

# HANDBOOK



# THREE 18

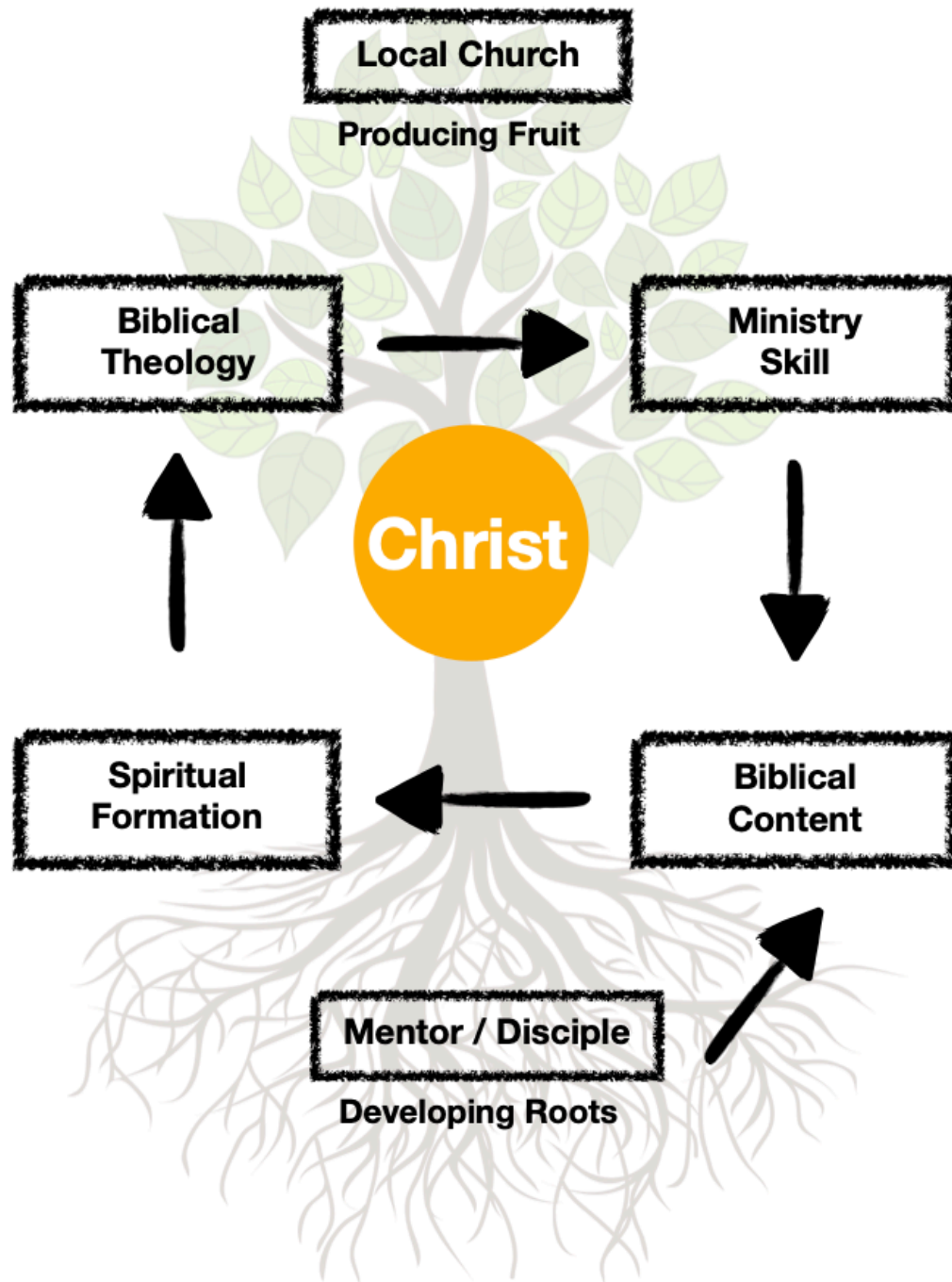


**KNOW...GROW...GLORIFY...**

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## It's a process, not a program



## THREE 18: What it is NOT, & And What it IS.

THREE 18 is **not** a one-size-fits-all information transfer. It is **not** a substitute for college or seminary. It **is** intended to help bring theological proficiency to lay leaders. It intentionally seeks to fulfill the exhortation given by the Apostle Peter, “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.” 2 Peter 3:18 (ESV).

