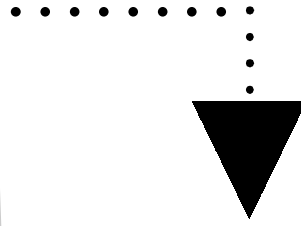


The GAME of LIFE



Procedure

601

How To Manage

WELCOME TO THE GAME OF LIFE SERIES

"PROCEDURE"

This is the last of the basic classes at Abundant Life. It's our goal to help you continue to grow in Christ by giving you greater and greater understanding of the Lord. In class 101 you made commitments to the ABC's of this church, class 201 to grow in your personal relationship with God, 301 to discover your SHAPE, and 401 you learned how to share your faith, 501 you were taught how to have a powerful worship life. In this class 601 you will learn how the body life at Abundant Life comes together.

Remember how many times Jesus would take simple illustrations from His day and use them as spiritual pictures so others could understand great truths of God. So, we are using the game of hockey to quickly represent what we are about.

Hockey is a very popular Canadian sport. Almost everyone in Canada is aware that the object of the game is to put the puck in the opponent's net. This game works well to express to Canadians what they need to do to be a people set free to live to the glory of God.

Our strategy is simple...

The **LORD GOD IS THE OWNER** of the Team.
He enlists **PLAYERS** to His team
Players show up for **PRACTICE**
He gives them their **POSITION** on the Team
His players **PLAY** to win, which is to make disciples
All this is accomplished in and through His **POWER**
Winning is guided by proper **PRODECURE**

KEY TRUTHS:

1. The church is a **TEAM**.
2. God wants you to be **a part** of His Team.
3. A Christian without a church is like a **hockey player** without a team.

It would not matter if you were the greatest player in hockey, if you did not belong and play with a team, you would lose very quickly against even the weakest team. At the end of this course you will be given an opportunity to join the Abundant Life TEAM!

THE GOAL OF THIS CLASS:

The goal of this class is to give you understanding on how things work at Abundant Life. You will have a greater working knowledge of the “why we do it that way”.

WHAT MAKES ABUNDANT LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP THE PLACE THAT CAN GIVE YOU THESE PROCEDURES?

Because it's our GOAL to give you a...

- G** - General Overview
- O** - Overall Team
- A** - Answer the Question
- L** - Leading Out

And now,...

...Let's Play the GAME OF LIFE!

UNDERSTANDING THE GENERAL OVERVIEW

Why do we do what we do?

THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

Why We Exist As A Church

The purpose of our church is summarized in a single sentence based on three key scriptures:

Abundant Life Christian Fellowship's Purpose Statement

To bring people to Jesus to become...

...**Members** of His Family,

...**Models** of His Character,

...**Ministers** of His Church,

...**Messengers** of His Word,

...**Magnifiers** of His Name,

...**Managers** of His Resources

Do you agree Jesus is the most qualified to tell us what the church is to be all about? He made three statements to instruct us what we should be about. Let's look at them.

The Adoration: *"Jesus said, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart ...soul ...and mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and Prophets hang on these two commandments.'" Matt 22:36-40*

The Assignment: *"Jesus said, 'Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.'" Matt. 28:19-20*

The Accountability: *Jesus said, "Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his master will make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of food in due season? "Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. Luke 12:42-43*

