

Community Group Church-wide Curriculum (option) November 9-30, 2025

Unite — Work Together — Become an Example

Cover page 1

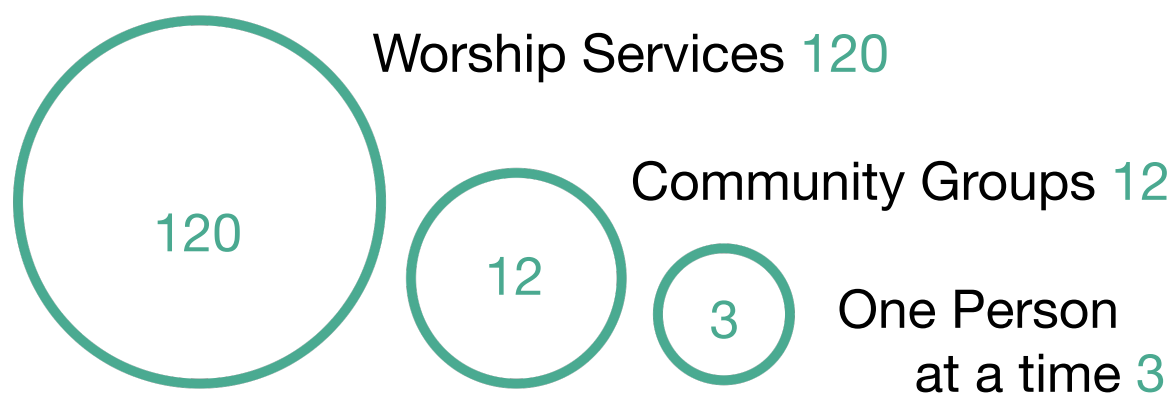
Framework within
Maturing as Members of the Body of Christ page 2

Nov. 9 **Unite** Romans 15:1-14 page 3-4

Nov. 16 **Work Together** 1 Cor. 12:12-27 page 5-6

Nov. 23 **Become an Example** 1 Thes. 1:1-7 page 7-8

Nov. 30 **Pattern** Philippians 3:17-4:9 page 9-10



Vision Statement

Equipping kingdom citizens one person at a time until all have heard

Mission Statement

Embodying, through grace, the priorities of a disciple
& passing them along in relationship for God's glory

glory gospel priorities pattern

MATURING AS MEMBERS OF THE BODY OF CHRIST

Gathering

Giving ourselves to one another in relationship as Christ's body

Stages of Growth as a Fellow Worker to Become a United Example



- 1 Unite:** Join together as Christ's body (ie. the local and universal Church)
for the purpose of glorifying God in thought, word & deed

Philippians 1:27 Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;



- 2 Work Together:** Live as a covenant people, expressed as a local church,
so that each believer as a body serves faithfully as a kingdom citizen

Ephesians 4:16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.



- 3 Become an Example:** Follow the pattern of Christ so that others
personally receive, repeat and reproduce it through imitation,
until all have heard

1 Corinthians 11:1 Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.

Equipping

Making disciples with the life that God has given us

Stages of Growth as a Disciplemaker

- 1 Following Christ
- 2 Maturing as members of the body of Christ
- 3 Multiplying generations of disciples of Christ

Loving

Serving, Encouraging & Caring for our brothers & sisters in Christ

(Common Language, Common Understanding & Common Practice)

Unite

Work Together

Become an Example

United Example

Covenant Statement Intro: “Believing that by God’s grace I have been redeemed through the shed blood of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary, and His victorious resurrection from the dead, I believe God’s will is for me to unite with the fellowship of Candies Creek Baptist Church for His eternal glory and praise, and for my own spiritual well-being and the spiritual welfare of all fellow members. I do, hereby, enter into a covenant relationship with the Candies Creek Baptist Church, pending affirmative acceptance by the church body, by agreeing to these Biblical membership expectations as goals to be attained in the pursuit of godliness:

Unite: Join together as Christ’s body (ie. the local and universal Church) for the purpose of glorifying God in thought, word & deed

Romans 15:1 Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves. 2 Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his edification. 3 For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, “The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me.” 4 For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. 5 Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus, 6 so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. 7 Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God. 8 For I say that Christ has become a servant to the circumcision on behalf of the truth of God to confirm the promises given to the fathers, 9 and for the Gentiles to glorify God for His mercy; as it is written, “Therefore I will give praise to You among the Gentiles, And I will sing to Your name.” 10 Again he says, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people.” 11 And again, “Praise the Lord all you Gentiles, And let all the peoples praise Him.” 12 Again Isaiah says, “There shall come the root of Jesse, And He who arises to rule over the Gentiles, In Him shall the Gentiles hope.” 13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. 14 And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to admonish one another.