How true for us all— We have to keep growing. We have to keep knowing. We have to remain connected to the grace that comes from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

THREE 18 is a basic process for equipping & discipleship. It is designed to help lay leaders know, love, and obey the One whom they will joyfully spend eternity. The aim is to know God more fully in order that we may glorify Him in everything.

**THREE 18** consists of **three (3)** essential components:

1. **Know** — Theological Training. Knowing God is the fundamental foundation of a disciple of Christ. Strength and stability in the faith comes from knowing Him.
2. **Grow** — Fruit-bearing. A disciple of Christ must stay firmly connected to Him to remain spiritually productive. A branch draws strength and protection from the vine (Jn. 15:4-5).
3. **Glorify**—Love the LORD. Jesus reiterated the idea that glorifying and loving God are one and the same in John 14:15, “If you love me, you will obey what I command.” Simply put, glorifying God means obeying and extolling Him.

## What is a mentor, & why do I need one?

For those seeking the **elder or deacon/deaconess** tracks, a mentor will be assigned to you. More than an advisor or coach, your mentor will help you seek to know Christ more fully and reflect Him more perfectly. They will help you grow in the strength and stability of your faith as you work through the assigned courses and practicums. The Christian life is a long journey, your mentor will help disciple you by summoning, encouraging, and admonishing you toward spiritual maturity (1 Thes. 5:14).

## What are the 3 tracks?

### **Track 1: Leadership – General Ministry**

This track is for all believers who desire to grow in their biblical knowledge and practice. If you are, or are considering, leading or serving in a ministry this is for you. It does not have to be an “official” ministry of PHCC. If God has called you, let us help equip you.

### **Track 2: Leadership – Deacon / Deaconess**

This track is for anyone who may be called to serve the body and assist the elders in service to God’s church. Deacons exercise a measure of formal authority, but always under the authority of the elders and in context of the restrictions the Bible teaches. This is a high calling with high qualifications and great rewards.

### **Track 3: Leadership – Elder**

For those who may be called to lead by example and shepherd the flock of God by guiding, guarding, nurturing, and feeding the church. Please see a special note on page 9.

## How long will it take to complete a track?

It depends. This curriculum will assist you in gaining a comprehensive knowledge of sound doctrine at your own pace. It’s important to remember that the picture of growth that God gives us is progressive—little by little, over time. We plant, we water, and then we keep our eyes on the harvest. Growth usually happens one step at a time. THREE 18 is the starting block of a long race. The goal is sanctification, not necessarily expediency (1 Tim. 4:6-8).

## What does this cost?

Primarily, THREE 18 will require your time and commitment. All classes from PHCC, Grace Equip (GE), and Biblical Training (BT) are free. There are select online courses from Ligonier Connect (LC) and TMS Institute for Christian Life (TMS) that have a small cost. Periodically, PHCC will sponsor online courses for private group studies. Please see the attached course list and visit the appropriate ministry website for information on how to open an account and use the online platforms.

## How do I start?

### Step 1: Select a Track

- [1] Leadership—General Ministry
- [2] Leadership—Deacon / Deaconess
- [3] Leadership—Elder

**NOTE:** You may progress at your own pace and change tracks as needed.

### Step 2: Get a Mentor

**Track 1 (General Ministry).** No partners will be assigned for this track.

**Track 2 or 3 (Deacon / Elder).** You may register via Planning Center to indicate your interest. At that time, you will be assigned a mentor who will help you get started.