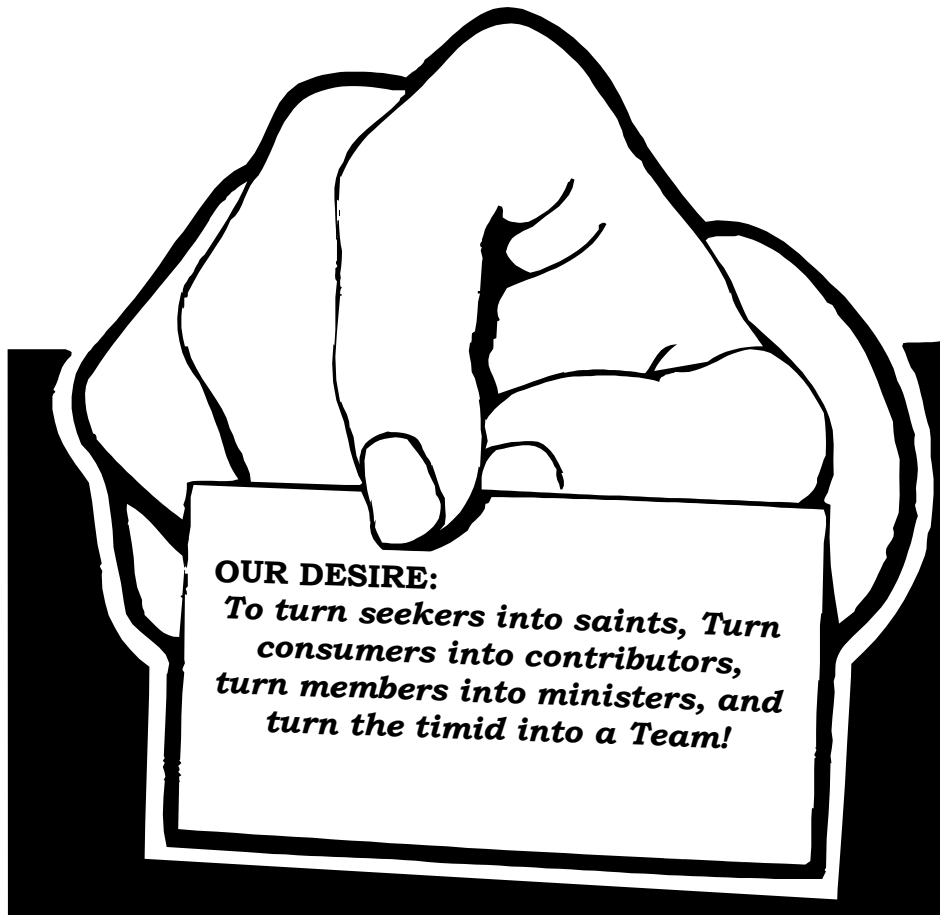


The Six - fold Purpose of the Church

1. To "Love God with all your heart" is
To be a magnifier of His name **"WORSHIP"**.
2. To "Love your neighbor as yourself" is
To be a minister of His grace **"MINISTRY"**.
3. To "Baptize them" is
To be a member of His family **"FELLOWSHIP"**.
4. To "Go ...make disciple" is
To be a messenger of His love **"EVANGELISM"**.
5. To "Teach them ...all things" is
To be a model of His character **"DISCIPLESHIP"**.
6. To "Be a faithful steward" is
To be a manager of His resources **"STEWARDSHIP"**

In a single statement, Abundant Life, exists:

"To Set God's People Free!"



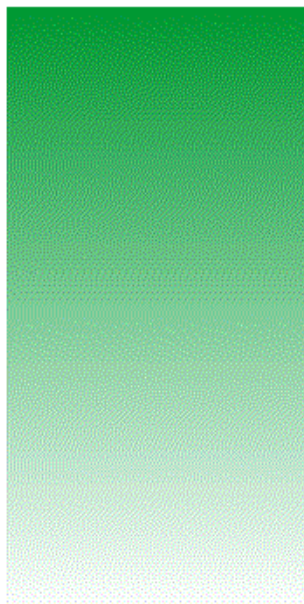
Our Core Values

The true foundation of any organization is its value system. Values are what one believes deep within. These truths drive a church and create the dynamic for a healthy or unhealthy congregation. Our church **MUST** live by God-centred values.

Abundant Life has agreed to live by God's values, values that unite us in a common vision. We desire health at the core of who we are.

These four values are the most important to us.

We remember them as the **TREE of Life!**



T—Truth Will Set Us Free.

We believe Truth brings freedom. Truth is a Person — His name is Jesus. For mankind to truly be set free they must come to Truth. We present this Truth in various ways such as preaching and teaching. The revelation of Christ is found in His Word. Scripture is practical for instruction in everyday life.

R—Relationships Are The Key

We believe the two greatest relationships are with God and people. We must have deep relationships with both. We connect to God with passion and honesty. We connect with others by being real and open. Christ-like attitudes towards others are extremely important.

