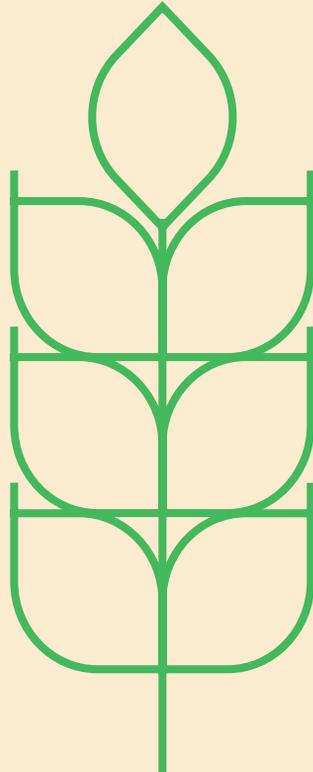


REIMAGINE

# Park Church

Following Jesus together  
for the renewal of  
all things.



When we dream about the future, we see a growing and diverse movement of Jesus followers reimagining what it means to be the church. It looks like constantly keeping our eyes on Jesus, our Lord and Savior, as we respond to his gracious invitation to **follow him**. It looks like sacrificially pursuing life **together**, as we seek to live as daughters and sons of God in His new family. It looks like being sent by the Holy Spirit to the places we live, work, and play to join God in bringing healing and **renewal** to the world he loves, as we share the love and good news of Jesus with our neighbors.

It looks like  
following Jesus  
together for  
the renewal of  
all things.

**And following Jesus  
in a way that leads  
others to know and  
follow him too.**



We believe Jesus is the hope of the world. And we're convinced that the best way for others to encounter Jesus is by seeing his life and love embodied within the community of his followers: the church.

At Park Church, following Jesus is an ongoing process of reorganizing your entire life around three goals:

**Be with Jesus.**

**Become like Jesus.**

**Do as Jesus did.**

It's that simple. And yet it takes a lifetime of practice. Our hope is that by following Jesus together, our neighborhoods, Monmouth County, and the world will experience transformation and renewal. Not because of us. But because in our life together, others will see and be drawn to Jesus.

## Be with Jesus.

Following Jesus is not about rote religion but a real relationship of grace that leads to a new way of life. The most basic and important goal of following Jesus is learning to live in a constant state of awareness of and connection to his Spirit. At Park Church, this means learning to invite him into every moment of our lives.

**Matthew 11:28-30**

**John 15:5-6**

## Become like Jesus.

We are all in the process of becoming. Our relationships, our habits, and the stories we believe work together to fuel our desires, influence our thoughts, and shape our lives in profound ways. Most of us long to live from a deep place of love, joy, and peace. But change is hard. At Park Church, following Jesus is a lifelong process of becoming like him, allowing intentional relationships (the church family), new practices (the way of Jesus), and a better story (the good news about Jesus) to transform us from the inside out.

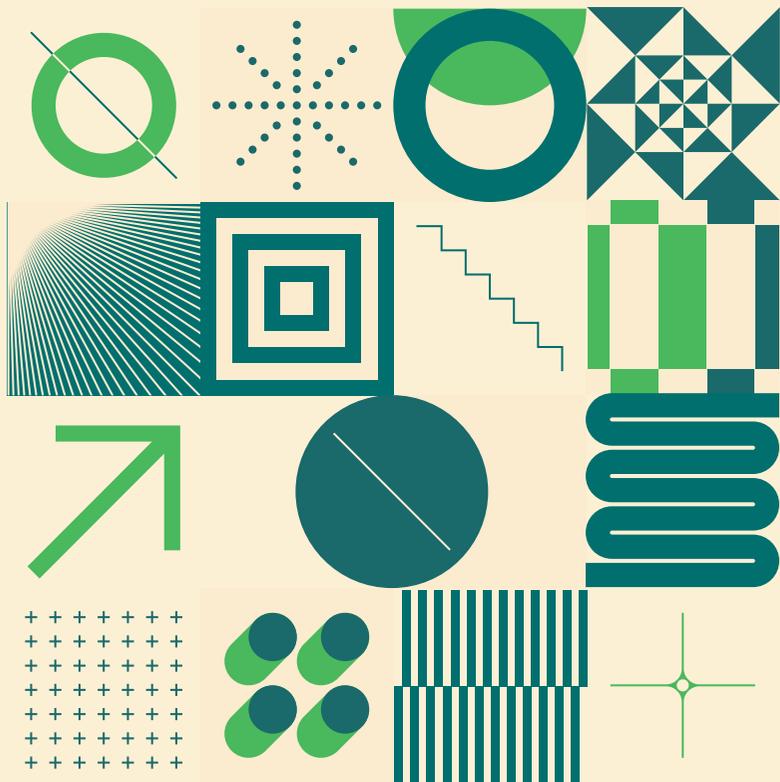
**2 Corinthians 3:18**

## Do as Jesus did.

Jesus once told his disciples, "As the Father has sent me, so now I am sending you." In other words, following Jesus means continuing his mission in the power of his Spirit. It means fixing our eyes on him, and seeing his life, teachings, death, and resurrection as a way of life for us to follow. At Park Church, we seek to do as Jesus did.