**NOTE:** If a mentor is not immediately available, you will be put on a waiting list. You are encouraged to begin taking courses while you wait. Remember, your elders are happy to answer any questions that may come up in the meantime.

### Step 3: Choose a Course

**Track 1 (General Ministry).** This is a self-managed track. Choose a course that interests you and consider prioritizing based on the recommendations in the course list.

**Track 2 & 3 (Deacon / Elder).** Similar to above, choose courses that suit your designated track and coordinate with your mentor to begin your training.

### Step 4: Serve the Body

This is an occasion to apply what you are learning to personal life and ministry. PHCC is dedicated to the practical application of theological insight so we may take part in the Great Commission and build up the church (Matt. 28:19-20).

### Step 5: Make a Disciple

Disciples make disciples! When you have completed your track, or when your mentor indicates you are ready, commit to discipling another person. Remember, the principles of the Lord's life are to be reproduced in the lives of those who identify with Him.

## When can I start?

Any time you want. There's no set schedule. If a live course that you desire for your track is already in progress, you can begin with an online course. If you are assigned a mentor, they can help you learn and apply the course contents and answer any questions you may have. Practicums are always available in the church.

## What is a practicum?

A practicum is a participatory learning opportunity. The principles of the Lord's life are to be followed in the lives of those who identify as His disciples. This affords you an opportunity to apply theological insights to real life. There are many opportunities to serve, and perhaps some opportunities are not yet realized. Practicums may challenge you to try something new—comfort is never a good test of God's will.



“...The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few” —Matthew 9:37

## Sample Practicum

**Note:** These are suggestions only. We encourage careful thought and prayer to consider the ways you may be used in service to God. Your greatest joy may yet await!

### Discipleship

- Begin leading your household in regular Family Worship.
- Lead, co-lead, or host a home group or Bible study.
- Take on a discipleship role with another believer.

### Intercession

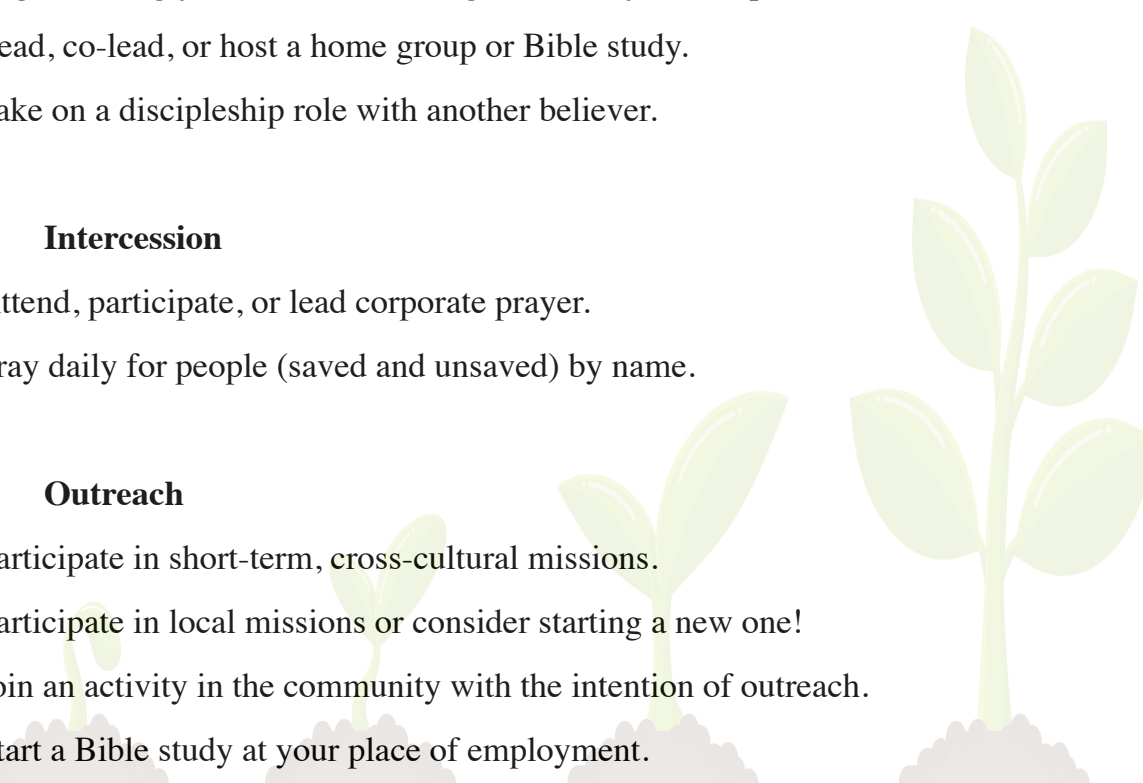
- Attend, participate, or lead corporate prayer.
- Pray daily for people (saved and unsaved) by name.