1. The Covenant Statement Intro says ...I believe God’s will is for me to unite with the fellowship of Candies Creek Baptist Church. How does uniting or joining a local church fit with New Testament Teaching? (Utilize 1 Corinthians 1:1-2 and check out the definition of unite above to see both local and universal Church implications.)
2. Would anyone like to share what led you to unite with the Candies Creek Baptist Church body? What are you glad to be a part of as the body of CCBC?

3. Not only is God's grace sufficient in our weaknesses, but stronger members are to bear the weaknesses of those without strength. (Verses 1-3) How does bearing the weaknesses of others force us not just to please ourselves? Why is this challenging? Why is this rewarding?
4. Not only are we to build up the body as a whole, but we are to please our neighbor for his good, to his edification. (Verse 2) How can we build up one another in the faith? How do we make progress in our relationship with our brothers and sisters in Christ? How do we help them make progress in their relationship with Jesus?
5. The Old Testament Scriptures provide a means of perseverance and encouragement. (Verse 4) Then, verses 5-6 combines God's gift of perseverance and encouragement with the blessing of oneness we receive in our unity for the glory of God. How do God's grace, God's presence and oneness of His people bring glory to the Father and King Jesus?
6. In verse 7, to "accept" one another means not just to tolerate other believers but to welcome them as brothers and sisters in the body of Christ. What does it mean to accept a brother or sister in Christ? Can we have acceptance without tolerance, and is there anything as a Body of Christ we shouldn't tolerate from a brother or sister?
7. Verses 8-12 balance the priority of the Jew with the full inclusion of the Gentiles. The fulfillment of God's promises in the gospel brings blessing to both Jews and Gentiles. God wants His Church to be a place that transcends any cultural, racial, or ethnic division in a unity based on the gospel. How is our praise of God muted by the divisions among us? How do divisions among us hurt our witness to others?
8. Through the good news of Jesus Christ, God is both transforming individuals and forming a community. How do we focus both on both transformation of the individual and formation of the community? How should we balance the tenacity of holding to the essentials of the faith and patience toward people who hold different ideas on the non-essentials?
9. How do verses 13-14 point us to the truths of the gospel and the responsibility we all have to speak the truth in love to one another in admonishment?

Other UNITE/UNITY passages: Philippians 1:27; Ps. 133:1; Eph. 4:1-7, 11-14; John 17:22-23

STAGES OF GROWTH AS FELLOW WORKERS IN BECOMING A UNITED EXAMPLE:

Stage 1 (synonyms)

Stage 2

Stage 3

Unite (join, link, connect, unify)

Work Together

Become an Example

- A. Is uniting with other Christians a teaching of Jesus according to Jn 17:22-23? How?
- B. Think how stage 2 adds responsibility beyond uniting. Think how stage 3 adds responsibility beyond working together. Do you have any thoughts yet?

Unite

Work Together

Become an Example

*We will **work together** for the continuance of a faithful evangelical ministry in this church, as we sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines. We will contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations. (Church Covenant G)*

Work Together: Live as a covenant people, expressed as a local church, so that each believer as a body serves faithfully as a kingdom citizen

1 Corinthians 12:12 For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. 14 For the body is not one member, but many. 15 If the foot says, "Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear says, "Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. 19 If they were all one member, where would the body be? 20 But now there are many members, but one body. 21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; or again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." 22 On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary; 23 and those members of the body which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our less presentable members become much more presentable, 24 whereas our more presentable members have no need of it. But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that member which lacked, 25 so that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. 26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. 27 Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.

10. Last week we looked at uniting which carries with it the idea of being together. This week, we are looking at how the church is called to work together. Why does oneness require work from all? Why does being the church require work from all?
11. What is the work that we are doing together? Does it take work to equip kingdom citizens one person at a time until all have heard? How does the body work together to accomplish this? How do individuals work with others to accomplish the Great Commission?
12. Aside from the human body, what are other examples of one thing having many parts (See 1 Corinthians 12:12)? Describe how the USA functions as one out of many. Describe how team functions as one out of many.

13. Those who were being saved were coming from all ethnic and socioeconomic brackets of the ancient world (See 1 Corinthians 12:13-14). How is this a call to permit diversity in a call for unity? Why was diversity difficult for them? How is diversity difficult for us? How is diversity beneficial for us?
14. 1 Corinthians 12:13 makes it clear that ALL Corinthian believers have been baptized, and given the level of immaturity of at least some of them, it is impossible that Spirit-baptism should be any kind of second blessing or subsequent experience of God apart from conversion and the initial arrival of the Spirit into a person's life. Compare and contrast this with what Paul is saying in Romans 8:9.
15. According to verses 14-26, **body parts are interdependent**, not independent of each other. Without the diversity that comes from specialization of function, one no longer has an organism, merely one giant organ, unable to do anything. In societies where individualism is valued above corporate responsibility, the importance of the metaphor of Christ's church as a body looms large. How have you leaned into the body as a whole, church leadership or to a brother or sister in Christ? How has someone else leaned into you, the body as a whole, or leadership?
16. Verse 26 speaks specifically of suffering and rejoicing together. This echoes what God says in Romans 8:15. It is difficult to suffer with those to whom we do not feel close. At the same time, How does suffering and rejoicing draw people even closer as they mourn or as they celebrate with one another?
17. Verse 27 says individual members are part of Christ's body. Romans 12:4-5 refers to not all members having the same function and says that individually members belong to one another. What does this mean for accountability, church discipline, benevolence, etc? How is sharing life and sharing responsibilities being the church?

