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Culture Guide

BE WHAT YOU WANT TO SEE

Culture happens by default or design. This is your guide to the intentional culture we work to set at Citylight Church.

A LAUNCHING PAD NOT A LANDING PLACE



01.



Welcome to Citylight!

LET'S GET THE BALL ROLLING.

I'm so glad the Lord has called you to join the Citylight family! I hope this guide helps you understand who we are and how you can be a part of what we are doing. We want to make a difference in our city and I believe you have an important role to play in what God is doing. Our goal is simply to model the ministry of Jesus, which he summarized in Luke 4:17-21 by referencing Isaiah 61:1-4. Those two texts are the foundation of what we do so take some time to read and reflect on them. We will join Jesus in body and soul ministry, caring for spiritual and physical needs around us. When we do this, He will do the real work of transformation by bringing beauty for ashes, joy for mourning, and praise for heaviness. What an awesome thing to see! Let's pray and work towards this, always remembering the priority of our lives is to first abide in Him (John 15:1-11) and seek the face of Jesus (Psalm 27:4).

Thanks for adding your light so together we can take out more darkness around us!

-Nate Crew

What's in the guide

Our Story	05.
Mission and Vision	07.
Citylight Strategy	08.
Core Values	10.
Lighthouses	12.
Light Teams	13.
Citylight Language	15.
Rally Chant	17.
Glossary	18.

THE STORY

OF CITYLIGHT CHURCH



OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED

September 15, 2019

LOCATION OF LAUNCH

Falls Church High
School

MAIN MISSION

To bring light to the
darkness.

Citylight officially launched September 15th 2019. That very first day God showed up big and He has continued to do more than we ever could have imagined. We started with a commitment to bring light to the darkness and to do so by planting community center churches. We wanted to model the holistic ministry of Jesus in Luke 4 and Isaiah 61 to serve the soul and the body. Within 6 months God opened the door for an amazing building where we could live this vision out and bless our community with spiritual and physical help. We have seen souls saved from everlasting darkness, families have received necessary support in a time of urgent need, and we have built partnerships locally and globally to support ministry work in so many other places. The Spirit of God is moving in a powerful way!

From one committed group starting Citylight, there is now a Citylight family of churches in multiple languages and places. One seed of commitment has led to an abundant harvest. The Bible tells us that whoever sows abundantly will reap abundantly and we are seeing the generosity of God's people be blessed with God sized impact. Let's continue to invest in the work of God and see Him do more than we could ever ask or imagine!

Our vision

OUR VISION IS TO BRING LIGHT TO THE WORLD BY PLANTING "COMMUNITY CENTER" CHURCHES THAT ARE WELL EQUIPPED TO BE A BLESSING TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES BOTH SPIRITUALLY AND PHYSICALLY.



Our mission

OUR PASSION IS TO SHINE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IN DARK AND HARD PLACES TO BRING REAL HOPE AND HELP TO ALL PEOPLE.



Citylight Strategy

Hebrews 10: 24-25

Sunday Light Teams:

- Kids - Hospitality -
- Tech - Media - Music
- Service Elements -
- Prayer
- Basic Training

Citylight Services



REACH (Isaiah 61:1-2)

Examples Include:

- Community Light Teams
- Events - Partnerships -
- Foster/Adopt -
- Deliveries- Mentors - etc.

REPEAT (Isaiah 61:1-4)

Examples include:

- Lighthouses
- Light Team
- Churches

RESTORE (Isaiah 61:3)

Examples include:

- Lighthouses
- Counseling
- Interns

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Citylight Church WHO WE ARE



CORE VALUES

At Citylight we have seven core values that make up the being of who we are. Each of our value statements start with the phrase 'We Are.' This is because we believe that these values are not just actions that we do, but apart of our DNA...who 'We Are.'



All About Jesus

One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple (Psalm 27:4).

Dependent On Prayer

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful (Colossians 4:2).

Occupied by the Word

When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus (Acts 18:5).

Servants First

This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God (1 Corinthians 4:1).

Led by the Spirit

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God (Romans 8:14).

The Light of the World

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven (Matthew 5:14-16).

WE
ARE

All in this Together

There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all (Ephesians 4:4-6).

Lighthouses



A LOCAL PLACE OF
SPIRITUAL GROWTH
AND COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT.



Lighthouses are a primary vehicle to carry out the mission and vision of Citylight. They are flexible and relationship based because we believe people make disciples, not places or programs. They place you in the pastoral structure here to make sure you are being cared for. Get involved in one today!

Light Teams

Use your skills, gifts, and passions to serve others and be the light of the world.

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Light teams are another primary vehicle to carry out the mission and vision of Citylight. There are teams for serving in church to help run services and teams for serving in our community throughout the week. Both are essential to what God is doing here. Join a team today!

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Citylight Language

Launching pad, not a landing place.

Hebrews 10:23-24 teaches us that one of the main reasons we gather together is to "stir one another up to love and good deeds."

Services therefore are a launching pad to go and do ministry all week, not a landing place to come sit every week. We gather to go!

Don't spectate, participate.

This is a team effort. We all must be all in all the time! This applies to Sunday morning services (serve, be expressive in worship, talk back in the sermon) and ministry throughout the week. Engage! Participate! Be involved! Use what you got (Romans 6:12) and fan it into flame (2 Timothy 1:6).

