

Next Steps

It doesn't matter if you've been a part of the Vertical community for one day or a couple of years, there is a Next Step for you!

 Vertical Church

Next≡Steps Connect

The initial stage of your spiritual journey here at Vertical comes through an exchange of information. We understand that it is important for you to be sure that Vertical is a good fit for your family and we want to get to know you better as well.

1. **Connection** Our community is one that believes in the power of personal connection and as such our staff and volunteers are dedicated to helping you grow. After filling out a connection card, be on the lookout for an email from one of our team members who will help get you started in the following steps.
2. **Where are you?** We believe that everyone has a next step in their spiritual journey regardless of age, maturity, or experience. Through tools like the Enneagram and our own intake assessment we hope to gain a better understanding of where you are spiritually and how we can grow together.
3. **Partner Class** As you investigate Vertical our hope is that you would want to join in the work our community has dedicated itself to. Unlike many churches, here at Vertical this is a fairly simple process that only requires an online course where you can learn about our efforts and beliefs.

Next≡Steps

Discover

The Discipleship Process

At Vertical we take seriously the instruction to make disciples but we also know that we first have to have been intentionally discipled ourselves. In our community this takes place through a tool called The Discipleship Process that incorporates three simple steps to.

- 1. Step One: Know God** The Bible is the sacred text of Christianity. Without it, we would lose our history and be uncertain about the future God has for us. It is beautifully crafted as a unified story that leads to Jesus, our Rescuer. Knowing the Bible and its place in our lives is the essential and first step in becoming a disciple of Jesus.
- 2. Step Two: Know Yourself** Our story has a big impact on how we view God and the world around us. Without a road map to discover how what's happened to us has affected us, it is nearly impossible to find authentic connection with God. Knowing ourselves is the second vital component of establishing trust in the one who made us.
- 3. Step Three: Know Your Purpose** We were never meant to do life without a guide. Discovering the ways God desires to use our influence in the world can involve some trial and error. In this final step, you will be linked with someone who can help you, through one-on-one informal meetings, discover how to make what you've learned about yourself and God active.

We believe strongly that to experience the maximum amount of growth and fulfillment at Vertical our people must experience The Discipleship Process. These classes are now offered multiple times a week. If you are interested in registering for the next semester you can find more information [here](#).

Next=Steps Act

Knowing God, ourselves, and our purpose enables us to begin interacting with our community in new and exciting ways. While many churches ask their people to “serve” we believe that God has gifted you intentionally and that your involvement in Vertical should reflect that. With a wide variety of ministries, there is definitely a place for you no matter your strengths, skills, or personality. Here is a short list of some ways you might consider getting involved:

1. Hope For

For so long the church has been known for what it’s against. We want to be known for the Hope that we are called to give to the community around us and those across the world. We believe there is Hope For Everyone.

Hope For | Local

Generous is not just one of our defining words, it’s who we’re called to be. Vertical Church is partnered with a wide variety of mission partners throughout Jackson, Madison and Canton. We encourage our community to engage in service with these mission partners throughout the year through teaching classes, construction, mentorship and more. Then, every year we celebrate Hope For Weekend by canceling services and go into the community to serve. Here are some of the local partners if you’d like to learn more about them: *Crossroads Ministries (Canton & Madison, MS)*, *D.R.A.W (Jackson, MS)*, *Mississippi Food Network (Jackson, MS)*, *The Opportunity Center (Jackson, MS)*

Hope For | Global

If Jesus generously spent his time here seeking those who were far from God, no matter the distance or damage, then so will we. Every year, prior to the recent pandemic, we would send teams to different parts of the world to do a wide variety of missional work. The different countries have different requirements for entry, but there is a place to serve for everyone in our community. Our current missional partners include: *Samuel’s Ministry*, *Reshma’s Home*, and *Praying Pelican Missions*

Next≡Steps

Act Continued

Hope For Weekend

Vertical Church's Hope For Weekend was established in 2019. Once a year, we shut down our building to focus on the high priority needs for our Local Missions Partners. While we get the opportunity to serve with each of these partners throughout the year, there is something special that happens when we cancel Sunday services and serve alongside our community for an entire weekend.

2. Ministry Area Volunteer

After exploring their specific giftings, many people in our community choose to use that information by investing in a specific ministry area at Vertical. From behind the scenes positions on our production or security teams to more involved and extrovert-oriented assignments in Vertical Kids or our Amplify student ministry, there are plenty of opportunities to go around. After completing The Discipleship Process we encourage all partners to check out our volunteer page to see which ministry areas might be a good fit for them.

3. The Discipleship Process Instructor

Since we've launched The Discipleship Process, we have found that it resonates so much with those who have attended each class that they want to serve others by leading them through their own process. Vertical is a church that is passionate about discipling and teaching others to do so by putting what they learn into action. We encourage participants who have graduated from the process to consider teaching one of the steps in upcoming semesters.