E—Evangelism Is The Priority

We believe mankind is in great danger if they do not come to know Jesus Christ in an intimate way. Man is in spiritual darkness and lost without Christ. It is the church's responsibility to warn and encourage man to accept the truth of his condition, repent and live for God. Churches are God's means to reach the lost.

E—Empowerment Of The People

We believe every person who comes to God is given a spiritual gift so they may serve Him in love. Leaders equip followers in the ways of the Lord to do good works. Every believer should be having and doing a ministry of service to God. Spiritual leadership is critical to the church's health.

These values shape our thinking and actions. We desire to live them out at the core of who we are as a congregation.

Our Vision

The ways of God lead to life and true joy. It is our desire to obey what we believe He is asking of us. We seek to continue to grow as a church body as we covenant together to live for Him and His ways.

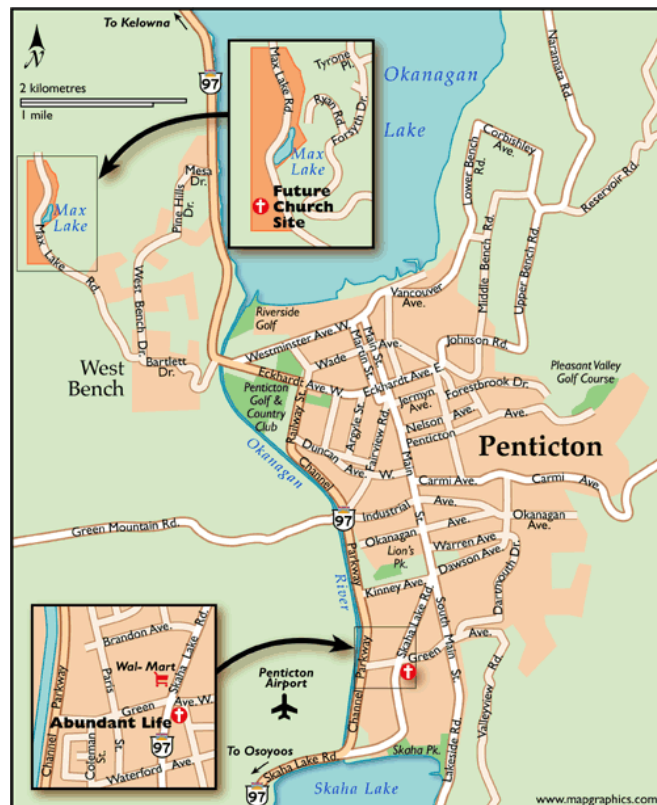
We want to do the will of God. Jesus is the Head of His church and He has a way and plan to reach the world with His message. He allows us to be part of what He'll accomplish.

On June the 4-5, 1999, we met as a church. We prayed, talked and prayed some more until we knew we had heard from the Lord.

Many may consider the vision the Lord has given Abundant Life, daunting at the very least. We believe He is calling us out to reach a community and world with the gospel in a special way.

So many times since June of 1999 the Lord has confirmed and affirmed His will among us. We bear witness to the many opportunities He has given us to continue to walk with Him in this direction.

One of the major ways we have seen the hand of the Lord was when only three months after this vision we were shown 76.2 acres of land for sale where we could build our leadership church. A church where we would invest in people in every walk of life that is serving others to better their walk in life.



Read on and see if He is not calling you to the same task...

Abundant Life Christian Fellowship's Vision

Developed at the Church Vision Retreat on June 4-5, 1999

We, as a congregation, came together to discover what God wanted to accomplish through us. We sensed He revealed to us a great vision, a vision to make a difference in the world around us.

Please consider carefully where you might assist.

It is our dream to be the people of God who provide: love, acceptance, help, hope, forgiveness, guidance, and encouragement to the hurting, depressed, frustrated, confused and dejected.

It is our dream to be a people who are set free, born in spirit, with integrity of character, on mission with God, and proudly sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

It is our dream to welcome at least 5,000 people to our membership, loving, learning, laughing, and living in harmony together in Christ.

It is our dream to equip all believers for a significant ministry by helping them discover their gifts and talents.

It is our dream to develop 500 Life Leaders to facilitate small groups and discover the truth of God's Word.

It is our dream to send out 10 full-time career missionaries and hundreds more volunteer missionaries on short-term mission projects both at home and abroad.

