



THIS IS  
**LINEAGE**



WORKBOOK | MAY 2021





# **THIS IS LINEAGE**

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Belongs To: \_\_\_\_\_



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“Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations.”

- *Genesis 17:4-5*

Welcome! We are so glad you have joined us for this special series. Last year, God took our church through an amazing journey where He rebranded us collectively with a new church name while also rebranding us individually with a new understanding of ourselves. With this new name, God invited us into the next level of our destiny with Him. This rebranding started a transformative process and now we are ready for the next step.

In this series, we set our eyes on what is needed to fully receive the benefits of our new name. In the same way parents expecting their first child will prepare their home accordingly for the arrival of the newborn, we too must prepare ourselves for the promise God has in store for us as Lineage.

Consider the story of Abraham. When God changed his name from Abram to Abraham, there was something else established along with the new name: a covenant. God did this because He wanted not only a more powerful name for Abram but also an equally new and more powerful relationship with him.

In the same way, we as a church community have received a new name that took us deeper into our destiny. Now it is time for us to establish an equally new and deeper relationship with one another as we enter into this new season of our church, so that we can fully live out our destiny as Lineage.

Over the next five weeks, we will explore together this concept of covenant and what it means to be in covenant relationship with one another at Lineage.

To get the most out of this series, we want to encourage you to fully commit to the following three things:

- Attend our online service so that you can receive the vision and heart of God through the preaching of God's Word
- Attend all of your weekly Community Group meetings so you can learn, discuss, share, and pray with others as you go through the material together
- Read God's Word, specifically the passages in this workbook

Love,

*Pastor Benjamin Robinson*

## Part 01

# The Importance of Covenant

GENESIS 17:1-2

1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless. 2 And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly.”

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A covenant is a binding agreement between two parties. Each party agrees to do something for the other party so there is a mutual giving and receiving. However, when God makes a covenant He takes it beyond a mere legal agreement. God’s covenants include a relational component where He invites the other party to enter into a special relationship with Him.

God established the marriage covenant between a man and a woman as a sign of the covenant He desires to have with all of us. Jesus even called the church His bride. In the same way the covenant between a husband and a wife is about mutual love and commitment, God desires to share mutual love and commitment with us.





# Our Covenant With You

Covenants are not just between God and man, but can be between any two parties. At Lineage, we desire to enter into a covenant relationship with everyone who calls this place their spiritual home. We call this membership.

As a community of believers who follow Jesus and desire to become more like Him every day, we want to have the same spirit of love and commitment towards one another that God has with us individually. God has given us the example of what intimate relationship looks like in His kingdom and we want to be a reflection of His kingdom here on earth in how we love one another.

Entering into membership with Lineage is a mutual loving commitment between the church leadership and you. It is also a commitment between every member. It is declaring I have your back and I know you have mine.

There is safety and identity within this kind of relationship. It is how a tribe is formed, where every member is fully committed to the prosperity and protection of the tribe as a whole but also to each individual member of the tribe. It is the essence of family.

Like God's covenant with Abraham, membership at Lineage is a mutual sharing of responsibilities from both parties. Check out the diagram below and see what is expected of both parties in our church covenant.

Lineage's Responsibility	Member's Responsibility
<p><b>Spiritual Covering</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prayer of protection</li> <li>• Godly counsel</li> <li>• Teaching the Word of God</li> </ul> <p><b>Care for your needs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prayer of provision</li> <li>• Comfort and care</li> <li>• Encouragement</li> <li>• Exhortation</li> <li>• Personal availability</li> </ul> <p><b>Spiritual Growth and Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prayer life</li> <li>• Bible study</li> <li>• Spiritual disciplines</li> </ul> <p><b>Discover your Destiny</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prayer for direction</li> <li>• Equipping for service</li> <li>• Sharing of wisdom and experience</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ</li> <li>• Be baptized in water</li> <li>• Regularly attend Sunday Service</li> <li>• Protect the unity of the church</li> <li>• Follow church leadership</li> <li>• Serve in a ministry of the church</li> <li>• Tithe regularly</li> <li>• Share in the vision, mission, and values of the church</li> <li>• Pray for the church</li> <li>• Allow instruction by church leadership when necessary</li> <li>• Submit to church discipline and correction</li> </ul>

# Group Discussion

- What do you think of when you hear the word covenant? After going through this chapter, how has your understanding of covenant changed?
- When you look at God’s covenant with Abraham, what sticks out to you? How are God’s responsibilities different from Abraham’s? What does this say about God?
- When you read Lineage’s membership covenant, what sticks out to you? How do you feel about the church leadership’s responsibilities to the members? How do you feel about the members’ responsibilities to the church?

# Make it Personal

For yourself, how do you feel about the idea of joining Lineage as a member?

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What excites you about becoming a member?

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What reservations do you have about becoming a member?

