

stepONE
Connect To Christ **(Follow Jesus)**

The Citygate Story

In October of 2007, Eric and Kim Petree became the pastors of what was then called Towne Worship Center, that had previously been pastored by Eric's father for 40 years.

From the beginning, Citygate has been focused on creating a place for people to touch God, connect to a family, and become fully engaged followers of Christ.

The life-giving message of the Gospel, passion and joy of our corporate worship experiences, and creative style of Citygate brought immediate growth. The church grew from 70 to 300 people in weekly attendance during their first three years, and over 100 people committed their lives to Christ. In the summer of 2010, the vision of a "church that looks like heaven," became a reality and growth increased rapidly. In February 2014, we out grew the facilities we owned and became mobile. In June 2018, God opened a door for Citygate to have a campus in Lebanon, Ohio.

Today, nearly three thousand people call Citygate Church their home. We invite you to see for yourself how exciting church can be when people from different cultures, generations, and backgrounds come together as one to lift up Jesus with passion and purpose. Our Cities Can Be Won!!

Why We Exist

Citygate Mission: To create a place for people to touch God, encounter Jesus Christ, and be radically changed and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Our How - Core Values

Our 8 Gates: We Love People; We are Christ Centered; We are Authentic; We are Creative; We Strive for Excellence; We are Generous; We Worship; We Thrive

What We Will Become Together

Citygate Vision: To connect people to Christ, Cause, and Community.

OUR PRAYER FOR YOU - Take Your Next Step on Your Journey with Christ

"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in His holy people."

EPHESIANS 1:17-18

Our spiritual journey consists of four steps:

1. Connect to **Christ** - Follow **Jesus**

"[I pray]... that you may know Him better [personally]." **EPHESIANS 1:17-18**

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name, drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you'"

MATTHEW 7:21-23

2. **Find Freedom**

"[I pray]... that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened [focused and clear]."

EPHESIANS 1:17-18

"Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed." **JAMES 5:16**

3. Connect to **Cause** - Discover Your **Why**

"... that you may know the hope to which He has called you." **EPHESIANS 1:18**

"We have different gifts, according to the grace given us." **ROMANS 12:6**

4. Connect to **Community** - Make a **Difference**

"[I pray]... that you may grasp the immensity of this glorious way of life He has for His followers [in his holy people]." **EPHESIANS 1:17-18**

"God has given gifts to each of you from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another." **1 PETER 4:10**

Connect To Christ - Follow Jesus

How We Follow Christ:

1. **Study God's Word**_____

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

2. **Talk to God- Prayer**_____

"Always be joyful." "Never stop praying." **1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-17**

This is the confidences we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. **1 JOHN 5:14**

3. Fellowship with other **Believers**_____

- Connect Groups
- Corporate Worship Experiences

"Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage each other." **HEBREWS 10:25**

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." **ACTS 2:42-47**

4. Spiritual **Growth- Fully Engaged Follower**_____

- Church Membership = Accountability = Commitment
- Become a *Fully Engaged Follower of Christ: Serve, Give, Connect, Invite*

"Let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity"
HEBREWS 6:1

5. **Servant Leadership**_____

Give of your time, talent and treasure. "Where your treasure is, there your heart is also." **MATTHEW 6:21**

How Citygate Weekend Experiences Connect People to Christ:

We consider reaching people who do not follow Jesus Christ personally to be one of our greatest responsibilities. Our weekend experiences are for people at all stages in their spiritual journey but are primarily designed to reach those who have not yet decided to follow Jesus Christ.

Our Corporate Worship Experiences focus on four goals:

1. **Celebration**_____

- We believe church should be fun
- Every Sunday is Super Bowl Sunday

"I was glad when they said to me, Let us go into the house of the Lord."

PSALM 122:1.

2. **An Encounter**_____

- Our Mission - To create a place, where people can touch God, **encounter** Jesus Christ and be radically changed and empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- We believe church is the place where people encounter God's presence

"His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known." **EPHESIANS 3:10**

3. Simple, **Sticky**_____ and significant

- We believe church is the place where people learn how to apply God's truth to their daily lives.
- We believe the message should impact you beyond the service.

Paul wrote, "my preaching was not with enticing and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the spirit's power." **1 CORINTHIANS 2:4**

4. **Salvation**_____

- We believe offering salvation is our main purpose and God's heart.

"'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' 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?" **ROMANS 10:13-14**

FIND FREEDOM

Life change happens in the context of relationships. God created us to live in community with others, and it is only then that we can experience the full life He intends for us.

Citygate Groups have one simple purpose: *to bring people together.*

Citygate Groups provide three things:

1. A place to __ **Connect** _____ with others.

"Yes, whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him." **1 CORINTHIANS 9:22**

We were not made to do life alone. God created us for community, and Citygate Groups provide a place for you to connect with others, share life, and grow in faith together.

2. A place to __ **Protect** _____ each other.

"We know what real love is because Jesus gave up His life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters." **1 JOHN 3:16**

When we do life together, our problems become smaller as God uses others to bring support and encouragement to our lives. Citygate Groups become a place where others don't just know your name but care about what is happening in your life and want to support you in your spiritual journey.

3. A place to __ **Grow** _____ together.

"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." **PROVERBS 27:17**

We believe every person is created with God-given potential to make a difference in the world. Citygate Groups are a place you can grow with others to become more like Jesus and reach the potential God has put inside you.

Citygate Groups Model

We base our Citygate Groups model on the early church. As described in the book of Acts, small group meetings in homes helped lay the foundation for tremendous growth in the first church in Jerusalem.

"Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah." **ACTS 5:42**

"You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house." **ACTS 20:20**

Citygate is a church of Connect Groups, not a church with Connect Groups.

Four things to know about Citygate Groups:

1. *Our groups are "free market."*

We want people to gather together based on things they enjoy and are important to them. Essentially, the things you are already doing in your life are the things that can make up your Citygate Group! From sports groups to lunch groups, parenting groups to student groups, Bible study groups to creative arts groups, our groups are as varied as we are. All groups fall within seven hubs:

[Men](#) | [Women](#) | [Marriage & Family](#) | [Students](#) | [Young Adults](#) | [Prayer](#) |

2. *There are two semesters every year.*

Life flows in seasons, and we want to make it easy for you to be in the right Citygate Group for you in each season. New groups start and stop two times a year in what we refer to as "semesters."

[Winter/Spring 13 Weeks](#) | [Fall 13 Weeks](#)

3. *Everyone can join a group, anytime.*

Our hope is for every person at Citygate to be connected in meaningful community through a Citygate Group. With so many groups to choose from, we are confident there is a group that is a great fit for you.

4. *Anyone can host a group.*

Hosting a group is simple because we all have something to offer others. Whether it's something you are passionate about, an experience you've had that can help others, or an area in which you are looking to grow, hosting a group is a great way to bring people together in meaningful community.

[To learn more, sign up at \[Citygate.tv/hostsignups\]\(https://citygate.tv/hostsignups\)](#)

CONNECT TO CAUSE - DISCOVER YOUR WHY

The Citygate Growth Track exists to help you discover and develop your purpose and live the full life God created for you. Growth Track is made up of four steps, which guide you through next steps in your journey: Connect to Christ, Find Freedom, Connect to Cause, and Connect to Community.

"Let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity." **HEBREWS 6:1**

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." **JOHN 10:10**

Citygate Growth Track was designed to help you find your WHY

1. **stepONE**: Connect to Christ (Follow Jesus)

Explore the ministry of Citygate and find out how to connect with our church. Step One takes place the FIRST weekend of every month.

2. **stepTWO**: Servant Leadership (Race for Third)

Find out what it means to be a leader at Citygate Church and learn how you can strengthen your character and gifting to fulfill your leadership potential. Step TWO takes place the SECOND weekend of every month.

3. **stepTHREE**: Connect to Cause (Discover Your Why)

Dive into the details of your personality, discover your gifts, and see how your design reveals your purpose in life and your best fit in ministry. Step THREE takes place the THIRD weekend of every month.

4. **stepFOUR**: Connect to Community (Make a Difference)

Connect to the opportunities available at Citygate to live out your purpose and serve others by using your God-given gifts on our Dream Team. Step Four takes place the FOURTH weekend of every month.

Connect to Community | MAKE A DIFFERENCE

All of us were created by God to make a difference in the world around us. God has a place for you where your unique abilities and passions can impact the lives of others. We believe your life will never make sense until you find, develop, and fulfill your purpose.

“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**

“However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me.” **ACTS 20:24**

“Now God gives us many kinds of special abilities...and there are different kinds of service to God [ministry]...All of you together are the one Body of Christ and each of you is a separate and necessary part of it.” **1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-5, 27**

At Citygate:

- We Race for __**Third**__
- We Get to __**Serve**__

Everyone has something they can do to impact the lives of others in the Kingdom of God.

At Citygate:

Every member is a __**Contributor**__

Every person is a __**10**__ in some area

Every task is __**important**__

Discover what you do well, and take steps to use your gifts to make a difference. Your life will never be the same!!!

You can start by joining the Dream Team at Step Four of the Growth Track!

CITYGATE CHURCH GOVERNMENT

As you consider investing your heart, time, family, and finances into the life of a church, it is important for you to feel confident in church leadership. Our goal in sharing the details of Citygate's government is that you will understand that our church is structured to support the values of integrity, accountability, and spiritual authority.

Our church government is made up of four groups of leaders:

1. Guided by **Pastor** _____ & **Staff** _____

The Pastoral Staff team is led by Pastor Eric. This team oversees the day-to-day ministry and operations of the church. These staff members serve the congregation and are responsible for the development of the spiritual life of the church.

2. Protected by **Board of Trustees** _____

Our Board of Trustees are members of the congregation appointed by the Senior Pastor to oversee the finances and direct the provision of the facilities needed by the church. They provide counsel to the Senior Pastor regarding the major financial commitments of the church.

3. Strengthened by **Care Pastors** _____

The Care Pastors are mature believers in Christ that provide spiritual protection to the church. They are Shepherds of the flock and provide spiritual guidance, counsel and leadership. They also oversee and lead our care teams.

4. Covered by _____ **Overseers** _____

Pastor Eric and Kim are personally submitted to the spiritual guidance and covering of this group. They may be called upon to help in accountability matters relating to the Senior Pastor if requested to do so by the Board of Directors. The Overseers serve as Apostolic Elders.

NEXT STEPS

1. Become A Fully Engaged Follower of Jesus Christ
2. Join a Connect Group. Browse our online Connect Groups directory at citygate.tv/citygategroups. Once you find a few groups that interest you, sign up to learn more and make plans to check them out in person.
3. Complete all four steps of the Growth Track.

stepONE – Connect to Christ – Follow Jesus

stepTWO – Servant Leadership - Race for Third

stepTHREE – Connect to Cause – Discover Your Why

stepFOUR – Connect to Community – Make a Difference
Join the Dream Team