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# *Living on Purpose: Get Connected – Building a Community Centered on Jesus Christ*

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*New Hope Community Church  
Dr. Jack Bracy, August 23, 2019*

How Do I Get Started?

Get Connected – Get Growing

Get Going

## **Love Can't Operate in a Vacuum**

“... **God is love**, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.”  
*1 John 4:16, NLT*

“So now I am giving you a **new commandment**: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.” *John 13:34–35, NLT*

### **The Bible Describes the Communities of Christians In Four Ways**

#### 1. We Are Part of a Family

“Whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.” *Galatians 6:10, NLT*

“Finally, all of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Be tenderhearted, and keep a humble attitude.”

*1 Peter 3:8, NLT*

#### 2. We Are Part of a Body

“The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ.” *1 Corinthians 12:12, NLT*

“**From him** the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.” *Ephesians 4:16, NIV*

#### 3. We Are Part of a Flock

“**I am the good shepherd**. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep.” *John 10:11, NLT*

The Word "Pastor" Literally Means "Shepherd"

“So guard yourselves and God’s people. Feed and shepherd God’s flock—his church, purchased with his own blood—over which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as leaders.” *Acts 20:28, NLT*

#### 4. We Are Part of the Church

“... I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.”  
*Matthew 16:18, NLT*

I Don't Go to Church, I Gather with The Church

“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 10:25, NLT*

#### **Jesus Never Made Relationship Optional!**

1. Jesus Connected Most Deeply with Peter, James, and John
2. Jesus Connected with His Disciples
3. Jesus Connected with the 70
4. Jesus Connected with The Masses

Our Church Is Not A Place for Spectators,  
It Is A Place to Experience the Christ Life

Connecting with A Community Group Is a Choice

“Help to carry one another’s burdens, and in this way you will obey the law of Christ.” *Galatians 6:2, TEV*

#### **5 Reasons to Connect to A Community Group**

Connection Moves Us Deeper Into  
Each Other and Christ

Connection Makes Life Worth Living

Christian Community Helps People  
Find Their Way Back to God