Other WORK TOGETHER passages: Philippians 1:27; Eph. 2:19-22; 4:16; Hebrews 10:24-25

STAGES OF GROWTH AS FELLOW WORKERS IN BECOMING A UNITED EXAMPLE:

Stage 1	Stage 2	(synonyms)	Stage 3
Unite	Work Together	(team, join forces, collaborate)	Become an Example

- A. How did Jesus work with the disciples? Did Jesus do all the work while He was with them? How intentional do you think Jesus was in training the disciples? Why was it important for Jesus to work together with the disciples in order to train the disciples? Why do you think Jesus would ask us to be intentional in this today?
- B. How do the pastors of Candies Creek ask us to work together? How does the structure of our church's ministries lend itself to us working together?
- C. How are we making progress in **gathering**, **equipping** and **loving** one another? How are we making progress in **uniting**, **working together** and **becoming an example**?
- D. How does working together add responsibility to uniting?

Unite

Work Together

Become an Example

United Example

*We will endeavor to bring up those as may at any time be under our care, in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and by a pure and loving **example** to seek the salvation of our family, friends, and the lost. We will, further, make every effort to maintain personal and family worship, and to Biblically train our children for the glory of God. (Church Covenant D) (Ephesians 6:4; Romans 9:1-5; Deuteronomy 6:4-9)*

Become an Example: Follow the pattern of Christ so that others personally receive, repeat and reproduce it through imitation, until all have heard

1 Thessalonians 1:1 Paul and Silvanus and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. 2 We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers; 3 constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father, 4 knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you; 5 for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. 6 You also became **imitators of us and of the Lord**, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit, 7 so that **you became an example to all the believers** in Macedonia and in Achaia. 8 For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything. 9 For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, 10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

18. Verse 1 indicates that Paul and Silvanus and Timothy wrote this letter. How do you think they considered themselves a writing team? How do you think they considered themselves a discipling team? How do you think they considered themselves a missions team?
19. Who did THEY write this letter to? (see verse 1) Were the recipients of the letter a group as well? What was their group called? The Blue Letter Bible App references ekklesia (G1577) and gives a definition of “a gathering of citizens called out from their homes into some public place, an assembly.”
20. Look at words after “the church of the Thessalonians.” Discuss the importance of the Trinity, Father—Son—Holy Spirit, in the church. (See verse 1 & 5) Discuss the importance of grace and peace in the church. (see verse 1) Discuss the importance of thanksgiving and prayer in the church as well. (see verse 2 also) How do the things mentioned in the first two verses unite the Thessalonians?

21. Paul often groups faith, love and hope in his letters. Notice the adjectives that describe those words... work, labor, steadfastness. (see verse 3) Standing in faith while sincerely loving others and offering hope takes work and resilience. Do you have a pattern of thanking God and praying for others in their faith, love and hope as the writers of the letter exemplify? How would thanking God and praying for one another in faith, love and hope build up the body of Christ?
22. Verse 4 helps us understand who the church is made up in the description “brethren beloved by God” and echos some of the thoughts in verse 1. How is the church a collection of believers in God and His love? Or to say it another way, how is the church a congregation of disciples? As you think through verse 5-10, how does the spreading of the gospel and the making of disciples with the power of the Holy Spirit contribute to the spreading of the kingdom? How does receiving the gospel with full conviction lead us to unite with others and work together? See definitions used in this study for Candies Creek Baptist Church below:

Unite: Join together as Christ’s body (ie. the local and universal Church)
for the purpose of glorifying God in thought, word & deed

Work Together: Live as a covenant people, expressed as a local church,
so that each believer as a body serves faithfully as a kingdom citizen

23. Look back at how we defined **Become an Example** in today’s study, and take a closer look at verses 6-7. The Bible verse here speaks specifically about imitating the Lord and our definition specifies the example and pattern of Christ. The verse says that there is an imitation of the writers of the letter and an imitation of the Lord. Paul echos this in 1 Corinthians 11:1. Who have you looked to as an example in the faith and in discipling? Who are you pouring into as an example in the faith and in discipling? Are there certain things that you are trying to embody and pass on as an example for others to imitate as we see here?