### Outreach

- Participate in short-term, cross-cultural missions.
- Participate in local missions or consider starting a new one!
- Join an activity in the community with the intention of outreach.
- Start a Bible study at your place of employment.
- Volunteer at a Pregnancy Resource Center (PRC)

### Service

- Assist or lead in Youth Group, Children's Ministries, or VBS
- Assist deacons/deaconesses with a ministry need.
- Accompany another elder on visitations (hospital, nursing home, shut-in, etc.).
- Assist with Facilities, Benevolence, Finances, Ushering, or other church ministry.





## **A call to potential elders**

### **Open call**

The elders at PHCC desire that every man in the church would be equipped to answer the call of elder. We seek to assist and train potential elders, and we extend an open call not only to those men who already aspire to eldership, but also to those who think they may but are not yet sure.

### **How do you make an elder?**

The simple answer is, you don't. You identify them. Elders are called and gifted by God, not by man (Ephesians 4:11-12). Elders are those men whom others find "eldering", i.e., they are shepherds at heart and gravitate toward feeding, leading, protecting, and caring for the flock. The office of elder is merely the formal recognition of those who already qualify by virtue of their character, giftedness, reputation, biblical knowledge, example, and calling.

### **Important disclaimer**

Completing the elder track in THREE 18 does not make a man an elder. Reading books, taking classes, and visiting the sick is good but not sufficient to make a man qualified and called. Rather, it makes a called man better equipped for the work of ministry.

### **Count the cost**

True biblical elders are not a committee or board of decision-makers. They are not trustees or CEOs. They are a council of pastors, overseers, and guardians. They serve and sacrifice. Elders lay down their lives for the flock God has entrusted to them. They are the under shepherds of the Good Shepherd. They fulfill their responsibilities as needed, where needed, and when needed.

### **God is faithful**

If you think you may be called to eldership, that is a good thing and worthy of attaining. But your call should be verified by others in the local church. But be encouraged. God is faithful. If He has called you to eldership, He will make the way!

## Resources used in formation of ministry

*The content and philosophy of ministry is a hybrid of the ministries listed below in order to meet the specific needs at Pleasant Home Community Church (PHCC).*

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### **Books**

“Spiritual Leadership” by Oswald Chambers

“Spiritual Discipleship” by Oswald Chambers

“Biblical Eldership” by Alexander Strauch

“Paul’s Vision for the Deacons” by Alexander Strauch

“Pastoral Ministry: How to Shepherd Biblically” by John MacArthur

### **Websites / Ministries / Churches**

Master’s Seminary Institutes for the Christian Life (<https://institute.tms.edu/library/>)

Biblical Training ([biblicaltraining.org](http://biblicaltraining.org))

Ligonier Connect ([connect.ligonier.org](http://connect.ligonier.org))

Foundry Church, Foundations ([foundrybend.org](http://foundrybend.org))