It is our dream to raise up 20 people, that we will fund, for full-time ministry.

It is our dream to start at least one new daughter church every 3 years.

It is our dream to have a global outreach, using multimedia.

It is our dream to have 75 to 100 acres to build a church for Penticton & area, with beautiful yet simple facilities including a worship centre with seating for 2,000 people, a counseling, prayer and care giving centre, classrooms for Bible studies and training of Lay Ministers, a Bible College, a leadership school, classes for support ministries, a place to hold seminars and a recreation area. All this is designed for the total person: spiritually, emotionally, physically, and socially and is set in beautifully landscaped grounds.

This is what we dream. It will be by His will, His working and His righteousness flowing through our veins that all these things will be accomplished.

We are “Here To Set God’s People Free!”

The Game Of Life

We believe the Lord wants us to be a TEAM, a congregation playing the Game of Life together, encouraging and strengthening each other in the Lord.

We also believe there are basics each person should know to really walk with the Lord. We have put these basics into short training classes.

101 - **PLAYERS:** HOW TO BELONG

- A** - Absolute Lordship
- B** - Basic Beliefs
- C** - Church's Vision

201 - **PRACTICE:** HOW TO GROW

- F** - Faithful To The Lord
- I** - Involved In Giving
- T** - Tied Into A Small Group

301 - **POSITION:** HOW TO SERVE

- C** - Congregational Unity
- A** - Applying Your Gifts
- L** - Loving A Ministry
- L** - Leading Others To Greatness

401 - **PLAY:** HOW TO TELL

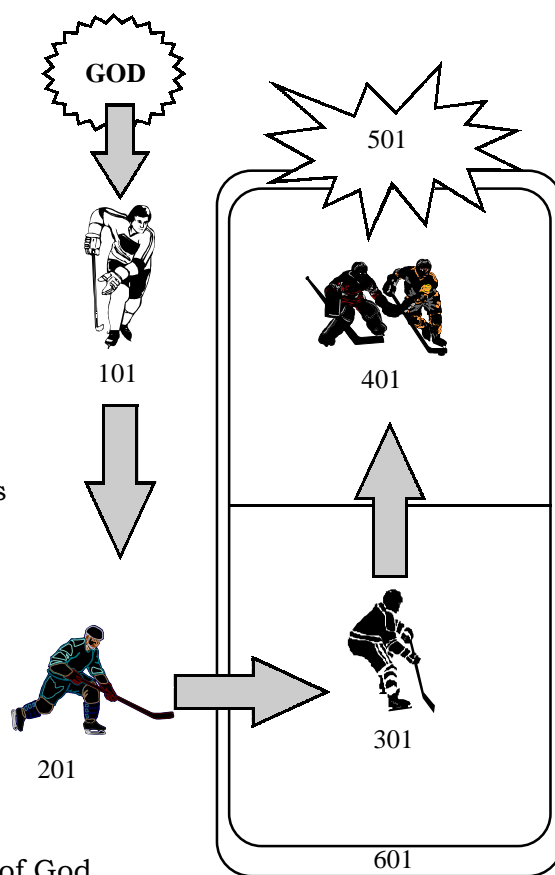
- W** - Witnessing To Others
- I** - Involved In Missions
- N** - New Players to Mentor

501 - **POWER:** HOW TO HONOUR

- A** - Awareness of the Power of God
- W** - Worshipping with the People of God
- E** - Experiencing the Presence of God

601 - **PROCEDURE:** HOW TO MANAGE

- G** - General Overview
- O** - Overall Team
- A** - Answer the Question
- L** - Leading Out



THE GAME OF LIFE

A Quick Overview of What Will We be Doing for the Next 20 Years...

Influencing 1,000,000 People World Wide

Strengthening 100,000 People Through Our Outreach

Celebrating with 20,000 in Worship

Joining 5,000 into membership

Baptizing 4,000 New Believers

Caring For 1,000 Church Leaders

Developing 1,000 Students

Equipping 500 LIFE Group Leaders

Creating 300 LIFE Groups

Starting Churches That Start 100 Churches

Hiring Of 20 People Into Full-Time Ministry

Sending Out 10 Full-Time Career Missionaries

...by 2020

We don't know HOW this will be accomplished we just sense we are to be about a GREAT work!