**John 20:21**

# So what does it look like to be a part of Park?



## We WELCOME and invite others in.

The gospel is fundamentally good news about the welcome of God. In the same way that God has welcomed us as sinners saved by grace, so too we welcome all people, inviting them to the God of grace who has revealed Himself in Jesus.

**Luke 10:25-37 & 15:11-32**

## We SEEK God through scripture and prayer.

God invites us into a personal relationship where we know Him, not just about Him. Therefore, we listen to His voice as He speaks through scripture, which we believe tells the one true story of the world – a story which leads to Jesus. And we speak to God through prayer, which means talking to Him about all our cares and concerns, giving thanks for His goodness and grace in our lives, and listening to His still, small voice.

**2 Timothy 3:16-17 • Matthew 5:5-15**

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

## We GATHER and prioritize relationships.

Jesus once said that the world will recognize his followers by the way we love one another. This means that following Jesus is not simply about one's personal relationship with God. It's about belonging to the new family of Jesus, where we learn to live together as sisters and brothers, daughters and sons of our Father in Heaven.

**John 13:34-35 • Romans 12:10**

**Ephesians 2:19 • 1 Timothy 5:1-2**

## **We spend time in WORSHIP.**

To be human is to worship. Whatever we find most meaningful, beautiful, valuable, and satisfying will inevitably become the object of our worship. The question is not whether we will worship – the question is what or whom will we worship. As Jesus-followers, we worship the one in whose image we were made. And while we understand worship as a posture of the heart, we gather regularly to give expression to our worship.

**Deuteronomy 5:6-7 • Psalm 103 & 105**

**Hebrews 10:25**

## **We look to GIVE generously.**

The Scriptures claim that every good thing we have is a gift from God. Simply put, the heart of God is filled with generous love. It's who He is. This character trait of God is made most clear in the person and story of Jesus, who was rich but for our sakes became poor. Therefore, as followers of Jesus, we look to be generous with all the resources God has given us.

**1 Corinthians 8 • James 1:17-18**

## **We SERVE one another and our neighbors.**

Jesus once told his disciples that he did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many. We want to follow Jesus in this pattern of service to one another and others. This means the church does not exist merely for its own sake but for the sake of the world God loves.

**Mark 10:42-45 • Galatians 5:13**

## **We work to BUILD bridges across the barriers that divide us.**

The message and ministry of reconciliation is at the heart of Christianity. Through his death and resurrection, Jesus accomplished reconciliation with God for all who trust and follow him. But for followers of Jesus, reconciliation is not simply vertical; it's horizontal too. We are reconciled to God so that we can be agents of reconciliation in the world, building bridges across the barriers that divide us such as race, socioeconomic status, politics, and so much more.

**1 Corinthians 5:16-21 • Galatians 3:26-29**

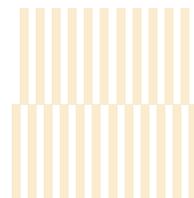
**Philemon**

## **We REST.**

In a nonstop world filled with distractions and demands, we take time to stop, rest, breathe, and delight in God's good and beautiful creation. Within the first pages of Scripture, we see God resting – not because He had to, but because He wanted to show us how it's done. Jesus also embraced rhythms of rest, as he often withdrew to quiet places to rest and be with his Father. When we rest, we remind ourselves and others that someone else is in charge. So we rest.

**Genesis 2:2-3 • Deuteronomy 5:12-16**

**Matthew 11:28-30 • Luke 5:16**



So. Where will  
following Jesus  
lead us?



# INITIATIVE

## 0 1



## Developing the Hearts of our Children, Students & Families

From reading the gospels, it's clear that Jesus loves children and doesn't want anything keeping them from him. We feel the same way. We love children, students, and the families that nurture them – and we don't want **anything** keeping them from Jesus. Since its inception, Park Church has prioritized sharing the love and good news of Jesus with the next generation. We want to continue following Jesus in this way by investing into the lives and faith of our children, students, and families.

