CHAMPIONS 101

Student Workbook

BELONG • BELIEVE • BECOME • SERVE

OUR MISSION: Bethesda is a church established to make Champions for Jesus Christ in a culture of love, ministry training, and deployment to bring healing to the nations.

Student Name: _____

Phone / Email: _____

Class Dates: _____

MY CHAMPIONS 101 JOURNEY

This workbook belongs to you. Write honestly, ask questions freely, and use these pages to identify the next steps God is calling you to take.

Class	Focus	My Main Question	Completed
1	Why Membership? Vision, Mission, Values & History		☐
2	What We Believe: Apostolic Doctrine		☐
3	Spiritual Gifts & Joining a Team		☐

Opening Reflection

Why are you considering membership at Bethesda?

What do you hope God develops in your life through this church family?

What questions do you want answered before completing this class?

LESSON 1

Why Membership? Vision, Mission, Values & History

BIG IDEA: Membership moves us from attending a crowd to belonging to a covenant family with shared beliefs, shared responsibility, and a shared mission.

Date: _____ Instructor: _____

What I Hope to Learn

_____

_____

_____

_____

By the End of This Lesson, I Will Be Able To:

- Explain why biblical membership matters.
- Retell major milestones in Bethesda's history.
- State Bethesda's mission and vision.
- Describe the practices of a maturing Champion.
- Identify my next step toward active membership.

1. Why Membership Matters

SCRIPTURE FOCUS: Ephesians 2:19; Romans 12:5

Biblical membership is more than having your name on a church roll. It is a public decision to belong, grow, serve, receive spiritual care, and share responsibility within a local body of believers.

Benefit	What It Means	Scripture
IDENTITY	I belong to Christ and His people.	Ephesians 2:19; Romans 12:5
SPIRITUAL FAMILY	I receive support, encouragement, restoration, and shared care.	Galatians 6:1-2; Hebrews 10:24-25
PURPOSEFUL SERVICE	I discover and use my God-given gifts.	1 Corinthians 12:4-27; 2 Timothy 3:17
SPIRITUAL CARE	I receive teaching, guidance, and protection from accountable leaders.	Hebrews 13:17; Acts 20:28-29
ACCOUNTABILITY	I grow through mutual submission and faithful community.	Ephesians 5:21; Acts 2:42-47

In your own words, what is the difference between attending church and belonging to a church family?

Which benefit of membership is most important to you right now? Why?

2. Bethesda's History

- February 5, 1957: Bishop Henry L. Johnson founded Bethesda Temple of the Apostolic Faith in Corcoran, California.
- July 1959: The church moved its operations to 2489 Rose Avenue in Fresno.
- January 9, 1962: The church was incorporated as Bethesda Apostolic Church.
- For approximately fifty years, Bishop Henry L. Johnson led Bethesda through steady growth.
- December 10, 2010: Bishop Henry L. Johnson appointed Tobaise Brookins as Senior Pastor and Chief Executive Officer, with the confidence of church leadership and the congregation.
- May 14, 2011: Tobaise Brookins was formally installed as Senior Pastor.
- Today: Bethesda continues as one church in multiple locations, making Champions for Jesus Christ and bringing healing to the nations.

What does Bethesda's history teach you about faithfulness, succession, and vision?

What part of Bethesda's continuing story would you like to help write?

3. Mission and Vision

SCRIPTURE FOCUS: Proverbs 29:18; Habakkuk 2:2

MISSION: Bethesda is a church established to make Champions for Jesus Christ in a culture of love, ministry training, and deployment to bring healing to the nations.

SIMPLE VISION: A multisite church movement designed to make Champions for Jesus Christ who bring healing to the nations through worship, maturing through life groups, engaging in personal evangelism, and serving on a ministry team.

Circle or write the words in the mission that speak most strongly to you. Why?

4. The Practices of a Maturing Champion

Practice	My Commitment	Scripture	Growth 1-5
WORSHIP	I worship with the corporate body and cultivate private worship.	Hebrews 10:24-25; John 4:23-24	_____
LIFE GROUPS	I mature with other Champions through biblical community.	Acts 2:42-47; Ephesians 4:11-16	_____
EVANGELISM	I share my faith and invite people to Christ and Bethesda.	Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8	_____
MINISTRY TEAMS	I use my time, talents, and gifts to bless others.	Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27	_____
GENEROSITY	I honor God through tithes, offerings, and compassionate giving.	Proverbs 3:9; Malachi 3:8-10; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7	_____
CHRISTLIKE CHARACTER	I demonstrate love, holiness, patience, reconciliation, and integrity.	Romans 12:1-2; Galatians 5:22-23	_____

Growth scale: 1 = Just beginning 2 = Developing 3 = Becoming consistent 4 = Strong 5 = Ready to help others

Lesson 1 Discussion & Response

How do worship, life groups, evangelism, service, generosity, and character work together to produce maturity?