HOW OUR CHURCH IS STRUCTURED

A key issue for a church is, how do you have diverse people yet maintain unity and harmony? How do you promote harmony and downplay division in the church?

We believe it has to do with everyone understanding and agreeing up front to a simple spiritual structure.

Rom 12:4-5

4 *For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function,*

5 *so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.*

The Bible teaches a church is structured in such a way we all have a function, but it's not the same for everyone. We're equal in importance, but we're different in our roles. And the secret of harmony is for everyone to fulfill their own role and respect the roles of others.

There are Three Roles in the Church

Phil 1:1 Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the Pastors and deacons:

1. The Role Of The Pastor

I. Preservation:

1 Pet 5:2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers...

Pastors are the church's shepherds, and they take care of the church the same way shepherds take care and preserve a flock of sheep.

II. Preparation

Eph 4:11-12

11 *And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,*

12 *for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,*

In many churches the pastor is expected to do most of the work of the ministry. He's expected to see everyone in the hospital, visit the shut-ins, witness to the lost, care for the members, do the counseling, and so forth. The great army of church members sit back and watch him go. At Abundant Life the people do the ministry, ...and it is exciting.!

III. Administration

1 Tim 5:17 Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.

In the New Testament, the feeders are the leaders. The pastor is the church's leader. His job is to oversee, manage, administrate, and direct the church's affairs. At Abundant Life the pastors are the administrators and the members are the ministers. We must respect each others roles in the body.

2. The Role Of The Deacons

We believe the basic role of deacons is to be servants of the practical needs of the church and to support the pastors. The deacons are not to run the church or have any authority based power. They're servants to see the body of Christ remains healthy and strong. It is basically a role of just "lovin' on people". Each person who joins our church is being helped by a deacon. Many times it is behind the scenes but there are people who really care to see every person get connected into this body.

3. The Role Of The Members

The church is like a body and each member is a part of it. Each has a special function of importance. No one is more important or less important than another member. It takes all of us to make the church what it's suppose to be. If I asked you, to make a mountain, which stone is more important, the ones on the bottom or the ones on the top? You would say, neither are more important because you will not have a mountain if each stone is not in its place. It is the same with a church.

The people are doing ministry in Abundant life. They have left the administration decision to the pastors because it would take a tremendous amount of time to update everyone so an informed vote could be carried out on every decision. We do, however, bring the big decisions to the whole body to decide. These decisions include:

- a. The calling of a Senior Pastor.
- b. The Approval of the Personnel for the Governing Board.
- c. The budget of the Church.
- d. The purchasing of real (Land, buildings) property.
- e. The disposing of all or substantially all of the assets of the Church.
- f. The merger or dissolution of the Church.
- g. Making amendments to the Constitution or Bylaws of the Church.

The Governing Board

The purpose of the Governing Board is to evaluate the activities of the church by holding the Senior Pastor responsible for these activities.

A Board of at least five people, elected out of the congregation, represent the congregation throughout the year. They get together to look over and evaluate the activities of the church.

They look at the statistics of the church and suggest necessary adjustments so the Senior Pastor will be responsible to the people. This is so that together they will reach the goals and vision of the church. Every part of the church body is open to the Governing Board so that they can make the wisest of decisions in their evaluations.

The Pastoral Team

The purpose of the Pastoral Leadership Team is to work directly with the Senior Pastor, with authority, to give the Church Body clear doctrinal beliefs, direction, discipline, and focus in all it does.

The purpose of a Senior Pastor is to shepherd the people of God. He is to be the one directly responsible for those the Lord has entrusted to him, to speak the truth in love to the people, lift them up in prayer as he sees that they are equipped for the work of ministry.

The Pastoral Team is the primary leadership team of the church. They deal with the daily, weekly, monthly and future happenings in the church body. This Team assists the Senior Pastor in putting together a strong strategy so that the vision of the Lord for the congregation will be responsibly sought after with all our hearts.

At Abundant Life, we believe that everything rises and falls on Leadership. Since this is the case, we hold our Senior Pastor accountable for the ends. The ends is the purpose of why we are a church in Penticton.



