# equip

# welcome to equip

We believe that every person is unique, gifted, and full of potential—and that Jesus came to give us life in all its fullness. It's up to each of us to take intentional steps to grow into the purpose God has for us.

Equip is designed to guide you through four key steps that will continually shape your journey with Jesus. Through this process, we aim to help you discover and develop the life God has prepared for you.

If you're new to our church, Equip is also your starting point at Equippers. You'll learn more about who we are, what we believe, and how you can get involved.



#### Session 1

## Plant yourself in the house of God

Understand God's plan and purpose for His Church, as well as discover who Equippers Church are.

## Session 2

## Live in a wide, open space

We explore four disciplines that, when we embrace them, actually lead us into greater freedom in life.

#### Session 3

## Be part of something bigger

Our goal is to help uncover your motivational gifts and explore how they can be used to impact the world and serve the church.

#### Session 4

## Step into the flow of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is God's greatest gift to us—He fills us, guides us, and empowers us to fulfil our calling. It's our privilege to conclude the course by praying for you as you go out equipped and ready to engage.

## Session 1

# Plant yourself in the house of God



## What is the Church?

## "Church is simply a whole bunch of friends challenging one another to go higher in God"

#### You were formed for family, created for community.

"The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." (Genesis 2:18 NIV)

#### The community we are called to is the Church.

Church is a community, a body of believers, in which Jesus is the head, every part is unique, playing a significant role (1 Corinthians 12:12-13).

- A place of **belonging**.
- A place to **know** and be **known**.
- A place you can **drop the mask** and be yourself.

Your connection with the body of Christ provides an opportunity for growth and long term **discipleship.** 

It is through the church that God is going to outwork his plan and purpose for humanity.

## Images of the Church

We find various images in the New Testament that characterise the nature of the Church. Here are some examples:

## The Family

So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. (Ephesians 2:19)

#### The Temple

And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. (1 Peter 2:5)

## The Body

Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other. (Romans 12:4-5)



## What does it mean to be planted?

#### Psalm 92:12-14

The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green,

The Church is the best soil in which we can plant the seed of our lives. In this environment we flourish.

- We are fed & nourished
- We grow & mature
- We're able stand strong against the storms of life
- We find purpose & prosper



What would it look like to be planted at Equippers Church?



## Who Are Equippers Church?

## **Our Mission**

## Equipping people for life through faith in Jesus Christ.

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up (Ephesians 4:11-12 NIV)

## Our Logo

## **EQUIPPERS**

- Isaiah 49
- We have a vision of waves of arrows being released.
- People equipped in the local church and sent out to minister.

## **Our Story**

#### 1904 - Welsh Revival

The journey of Equippers Church starts all the way back at the 1904 Welsh Revival. Out of the Welsh Revival the Apostolic Church was formed. The vision of the Apostolic Church was to 'belt the globe with the gospel' - and they did exactly that!

#### 1986 - Auckland, New Zealand

On the opposite side of the world, a young couple, Bruce and Helen Monk, became part of the Apostolic Church in New Zealand. Although they were successful, young farmers they couldn't shake off the deep call of God that had been placed on their lives. In 1986 they moved to Auckland, New Zealand and planted a church in the heart of the city. Over the next 15 years, Auckland City Church thrived and saw many people encountering God.

## 2000 - London, UK

Bruce and Helen had a vision to see 10 significant churches in 10 major cities around the world. In response, Bruce and Helen stepped out in faith and moved to London, UK to plant the first of these significant churches. In the year 2000 they handed over the leadership of the church in Auckland to their son Sam and his wife Kathy.

Bruce and Helen named the church they planted Equippers Church London. At roughly the same time Auckland City Church changed its name to Equippers Church.



In the mid-2000s, Bruce invited Peter and Jacquie Prothero to be part of what God was doing through Equippers Church London. In **2008**, Peter and Jacquie were tasked to revive a struggling church, Jubilee Church in Surrey.

In **2019**, Peter stepped down from his role as Senior Pastor to join Bruce and Helen in the Equippers Global Team. Mark and Monica Collard took on the leadership of Equippers Church Surrey, also giving leadership to Equippers Churches in the UK.

2015 - Jubilee Church became known as Equippers Surrey.

