-6**

Accept your assignment.

"FOR WE ARE GOD'S HANDIWORK, CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS TO DO GOOD WORKS, WHICH GOD PREPARED IN ADVANCE FOR US TO DO." **EPHESIANS 2:10 (NIV)**

You were put on earth to provide something.

You were not created solely to consume resources, to eat, breathe and take up space. God designed you so that you could make a difference with your life. There are many books offering counsel with regard to how to obtain a better quality of life, which is certainly not the reason that God made you. You were created to add life to earth, not to take it away. God wants you to give him something in return.

You were placed at the service of God.

The Bible gives us the details.

Created to serve God. The Bible says: "God created us for a life of good Works, which he has prepared for us." Those "good Works" are your service. As long as you serve others in any way, you are really serving God and fulfilling one of your purposes. What God told Jeremiah is also valid for you: "Before I formed you in the womb I chose you; before you were born I set you apart." You were placed on this planet to fulfill a special assignment.

Saved in order to serve God.

The Bible declares: "He has saved us and called us to a holy life — not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace." God redeemed you so that you could live your "holy life." You are not saved by good works, but rather for good works. In the kingdom of God, you have a place, a purpose, a role and a function to fulfill. This gives your life great meaning and value.

It cost the life of Jesus himself to buy your salvation.

The Bible reminds us that we were "bought at a price." We do not serve God out of fear, out of guilt or out of obligation, but rather with joy and profound gratitude for what he has done for us. It is to Him that we owe our lives. Thanks to his salvation, our past has been forgiven, our present has meaning and our future is secured. In light of these incredible blessings, Paul concluded: "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God — this is your true and proper worship."

The Apostle John taught us that our service to others done out of love shows that we were truly saved. He said: "We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other." If I do not love others nor wish to serve them, and if I concentrate solely on my own needs, I should ask myself if Christ is truly in my life. A heart that is saved is one that wants to serve.

An example of Service.

When Peter's mother-in-law grew ill and was cured by the Lord, in an instant "she got up and began to wait on him." This is what we must do. We were cured in order to help others. We were blessed in order to be a blessing. We were saved in order to serve, not to sit around and wait for heaven.

A question that we must ask ourselves

Have you ever wondered why God did not take us to heaven immediately at the moment when we accepted his grace? Why does he leave us in a fallen world? He put us here to fulfill his purposes. Once you have been saved, God attempts to use you in his plans. For you, he has a ministry in his Church and a mission in the world.

Called to serve God.

As you came to the Church, you may have thought that being "called" by God was something for missionaries, pastors and other "full-time" people. But the Bible says that every Christian is called to serve. Your call to salvation includes the calling to serve. They are both the same. Whatever your job or career may be, you are called to full-time Christian service. A "Christian who does not serve" is by definition a contradiction.

The Bible says: "He has saved us and called us to a holy life — not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose." Peter adds: "that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." At the moment you use the abilities that God has given you to help others, you are fulfilling your call!

Now you belong to Him.

The Bible declares: "...you might belong to him ... in order that we might bear fruit for God." How much of your time are you using to serve God?

In some churches in China, new believers are welcomed with the words: "Jesus now has a new pair of eyes to see with, new ears to listen with, new hands to help with and a new heart to love others with."

One of the reasons that you need to become a part of the LAN family is to fulfill, in a practical way, your call to serve other believers; everything is important. It is noted in Scripture: "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." Your service in the body of Christ is desperately needed.

FROM BELIEVER TO DISCIPLE

Introduction:

Christian life has an implicit growth process that starts with being born again and ends with reaching the stature of the fullness of Christ. **EPHESIANS 4:5-6**

SHEEP AND GOATS

EZEKIEL 34:17-20

We shall identify sheep as **disciples** and goats as **believers**. And we shall note some differences.

BELIEVERS	DISCIPLES
The believer hopes for fish and loaves.	The disciple is a fisherman.
The believer struggles to grow.	The disciple propagates.
The believer likes praise.	The disciple likes living sacrifice.
The believer is fickle.	The disciple is well-formed.
The believer falls into routine.	The disciple is innovative.
The believer seeks encouragement.	The disciple makes sure to encourage.
The believer seeks to be designated privileges.	The disciple makes sure to assume responsibilities.
The believer mutters and complains.	The disciple obeys and denies himself.
The believer hands over a part of his earnings.	The disciple gives his life completely to the Lord Jesus Christ.

MATTHEW 10:38-39 says: "Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it."