_____

_____

_____

_____

Which practice is strongest in your life? Which one needs intentional growth?

_____

_____

_____

_____

What would it look like for Bethesda's mission to be seen in our community?

_____

MY NEXT STEP: This week I will _____

Lesson 1 Notes & Questions

LESSON 2

What We Believe: Basic Apostolic Doctrine

BIG IDEA: Sound doctrine shapes how we know Jesus, receive salvation, live holy lives, and carry the gospel to others.

Date: _____ Instructor: _____

What I Hope to Learn

_____

_____

_____

_____

By the End of This Lesson, I Will Be Able To:

- Explain why Scripture is the final authority for faith and life.
- Describe Bethesda's belief in one God revealed fully in Jesus Christ.
- Explain the gospel and the biblical New Birth response.
- Connect holiness and evangelism to Christian discipleship.
- Identify my questions and next spiritual steps.

Commitment 1: The Bible Is the Word of God

SCRIPTURE FOCUS: 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Peter 1:20-21

We believe the Bible is the inspired and infallible Word of God. Scripture reveals God, exposes the heart, equips believers, and provides the governing standard for doctrine and conduct.

If Scripture has the final word, how should it shape my decisions, relationships, and lifestyle?

_____

_____

_____

_____

Commitment 2: There Is Only One God

SCRIPTURE FOCUS: Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 44:6-8; John 14:8-9; Colossians 2:9-10

We believe in one God who is infinite in power, holy in nature, and perfect in purpose. The one God is revealed as Father in creation, in the Son for redemption, and as the Holy Spirit working in and through believers. All the fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily in Jesus Christ.

What do Deuteronomy 6:4 and Colossians 2:9 teach me about God and Jesus?

Why does the identity of Jesus matter for worship and salvation?

Commitment 3: Salvation Comes Through Jesus Christ

SCRIPTURE FOCUS: John 3:3-5; Acts 2:1-4, 37-41; Acts 4:12; Romans 6:3-5

The gospel is the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the only saving name given to humanity. The biblical response to the gospel is repentance, water baptism by immersion in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost, with speaking in other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance. This is the New Birth experience.

Work of Christ	Our Response	Meaning	My Notes
Death	Repentance	Turn from sin and surrender the old life.	
Burial	Baptism in Jesus' name	Buried with Christ; remission of sins.	
Resurrection	Receiving the Holy Ghost	Power for new life and witness.	

How does Acts 2:38 answer the question, "What shall we do?"

What does baptism in Jesus' name communicate about my identity and allegiance?

What role does the Holy Ghost play in the believer's daily life?

My New Birth Journey

☐ I have repented and surrendered my life to Jesus. ☐ I want to speak with someone about repentance.

☐ I have been baptized by immersion in Jesus' name. ☐ I would like to schedule baptism.

☐ I have received the Holy Ghost. ☐ I desire prayer and further teaching.

My New Birth Notes & Questions

Commitment 4: We Share the Gospel

SCRIPTURE FOCUS: Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; Romans 1:16

Every believer is commissioned to share the good news across racial, ethnic, social, and economic boundaries, leading people toward faith, the New Birth, discipleship, and good works.

Who has God placed in my life that I can pray for, serve, invite, or share my testimony with?

Commitment 5: We Pursue Holy Living

SCRIPTURE FOCUS: Romans 8:1-16; Romans 12:1-2; Titus 2:11-14; 1 Peter 1:15-16

God calls His people to a holy and sanctified life through His Word and the power of His Spirit. Holiness is not an attempt to earn salvation; it is the fruit of belonging to God. It reaches our thoughts, relationships, speech, sexuality, integrity, habits, and public witness.

How are grace, obedience, and holiness connected?

Which spiritual practices help me resist sin and grow in Christlike character?

How should believers restore and support someone who struggles or falls?

Lesson 2 Discussion & Response

One truth I understand more clearly after this lesson:

One question I want to discuss with a pastor or teacher:

One spiritual next step I will take:

LESSON 3

Discover Your Spiritual Gifts & Join a Team

BIG IDEA: Every Champion has a place in the body. Gifts become fruitful through character, training, teamwork, and faithful service.