2018 - Kesed Church in Colchester become Equippers Essex.

**2024** - JD Church become Equippers Swindon & Edge Church become Equippers Bristol

There are now 5 thriving Equippers Churches in the UK; in Weybridge (Surrey), Twickenham (West London), Colchester (Essex), Swindon and Bristol

We believe that God has given us a new vision as we enter a new season of moving from addition to multiplication. Watch this space as our unique expression of the Kingdom of God continues to expand!

In the last 20 years, Equippers Church has grown significantly throughout the world. There are now 27 Equippers Church locations in New Zealand and a further 35 Equippers Churches around the world in 15 different nations; the UK, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Hungary, Slovakia, the USA, Mexico, Ghana, South Africa, the Philippines, India, Australia, Tonga and Fiji.



## Our HEART Values

Honour
Excellence
Advancement
Reaching out
Togetherness

## Our values determine what the journey looks like

Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life. (Proverbs 4:23 NLT)

## Honour

There are two biblical words translated into English as 'honour'

Kabod (Hebrew) - weighty, important, of priority. Timao (Greek) - held in honour, esteemed, especially dear, precious.

#### We honour God

- We honour the WORD of God
- We honour the **PRESENCE** of God (Exodus 33:15-16)

#### We honour each other

- Honour is 360° we believe everyone has value (1 Peter 2:17)
- Our value is intrinsic we're made in the image of God

## We honour the grace on other people's life

- Familiarity breeds contempt (Mark 6:4)
- When we honour a person's gift, we can receive from them (Matthew 10:41)

The world says that you should honour those 'above' you, and that you don't need to honour those 'below' you.

## We have swapped Hierarchy for Honour

Honour is given not demanded

## Excellence

We define excellence as;

"Doing the very best you can, with what you have"

An expression or an outworking of **HONOUR** 

Giving God the best of everything - TIME, TALENTS, TREASURE, TITHE

"When we give God our first and our best, we can trust him with the rest" - Ps Sam Monk

Not about perfection — perfectionism is the pursuit of never being satisfied

Excellence is the product of our SKILL, RESOURCE & OPPORTUNITY

Different for each person. Different for each situation. Different in each season.

Daniel is a great example of someone who lived with an 'Excellent Spirit' (Daniel 6:3)

It's "Who You Are When No One's Looking"

- It's easy to do things excellently when people are looking
- We become excellent people when we live with INTEGRITY



## Advancement

Advancement is all about making progress.

#### We are **FUTURE FOCUSSED**

- "Life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards" - Søren Kierkegaard
- God has prepared 'good works' for us to 'walk in'
- "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10)

#### We have to **STEP INTO** our future

- "Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses." (Joshua 1:3)

#### We are **GROUND-BREAKING**

- There's always a way
- The Kingdom of God is always advancing

#### We advance through serving

"Greatness comes from serving others and being more like Jesus. We advance the Kingdom of God when we use our gifts by serving God, our city and one another."

God has a big vision for your life! (Isaiah 54:2-3 NLT)



## Reaching Out

Reaching out is central to who we are - it's why are we exist.

"The church is only organisation in the world that exists for the benefit of its non-members"

We intentionally don't use the word evangelism. We don't have a 'mission department'.

"The church doesn't have a mission, the mission has a church"

We live out The Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20)

Living 'on mission'

- We all need to take responsibility WE ARE WHO WE ARE
- We're called to 'make disciples', not just 'win souls'
- We draw a bigger circle.
- We live open lives, embracing others.

Lost people matter to God, and he's committed to them (Luke 15)



Who's close to you and far from God?



## **Togetherness**

#### We wan to live lives that are together, together.

You can be in the same place in terms of PROXIMITY but in different places in terms of outlook, values, how you see the world

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" (Psalm 133)

The English phrase 'together in unity' is the same word repeated in *Greek 'Yachad, Yachad'* - together, together.

The early church were "in one place, with one accord" (Acts 2:1) Paul describes it as being with "one heart and one mind" (Phil 2:2)

We want to cultivate **GENUINE** and **AUTHENTIC** relationships.

Psalm 133 tells us that the fruit of being 'together in unity' is living under God's blessing.

BLESSING comes from UNITY UNITY comes from SUBMISSION



## Our HEART Values