Other EXAMPLE passages: John 15:8; 17:4,6; 1 Corinthians 4:16-17; 11:1; Titus 2:6-8

STAGES OF GROWTH AS FELLOW WORKERS IN BECOMING A UNITED **EXAMPLE**:

Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	(synonyms)
Unite	Work Together	Become an Example	(model, pattern, blueprint, standard)

- A. Why do you think Jesus was in a deep, authentic and intentional relationship with His disciples? How much time do you think Jesus spent with His disciples? (Was it daily or monthly?) What are ways that Jesus set an example for the disciples to imitate? Do you think over time the disciples looked like, acted like, talked like and reacted like Jesus? Did Jesus start small—go slow—build deep with His disciples?
- B. How can we create a synergy with one another that builds the kingdom and glorifies God as we follow the teachings of Jesus with a common language, common definitions, common practices and common experiences?

I agree to **pattern** my life after the teachings of Scripture and in a manner consistent with the Church Covenant (Covenant Statement parting statement).

Become an Example: Follow the **pattern** of Christ so that others personally receive, repeat and reproduce it through imitation, until all have heard

Philippians 3:17 Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us. 18 For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, 19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things. 20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; 21 who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

Philippians 4:1 Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long to see, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved. 2 I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to live in harmony in the Lord. 3 Indeed, true companion, I ask you also to help these women who have shared my struggle in the cause of the gospel, together with Clement also and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! 5 Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. 6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. 9 The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

1. Paul had shared a teaching about losing all things in order to gain Christ (3:8). He wants us to see this in the lives of those who walk according to the pattern. Verse 17 uses the word example (in the Greek symmimetes G4831, used only once) and also the word pattern (in the Greek typos G5179, used sixteen times). The word example from 1 Thessalonians 1:7 is actually the same Greek word used for pattern in Philippians 3:17. In some ways chapter 4 breaks into more unconnected paragraphs in v. 1-3, 4-7 and 8-9 instead of sustained argumentation. However, I like to cross-reference 3:17 with 4:9 which provide the starting verse and last verse of the text on this page. Discuss more about how examples and imitation using a pattern are effective training methods in disciplinemaking for transformation and multiplication as well as secular vocations such as a plumber with an apprentice. Coaches often use: SAY IT (explanation) SEE IT (example) TRY IT (drill) TIE IT (scrimmage) when it comes to training athletes.

2. In 3:18 to 4:1, we see the importance of standing firm with the cross (v. 18) behind us and the return of the Lord (v. 20) before us. Both the cross and the return are incentives for us to stand firm in the Lord. King Jesus is our strength and our ultimate example. Enemies of the cross have lost sight of glorifying God in their daily lives. Paul longed to see his beloved brethren. Why do you think he referred to them as his joy and crown in light of example, imitation and pattern? Why else?
3. In light of 3:17-4:1 and the rest of the Bible, how would you describe the comfort that the gospel provides to all believers? How would you describe the call the gospel provides to all believers?
4. In 4:2-3, Paul finds 2 women, whom God has used in his life and ministry, at odds with one another. He identified them as true companions and fellow workers. He also urged them to live in harmony because of their relationship with the Lord. Paul called them by name in a letter written to the entire congregation which shows the importance of unity and harmony as we work together. Why did Paul want them to overcome their dispute with one another? How was it ...for them as individuals? ...for the church body in Philippi? ...for a witnessing world? (Christ's Example 2:6-11)
5. In 4:4-7, what is the value of the Lord's nearness and His peace for those persecuted in Philippi or even those going through crisis today? Why would Paul charge them to rejoice always, to be gentle, to be anxious for nothing and to make supplication in light of the persecution? How do those characteristics help us today? How can we apply these characteristics to our lives in day to day living?
6. In 4:8-9, Paul shows how our thinking & action are tied together in ways that our actions reveal what we are thinking. It is good to search out goodness, truth and beauty. What are the things listed in v. 8? Why is it good to think on these things?
7. In v. 9, Paul shows and tells the Philippians the call to holiness and the call to minister in daily life look different than the crooked and depraved generation (Philippians 2:15) and aligns with a lifestyle worthy of the gospel of Christ. (Philippians 1:27).
8. Why is our thinking so important to our acting? Why is our example so important to what we want people to imitate?

Other PATTERN passages: John 13:13-15; Romans 6:17-19; 2 Timothy 1:13-14

STAGES OF GROWTH AS FELLOW WORKERS IN BECOMING A UNITED EXAMPLE:

Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Pattern	(synonyms)
Unite	Work Together	Become an Example	(model, example, blueprint, standard)	

- A. Think how stage 2 adds responsibility beyond uniting. Think how stage 3 adds responsibility beyond working together. How are your thoughts and actions continuing to develop in this "Glory—Gospel—Priorities—Pattern" way-of-life?