Date: _____ Instructor: _____

What I Hope to Learn

_____

_____

_____

_____

By the End of This Lesson, I Will Be Able To:

- Explain the biblical purpose of spiritual gifts.
- Identify two or three likely gift areas.
- Distinguish gifts, talents, learned skills, ministry roles, and character.
- Connect my gifts and passions to a Bethesda ministry team.
- Choose a clear next step into service.

Biblical Foundation

SCRIPTURE FOCUS: Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-27; Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Peter 4:10-11

- There are different gifts, but the same Spirit.
- Every member belongs to the body and has a necessary contribution.
- Gifts are given by grace for the good of others—not for status or attention.
- Leaders equip believers for ministry so the whole body matures.
- Whatever gift we receive should be used to serve others faithfully.

Important Distinctions

Spiritual gift: A grace-enabled capacity through which the Holy Spirit strengthens others and advances God's work.

Natural talent: An ability that may be present from birth or developed through experience.

Learned skill: A competency gained through education, practice, or training.

Ministry role: A specific assignment in which gifts, talents, and skills may be used.

Character: The fruit and integrity that make service trustworthy. Giftedness never replaces love, humility, holiness, or accountability.

What gifts, talents, skills, or experiences do I already recognize in my life?

When have I felt most useful, energized, or fruitful while serving others?

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCOVERY INVENTORY

Rate each statement: 1 = Rarely true, 2 = Sometimes true, 3 = Often true, 4 = Consistently true. Answer honestly based on your present patterns, not what you wish were true.

#	Statement	1-4	Code
1	I readily notice practical needs and enjoy meeting them without needing recognition.	____	A
2	I can explain biblical truth in a way that helps others understand and apply it.	____	B
3	I naturally encourage people to trust God and take a faithful next step.	____	C
4	I give time, resources, or money joyfully and generously to advance ministry.	____	D
5	I organize people and details so a shared goal can be completed effectively.	____	E
6	I am deeply moved by hurting people and patiently offer compassion and care.	____	F
7	I discern when a message or direction needs biblical correction and courageously speak truth.	____	G
8	I feel fulfilled when I support another person's ministry behind the scenes.	____	A
9	People often ask me to clarify Scripture or teach them how something works.	____	B
10	I help discouraged people see hope and possibility in God.	____	C
11	I look for wise, creative ways to meet needs through generosity.	____	D
12	I can see next steps, delegate responsibility, and keep a group moving.	____	E
13	People who are wounded, overlooked, or struggling tend to feel safe with me.	____	F
14	I am sensitive to spiritual compromise and want God's people aligned with His Word.	____	G
15	I enjoy hands-on service and am dependable with practical assignments.	____	A
16	I enjoy studying, organizing, and communicating biblical ideas accurately.	____	B

#	Statement	1-4	Code
17	My words often motivate people toward growth, courage, or obedience.	____	C
18	I hold possessions loosely and experience joy when giving produces ministry impact.	____	D
19	I accept responsibility and help people work together with clarity.	____	E
20	I remain present with people through grief, crisis, recovery, or weakness.	____	F
21	I identify the spiritual issue beneath a situation and call people back to God.	____	G
22	I would rather solve a need than receive credit for solving it.	____	A
23	I adapt explanations so different learners can grasp the truth.	____	B
24	I challenge people directly while still communicating hope and love.	____	C
25	I plan my finances so I can consistently support God's work and people in need.	____	D
26	I naturally build systems, schedules, or plans that help ministry flourish.	____	E
27	I show unusual patience and tenderness toward people others may avoid.	____	F
28	I feel compelled to defend biblical truth even when doing so is uncomfortable.	____	G
29	I consistently follow through on service commitments.	____	A
30	I see connections in Scripture that help people grow.	____	B
31	People leave conversations with me feeling strengthened to act in faith.	____	C
32	I am alert to needs that God may be asking me to resource.	____	D
33	Others look to me for direction during uncertainty or change.	____	E
34	I listen without rushing to fix or judge the person.	____	F
35	I value truth over popularity and seek to speak it with love.	____	G

SCORE & REFLECT

Add the five ratings for each code. A higher score suggests an area to explore; it does not appoint you to a role or permanently define you.