Everything multiplies.

Everything multiplies from personal discipleship to a ministry to a church.

This is clearly the New Testament pattern as they made it a priority to make disciples (Matthew 28:18-20) and plant churches. You are a pipe not a bucket. What God does in you He wants to do through you. We don't ever want to become stagnant so we must stay moving, always giving away what we have been given. We put a high focus on servant leader development so we can constantly be ready for the new work God wants to do

Bring your brick.

Ephesians 4:16 teaches us that when each part is working properly, the body is built up in love. Each person is here according to God's assignment (1 Corinthians 12:18) and has been gifted by the Spirit of God (1 Corinthians 12:7).

Everyone is essential to what God wants to do here. If we each bring our brick, then God will build his house. There are no benchwarmers on this team. You matter!

Man shall not live by sermons alone.

In Matthew 4:4, Jesus said, "man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God" not every word that comes from the mouth of your pastor. Living off sermons alone is secondhand Christianity.

God wants to give you a first hand experience with Him. One of our main goals in preaching is to equip and inspire you to read the Bible and meet with God on your own so you can grow every day, not just on Sundays.

Light was made for darkness.

Jesus called his people "the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14). Light is made for darkness. You don't turn on your flashlight when you are outside in the sun but when you are looking for something in the dark.


When Jesus calls us the light of the world that means we have been designed for dark places. That is why our mission says to bring light to dark and hard places. We don't avoid the darkness, we run into it with the light of Christ. This is what we are made for!

Prayer is the work.

We pray because we love God's presence and we need His power. It has been said often that nothing of spiritual significance happens apart from prayer. Supernatural results require supernatural intervention. God must do it.

Therefore, we believe prayer is our first response not our last resort. As Paul teaches in Colossians 4:2 we devote ourselves to it. We do not rely on our plans and strategies but on the power of God, which is available to His people through prayer (James 5:16-17).





Before services and events we rally together to pray, to unify, and to anticipate what God is going to do. There is nothing routine about what we are going to do. It is an intentional time to get ready for a supernatural day! The chant is rooted in scripture (Acts 4:32, Mark 10:45, Ephesians 3:20-21, Psalm 115:1). We also prepare for our time by remembering and agreeing upon these three essential principles of ministry.

Rally Chant

One Heart and soul. Here to serve and not be served. We are excited expectant and ready for God to move. Not to us but to God be the glory.

If someone is alone
it's an emergency.

It's my responsibility.

Bring your brick.

Let's build God's
house.

Let's be what we
want to see.

That's on me.

Glossary

A

Apprentice

A person who is a trainee of a Lighthouse or Light Team Leader who is preparing to lead a team in the future.

B

Basic Training

The 4 week membership course to learn about Citylight and how to get involved.

Bible Intensive

A year-long intensive training to help you grow in spiritual, technical, theological, and practical understanding of the Word of God.

Bricklayers

Leaders who use their God given gifts, time, energy, and resources to build God's house and serve their community.

C

Church Community Builder

The church management system that provides organizational and administrative support,

Citylight College

A place to develop ministry leaders through a variety of tracks and opportunities.

Citylight Conference

A once a year gathering open to everyone where we seek to to equip and inspire our people to continue to walk in the purpose of God.

Citylight Internship

Practical ministry experience and training through summer, semester, and year long opportunities.

Community Light Team

A light team that is organized around an effort to serve our community in a specific way.

Connect Card

The card we use to help connect and follow up with newcomers.

H

House of Prayer

Intentional times to pursue and enjoy the presence of God through gathering together in the Word, in prayer, and in song.

L**Leadership Cohort**

Equipping the church and raising up leaders through weekly ministry training.

Leadership Motto

One Heart and soul.
Here to serve and not be served. We are excited, expectant, and ready for God to move. Not to us but to God be the glory.

Lighthouse

A local place of spiritual growth and community engagement.

Light Team

A place to use your skills, gifts, and passions to serve others and be the light of the world.

M**Merch On Mission**

We love Merch on Mission because we get to represent Citylight in the community while also supporting a local or global mission. 100% of the proceeds always go towards missions.

P**Planning Center**

The organizational app used to plan Sunday services.

S**Seasons**

The way we organize our church calendar every 4 months and provide consistent rhythms for ministry efforts.

Season 1 is January - April. Season 2 is May - August. Season 3 is September - December.

September 15th 2019

Launch Day! The official launch of Citylight Church. We launched in Falls Church High School with a committed team of Servant Leaders. We celebrate Birthday Sunday each year on the Sunday before the 15th.

Servant Leader

We use this phrase instead of "volunteer" to emphasize the core value that we are servants first.

T**Team Night**

A seasonal gathering of servant leaders to celebrate everything God did in the previous season and to look ahead to what is coming in the next one.

Team Rally

The pre-service gathering to pray, be reminded of core principles, and get excited for everything God is about to do!

21 Days

The first 21 days of each year dedicated to prayer and fasting.

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*we are
servants
first*



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22.



GO BE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

1 John 1:5-7

In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1:4-5

*"You are the **light of the world**. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.*

Matthew 5:14