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On a scale of 1-10, how important is being a member of Lineage to you? (Circle a number below)

**1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9   10**

## Part 02

# The History of Lineage

GENESIS 15:7

7 And he said to him, “I am the Lord who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess.”

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In any relationship, the history shared between the people involved is very important. This provides the context for the relationship and present setting. Before entering into covenant relationship with Abraham, God wanted to remind him of their history together. God wanted him to be fully aware of their current relationship before moving on to the next level.

When it comes to membership at Lineage, we also want you to understand our history as a church so you can get to know us better. Look at the timeline of major events in our church's history. Read each milestone and get a feel for who God has made us to be as a community of believers.

## Go Deeper

Your history with Lineage is equally important. Take a moment to think back on key events in your life that intersect with this church. Our history together as a church family provides a clearer picture of our current relationship. Look at the timeline of major events in our church's history on pages 9 & 10. This is our context as we stand ready for a new season of membership.

List below your top 3-5 memories of Lineage. Consider key milestones such as: how you found this church, who shared the Gospel with you, baptism, answered prayers, miracles, encounters with Jesus, or experiences with the Holy Spirit.

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02 \_\_\_\_\_

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03 \_\_\_\_\_

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04 \_\_\_\_\_

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05 \_\_\_\_\_

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2003

2004

2006

2007



December

Living Hope holds 4 Sunday night preview services at Trinity Lutheran Church in Oakland. About 40 people gathered in each service. No band, just a piano, a mic, and the presence of God.



January

Then on January 4th of 2004, Living Hope had its first Sunday morning service at the Holiday Inn in Emeryville. Our church was born!

February

A month later we moved around the corner to the Emeryville Courtyard Marriott, and we worshipped there for a good 2 years.

January

But when the Marriott decided to renovate its meeting facilities, we moved over to the Linen Life Art Gallery on Park Ave, right up the street from Pixar.



September

Then in the Fall of 2007, Linen Life moved to San Leandro, and we moved our services over to the United Artists Theater, which used to be right across from the Emeryville Public Market.





2009

2016

2017

2019

2020

April

After a year and a half at the theater, we were able to secure a small space at 4550 San Pablo Ave in a dairy factory that was converted into an office building. We were there for nearly 7 years.



January

When our lease ended there, we returned to the site of the old Holiday Inn, which had now become the Emeryville Hilton Garden Inn. We spent a year here worshipping on the top floor, enjoying panoramic views of the bay.

November

Towards the end of our time here, we launched our San Francisco campus (SoDa) at the Verdi club in San Francisco's Potrero Hill area.

January

Then, 2 months later our Emeryville campus moved from the Hilton Garden Inn to the Emeryville Center of Community life, and we've been meeting there for the past 3 years.

January

Joined FMC - After being a nondenominational church since our founding, God opened the door for us to join the Free Methodist denomination. An unexpected twist - in the process of joining FMC, we were given a building in El Cerrito - our first permanent location. (Go here for more information!)

Fall

Kingdom first- Finally having our own building, it was time to make it new. As a house, we came together, and in faith, pledged to give \$1.5 million to renovate our new home.

Lineage - Not only did we feel God call us to move with Him, we felt his invitation to become more fully who we were meant to be. In November, we rebranded from Living Hope Christian Center to Lineage Church.

# 2021 and beyond

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To Be continued





## Group Discussion

- What is one thing you learned about the history of Lineage?
- Describe Lineage and its history in three words. Why did you choose those specific words?

## Make it Personal

As you look back on your journey with Lineage, how would you describe the impact Lineage has had on your life?

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With the past in mind and now looking at the present, how would you describe your current relationship with Lineage? An acquaintance? A friend? A committed partner?

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## Part 03

# Who We Are & What We Believe

GENESIS 15:6

6 And he believed the Lord, and He counted it to him as righteousness.

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God and Abraham have a beautiful story and a relationship that grew over time. God first appeared to Abraham in Genesis 12, but He did not bring up the idea of covenant relationship until chapters 15 and 17. When God first introduced Himself to Abraham, He asked him to leave his home country and go to a foreign place because He wanted to bless him.

God waited until Abraham had gone through some experiences with Him and built trust in Him. God waited until Abraham knew Him better because covenant relationship is a committed relationship that requires trust. God did not expect Abraham to trust Him without knowing Him.

In the same way, it is important for you to know who we are as Lineage and what we believe. We want you to get to know us and understand exactly what kind of church community we are before you decide to become a member and join us. There are four central parts to our identity as a church: vision, mission, values, and statement of faith.

**VISION**

## God Truly Among Us

Every human heart longs for God. This is the foundation of everything we do. Our vision is the real God coming to satisfy the real longing of every human heart.

**MISSION**

## Becoming More Fully Who We Are As We Discover More Fully Who He Is

If we seek God, we will find him. The problem is that we tend to seek everything but God and therefore satisfy every need but our deepest need. Our mission is to teach multitudes of people to turn away from false longings and pursue the fulfillment of their true longing: God.