Code	Gift Area	Add Items	Total
A	Serving / Ministry	1 + 8 + 15 + 22 + 29	____ / 20
B	Teaching	2 + 9 + 16 + 23 + 30	____ / 20
C	Exhortation / Encouragement	3 + 10 + 17 + 24 + 31	____ / 20
D	Giving	4 + 11 + 18 + 25 + 32	____ / 20
E	Leadership / Administration	5 + 12 + 19 + 26 + 33	____ / 20
F	Mercy	6 + 13 + 20 + 27 + 34	____ / 20
G	Prophetic Truth-Telling	7 + 14 + 21 + 28 + 35	____ / 20

INTERPRET WITH WISDOM: Confirm results through Scripture, prayer, character, fruit from past service, feedback from mature believers, ministry training, and the actual needs of the church. Scores are a starting point, not a spiritual label.

My three highest areas are:

Where have I seen these gifts produce fruit?

What feedback have trusted believers or leaders given me?

What gift area would I like to explore through training or service?

Gift Confirmation Conversation

Person I will ask for honest feedback: _____

What did this person affirm or challenge?

FIND YOUR TEAM

Team	Ministry Sphere	Interested?
Go Team	Outreach, evangelism, ministers, community social needs.	☐ Yes ☐ Maybe
WOW Team	Greeting, hospitality, culinary arts, ushers, armor bearers, health care, concierge care.	☐ Yes ☐ Maybe
Shock & Awe	Media, audio, visual, video, building, grounds, technical support.	☐ Yes ☐ Maybe
Worship Team	Praise and worship, choir, dance, flags, mime, drama.	☐ Yes ☐ Maybe
Net Team	Visitor follow-up, Champion retention, new-Champion connections.	☐ Yes ☐ Maybe
Generation Now	Nursery, children, middle school, high school, college-age ministry.	☐ Yes ☐ Maybe
Life Groups	Bible studies, men, women, couples, B2 classes, specialized groups.	☐ Yes ☐ Maybe

Team names and available roles may evolve. Placement considers spiritual maturity, safeguarding requirements, training, schedule, current openings, and leadership confirmation.

What people, needs, or ministry areas consistently capture my attention?

Which team could I serve faithfully in my current season of life?

What training or support would help me begin confidently?

My Team Connection Plan

First team I would like to explore: _____

Second team I would like to explore: _____

My realistic availability: _____

My next step: ☐ Speak with a leader ☐ Attend orientation ☐ Observe/shadow ☐ Begin training

Service Readiness Reflection

What could compete with my ability to serve faithfully, and how will I plan for it?

_____

_____

_____

What does dependable, humble teamwork look like to me?

_____

_____

_____

THE CHAMPION'S MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

With God's help and in fellowship with Bethesda Churches, I affirm the following commitments:

☐ The Bible is the Word of God.

☐ There is only one God.

☐ Salvation comes through Jesus Christ.

☐ I will strive to live a life free from sin through the grace and power of God.

☐ I will attend worship service regularly.

☐ I will join and faithfully participate in a life group.

☐ I will give my tithes and offerings faithfully.

☐ I will serve on a ministry team and bless the community.

☐ I will share my faith and invite people to Christ and church.

☐ I will maintain good conduct and fellowship with other members of Bethesda.

☐ I will support the pastor, Bethesda's God-given vision, and the direction of church leadership.

☐ I will maintain an image above reproach in social media and social circles.

☐ I will be a lifelong follower of Jesus Christ. I am a Champion.

Name (print): _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

BEFORE SIGNING: Ask every question you need to ask. A covenant should be entered prayerfully and willingly. Follow Bethesda's current membership procedures and pastoral guidance.

MY NEXT STEPS AS A CHAMPION

Belong

☐ Complete membership process ☐ Attend worship regularly ☐ Build relationships with other Champions

My belonging goal:

_____

_____

Grow

☐ Join a life group ☐ Establish regular Bible study and prayer ☐ Attend B2 / discipleship classes

My growth goal:

_____

_____

Share

☐ Pray for people far from God ☐ Share my testimony ☐ Invite someone to worship or a life group

The person I will begin praying for:

_____

_____

Serve

☐ Contact a team leader ☐ Attend orientation ☐ Complete required training ☐ Begin serving

My service goal:

_____

_____

Give

☐ Practice faithful tithing ☐ Give offerings ☐ Support outreach and people in need

My generosity goal: _____

MY 30-DAY ACTION PLAN

MY COMMITMENT: During the next 30 days, with God's help, I will take intentional steps to belong, grow, share, serve, and give.

Action Step	By When?	Who Can Help?	Completed
			☐
			☐
			☐
			☐
			☐

What could prevent me from following through, and how will I respond?

My prayer for the next 30 days:

NOTES & QUESTIONS

Questions I Still Want to Ask

Scriptures I Want to Study

Prayer Requests

What God Is Speaking to Me