

GROWTH *TRACK*

***Participant
Guide***

Welcome to the Growth Track!

God designed the church to help equip His people. The Waters Edge Growth Track is a four-step experience created to do just that. We'll help you uncover and become all that God has called you to be. Whether you are new to our church, new to faith, or you just want to get more connected to everything we are doing, this experience is for you! The Growth Track is broken into four steps, which we will cover during our time together. Let's get started!

01 KNOW JESUS

In Step 1, you'll learn more about what we believe as a church and the part God is calling you to play. We'll help you discover more about your faith and the incredible future God has for you.

02 DISCOVER YOUR PURPOSE

In Step 2, you'll learn the details of your personality, discover your gifts, and see how your unique design reveals the purpose you were created to fulfill.

03 CONNECT WITH OTHERS

In Step 3, you'll learn more about the importance of belonging. Community is an absolutely essential part of your spiritual journey. As a church, we believe that the best way to grow is together.

04 MAKE A DIFFERENCE

In Step 4, you'll learn why being a Christ-follower also requires us to be generous givers. We'll share what we do with our finances as a church and help you to understand how to give to God through the church, not to the church.

KNOW JESUS

01



A LETTER FROM PASTOR STU

"...but we knew this one thing: that God wanted us to create a church that would change the way people think about church. A church that it didn't matter who you are or where you had been, a church that reflected the vibrancy and creativity and the love and acceptance of God, a church that removed the obstacles that so many churches had created for people to know and experience Jesus. Here we are: this is the church we dreamed of so long ago."

- Pastor Stu Hodges

Welcome to the Waters Edge Growth Track!

I'm so thrilled you're taking this step in your spiritual journey and it's our honor to help you KNOW JESUS in Step 1 of the Growth Track. Today, you'll hear a lot about our church. You'll learn about our values that make us unique and the mission that drives everything that we do. But the most important thing that I hope you'll discover today is that we believe God has a vision for YOUR LIFE and we're here to help you know and experience it. This step is an exciting part of your spiritual formation and growth. We're here to encourage, inspire, challenge and support you every step along the way. And that's why I hope you'll walk through all four of the Growth Track steps each uniquely designed to help you experience the life God wants for you.

We are Waters Edge Church...and we are here for YOU! I hope you enjoy today's Growth Track.

Pastor Stu

GROWTH TRACK STEP 1: KNOW JESUS

Step 1: Know _____

Step 2: Discover Your _____

Step 3: Connect With _____

Step 4: Make A _____

OUR MISSION

We want to change the way you think about church!

Ultimately, we want to change the way you think about _____

Knowing Jesus begins with _____

OUR VALUES

KNOW JESUS



Church should be fun.

We believe there are enough boring things in life, church should not be one of them!



We do a few things and we do them well.

We say no to a lot of things so that the things we say yes to are done with excellence. This allows us to be laser-focused with our resources for what matters most.



Everybody needs a group.

We believe that groups are where you connect, care, and grow at Waters Edge Church.



It's not about me, it's about others.

We put aside our personal preferences for the sake of others meeting Jesus and falling in love with Him.



WEC Volunteers get it done.

We are scrappy! Our volunteers do whatever it takes to connect with people who are distant from God and church.



We give big.

We choose to honor God and the church when we give BIG; it's ALL His anyways.



OUR CHURCH HISTORY

KNOW JESUS

1997

The dream of Waters Edge Church began in late 1997. Our Lead Pastor, Stu Hodges, and his wife, Tabitha, walked away from one of their first seminary chapel services and knew that God had ignited in their hearts a passion for starting a new church. For them, it was a passion for a new kind of church...and a desire to do church differently.

2002

On December 3, 2002, the start team meets for the first time.

2003

50 people started this church in 2003 with a laser-sharp focus to reach those distant from God. That clear vision remains the driving force behind everything we do. We will continue to change the way people think about church. Waters Edge Church holds its opening service on March 16, 2003, at the Victory Family YMCA with over 300 in attendance.

2006

The Big Dream Spiritual Initiative kicks off. This is a time of deep personal growth for Waters Edge Church. A dream to have a greater impact on the Peninsula was born.

2009

June marks the grand opening of our permanent building in York County.

2010

Growth beyond our wildest dreams inspires a major Capacity Campaign in May. The result is a clear vision that our church will go multi-site. We will be one church in many locations.

2011

Renovations begin on a theater in Hampton with a Grand Opening date of March 6, 2011. Less than 2 months later, a second service is added to accommodate the large crowds.

2012

The Unstoppable Initiative launches in the spring of 2012 with \$1.2 million in funds given and pledged to open a Newport News Campus in the fall of 2012. We *become* 'One Church in multiple locations' on November 4, 2012 with the opening of our third campus. Waters Edge Church Newport News puts us within 10 miles of every single household on the peninsula.

2013

Less than one year after its opening, the Newport News campus adds a second service. With Yorktown at max capacity and many other cities to reach, Waters Edge launches a capacity campaign to fund the expansion of WEC Yorktown and the launch of WEC Williamsburg.

2014

In February 2014, Waters Edge Church Williamsburg opens as a portable campus.