Here are some ways we hope to do that in the coming years:

### Year 1

- Hire a full-time family pastor
- Develop a Child Protection Policy
- Develop a discipleship pathway from cradle to college
- Rebuild and invest in a core team of leaders and volunteers for Park Kids, MSG, and HSG

### Year 2

- Explore ways to engage and reach college students & young adults
- Integrate the life of our students into the rest of the church
- Provide opportunities for an annual retreats for MSG and HSG
- Plan a church-wide international missions trip

### Year 3

- Invest into youth ministry staffing
- Explore ways to connect Park Kids, MSG, and HSG with local service opportunities
- Provide seminars targeting people of various ages and life stages (singles, couples, divorcees, parents, widows, the elderly)

Following Jesus is not something we can do alone. It requires intentional relationships where we can know and be known, love and be loved, learn from and help others learn the way of Jesus. For years at Park, the primary environment where we've done this has been Community Groups. Our dream is to build upon the strong foundation that Community Groups have laid by pursuing House Churches as the primary context where disciples are made at Park Church.

The term "House Church" may be a new idea or even confusing to some. To clarify, House churches are not a substitution for Sundays; rather, they are the natural next step of development for Community Groups. The new language captures the vision of what we hope these groups increasingly become: smaller expressions of the larger church, meeting in homes and serving neighbors throughout the week, learning to follow Jesus together.

While there's much about House Churches that will be similar to Community Groups, it's worth asking: What will be different? Good question.

**Empowered Leadership**

**Multiplication in DNA**

**Relational Focus**

**Inclusive of kids**

It's our dream to one day see house churches, filled with people learning to follow Jesus together, scattered across Monmouth County. How do we get there?

Here are some things we'd like to see happen in the next couple years:

### Year 1

- Complete and implement leadership development strategy
- Transition Community Groups to "House Churches" by Fall 2022
- Multiply two new House Churches

### Year 2

- Refine leadership development strategy
- Develop annual House Church leadership retreat
- Multiply two new House Churches



# INITIATIVE

## 02

**Learning to  
Follow Jesus  
Together through  
House Churches**



# INITIATIVE

## 03

**Serving the Last,  
the Least, & the  
Lost in the name  
of Jesus—  
Mission Monmouth**

God loves Monmouth County. And we do too. Just as God sent Jesus for the sake of the world, so too we believe that Jesus is sending us, as his followers, empowered by His Spirit, to serve the last, the least, and the lost in Monmouth County. One of the ways we are doing this now is through a dedicated team of volunteers called "Park Serves".

Our dream is to develop Park Serves into a growing, Jesus-centered ministry, led by a full-time director, committed to:

Mobilizing Park Church (and others) to become more compassionately present and involved among the last, the least, and the lost in Monmouth County

Discovering, cultivating, and managing a collaborative network of local ministry partnerships

Creating community development initiatives that aim to empower the poor and marginalized in Monmouth County – all in the name of Jesus

Here's what we hope to see happen in the next few years:

### Year 1

- Establish and strengthen local ministry partnerships and cadence of service opportunities
- Integrate Community Groups/House Churches into service opportunities
- Implement a Park Gives plan, including a mobilization strategy for serving alongside local ministry partners

### Year 2

- Provide stipend for a Park Serves Coordinator
- Implement Park Gives plan
- Research and establish one or two global ministry partners

### Year 3

- Research and clarify the model
- Develop Director job description

We want to see the gospel spread and lives renewed throughout Monmouth County. But rather than merely building an institution that grows upward, we want to spark a movement that grows outward.

Our dream is to one day plant Park “congregations” within Monmouth County that make apprentices of Jesus who are leading others to know and follow him too.

Here’s what this means:

### Short Term

- Pray for the Lord’s guidance and direction
- Develop a roadmap that would clarify a model, process, and other key components of a planting strategy

### Long Term

That Park Church might become one church with multiple congregations spread throughout Monmouth County, each with their own Lead Pastor and team of elders while under the spiritual and structural authority of Park Church. One church. Multiple congregations. All for Jesus.

# INITIATIVE

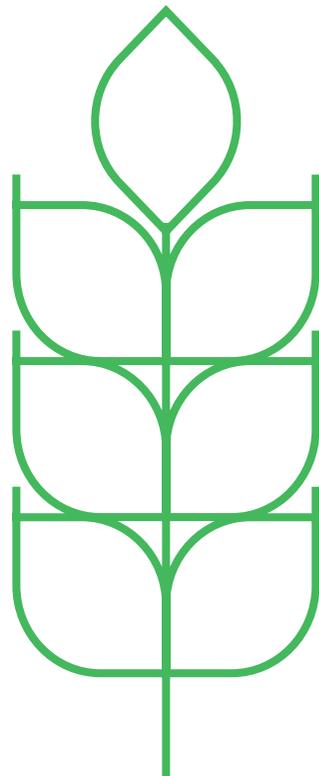
04

A movement that  
grows outward—  
Park Plants



So join us as we

Follow Jesus together  
for the renewal of  
all things.



As the Father has sent  
me, so now I send you.

– Jesus

REIMAGINE