2016

On Easter Sunday 2016, Waters Edge Church Yorktown opened a 1300-seat auditorium and celebrated the Grand Opening that summer.

2019

In January 2019, we merged our Hampton & Newport News campuses to have an opportunity to make the greatest impact. In partnership with God Behind Bars we launched our fourth campus at Indian Creek Correctional Facility.

2020

In late 2019 we upgrade multiple systems from our Heart For the House fund, paving the way for our Online Campus to be launched in March 2020.

2021

We cross the boundary of reaching every one of the 50 States through our Online Campus.

2022

We go worldwide and are viewed online from more than 120 countries.



OUR CAMPUSES

Yorktown

6830 George Washington Memorial Highway
Yorktown, VA 23692

ONE CHURCH

Newport News

836 J. Clyde Morris Boulevard
Newport News, VA 23601

KNOW JESUS

MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

Waters Edge Church Online

Streaming services on:
Facebook, Instagram, Youtube,
watersedgechurch.net

Indian Creek Correctional Center

Chesapeake, VA
God Behind Bars Campus



A PRAYER FOR OUR CHURCH

"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 NIV

NEXT STEPS

1. Prioritize _____ church attendance.

"Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near."

- Hebrews 10:24-25 NLT

2. _____ church with others regularly.

"There will be a glorious celebration in heaven over the rescue of one lost sinner who repents, comes back home, and returns to the fold—more so than for all the righteous people who never strayed away."

- Luke 15:7b TPT

3. Get _____.

(Children interested in getting baptized should attend our Big Splash event to truly understand what it means to get baptized)

"So when we were baptized, we were buried with Christ and took part in his death. And just as Christ was raised from death by the wonderful power of the Father, so we can now live a new life."

- Romans 6:4 ERV



4. Read Your _____.

"All Scripture is breathed out by God, and is profitable for teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness."

- 2 Timothy 3:16 ESV

5. Pray

The Lord's Prayer

"This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'"

- Matthew 6:9-13 NIV

5 Ways to Know Jesus More

1. Prioritize Regular Church Attendance
2. Share Church With Others Regularly
3. Get Baptized
4. Read Your Bible
5. Pray

"May grace and peace be yours in abundance through full knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord."

- 2 Peter 1:2 ISV

KNOW JESUS

WHAT WE WANT FOR YOU



HELPFUL PRAYERS

A Prayer Of Praise:

"Father God, nothing is too hard for You! Through Your great power, all things are possible. All authority is Yours, all might is Yours, and I know that Your victory will be complete. You are amazing, and I worship You. I praise You for Your power and presence in my life. You are my God, and You are worthy of all praise. Amen"

A Prayer For Peace:

"I ask You to watch over my city, my nation, and our world. Bring peace and help us all take steps toward You (name areas where you feel a burden for your city, nation, and the world). I pray for anyone who comes across my path to see Your light in me. I lift up my friends, neighbors, and coworkers. I thank You for them and pray for Your blessing over them (pray for any specific needs of others). Lastly God, I ask You to provide for my needs. I know that You sustain me, and that You care for me. I lift up my physical, emotional, and spiritual needs to You (share the needs on your mind right now). I lay my cares at Your feet. Thank You for loving me, choosing me, and calling me Yours. Amen."

A Prayer To Overcome Fear:

"Father, I know You have not given me a spirit of fear or timidity, but one of power, love, and self-discipline. When my mind feels out of control, I pray that You will renew my spirit and let power, love, and self-discipline fill me. Help me to look more like You every day. I declare that anything that is not of You has to leave me in Jesus' mighty Name. I proclaim that I do not have a spirit of fear, but I have a sound and healthy mind. Amen."

A Prayer For Your Anxiety:

"Father, my heart feels anxious (tell God what is giving you anxiety). I don't like this feeling, but I'm thankful I can come to You and receive peace. You invite me to replace my anxiety with prayer, and even though my mind and heart are racing, I'm coming to You knowing that You provide healing and calm for my soul. Thank You for giving me breath and life. I thank You that I am fearfully and wonderfully made in Your image. Lay down all worries, all my physical and mental anxiety, and any attempt at trying to control it all (tell Him the things you are laying down right now). I surrender it all to You. I need You. I need Your peace that transcends my human understanding. Even if things are unstable around me, I pray that Your peace will be evident in my heart and my life. Guard my heart and mind, God. I trust that You are faithful, and I receive Your peace in my life today. Amen"

A Prayer For God's Presence:

"Father, I am so comforted by the fact that You will never leave me. You are always with me, and I am safe with You. As I go through my life and take on each new situation, I'm comforted by knowing I'm not alone because You are by my side. Help me feel Your presence. When I feel uncertain or afraid, I pray You will comfort me through Your Holy Spirit and remind me that I am never alone because You, the Almighty God, have promised to always be with me. Amen."

A Prayer For God's Protection:

"God, as I walk out the purpose You have for my life, I pray that You will stop any and every attack of the enemy against me. Please protect my body, my mind, and my emotions. Don't let the enemy get a foothold in my life. I pray, too, that You will protect my family and community from harm. I know that the One who is in me is greater than the one who is in the world, so I have nothing to fear. Thank You for watching over me. I love You and I trust You. Amen."