**CORE VALUES**

Identity ——— Your true identity is found only in God!

Community ——— Commitment to community is the only path toward fullness in Christ!

Maturity ——— God has more for you than you could ever imagine!

Freedom ——— There is no brokenness that cannot be mended or chain that cannot be broken in this way!

**THE PATHWAY**

Discover Your Identity | Commit to Community | Pursue Maturity | Enjoy Real Freedom

# Statement of Faith

## **GOD**

God has many roles and functions (like Creator, King, and Judge), but his identity is Father. He created us because he had a surplus of love that demanded an object, and each of us has been uniquely created to be an object of a unique expression of his love.

## **JESUS**

Because we all have rebelled against God and therefore live as orphans, even though he created us to be sons and daughters, God sent his son Jesus to take the punishment for our sin and invite us back home, to God's house. We accept that invitation by believing that Jesus is God's son, that he took the punishment for our sin by dying on the cross, and that God raised him from the dead on the third day. As we believe this in our hearts and confess this with our mouths, we may trust Jesus for our salvation and be "born again," brought back into right relationship with God as his sons and daughters.

## **THE HOLY SPIRIT**

When God brings us back into his family as his sons and daughters, he doesn't just adopt us; he gives us his DNA. The Holy Spirit is the DNA of God. He comes to dwell inside of us when we truly believe in Jesus, and he opens our eyes and our hearts so that we can hear God, see God, feel God, and know God's love to the fullest! As we walk with Jesus, we should ask God for more and more of the Holy Spirit so that we can grow closer and closer to God for the rest of our lives.

## **THE CHURCH**

The church is not an institution, a club, or a political affiliation. The church is God's family, and it is composed of his sons and daughters who come to know one another as brothers and sisters. The true experience of community in the church should not be built around our common earthly interests or pursuits, but around our shared passion for knowing Jesus, being filled with his Spirit, walking in his freedom, and reflecting his glory to every creature under heaven!

## **THE BIBLE**

We believe the bible to be the authoritative witness to the person and work of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Because we are committed to believing and serving the Jesus revealed in Scripture, we are also committed to believing and teaching only what is expressly taught in Scripture.

**For more information, visit <https://www.lineage.us/membership> and watch our videos!**

## Group Discussion

- What is one thing you learned about Lineage and its identity that you didn't know before?
- What questions do you have about any of these statements by Lineage?

## Make it Personal

As you read these four components of Lineage, what parts resonated with you?

What parts made you feel uncomfortable? Why?

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On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your willingness to commit to these statements and live in agreement with them? Why did you pick that number? If it is below 5, what specifically concerns you?

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## Part 04

# The Blessing of Covenant

GENESIS 12:2-3

2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

GENESIS 15:5

5 And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

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God invited Abraham into a covenant relationship to be with him but God had two other powerful purposes as well. God wanted to bless Abraham personally, not just for his own prosperity, but so that all nations would be blessed as well.

God did this in two steps. He first told Abraham his vision of what he wanted to do for him and what he wanted to do on the earth (Genesis 12). Then, God brought Abraham outside and had him look at the stars. God invited Abraham to dream with Him what that might look like in his life and in the lives of those around him. We want to do the same with you!

We believe this is the same spirit found in membership at Lineage. Entering into membership with us both blesses you personally but also blesses the world around us as you join us in spreading the kingdom of God on earth.

Go back to Chapter 1 and review Lineage's responsibility to its members. This is how we want to bless our members! Then, go back to Chapter 3 and read our vision and mission statements. This is how we want to bless the world around us!

## Go Deeper

Now, we want you to imagine what it would look like for you to be part of Lineage. Below, you will find three levels of your life. Consider each and take the time to really imagine and dream about how each area of your life could change if you were to join this community as we pursue God together. Pray and ask God to be part of your dreaming process. He already has some for you!

### **INTERNALLY - YOU & GOD**

How would joining Lineage change my relationship with God?

How would joining Lineage help me grow personally, emotionally, spiritually?

### **EXTERNALLY - YOU & YOUR SURROUNDINGS**

How would joining Lineage change my career? My relationships with others?

How would joining Lineage change my family? My dreams for my life?

### **GLOBALLY - YOU & THE WORLD**

How would joining Lineage change my city? The community around me?

In what ways would joining Lineage empower me to bless those around me?

## Group Discussion

- Share some of the things you imagined above. What would it look like to be part of a committed community like this?
- How do you envision yourself being blessed? How do you see yourself blessing others?
- After four weeks of studying covenant and membership, how has your perspective changed? Would you consider becoming a member? Why or why not?



SAVE THE DATE:

# Covenant Day

You are now ready to become a member of Lineage! Covenant Day is when everyone who is ready to join Lineage will pledge their commitment together at one time. Over the last four weeks, you have learned everything about us and what it means to be part of our Lineage family. We truly believe God wants to bless us as a community as well as individually so that we can be a light to this world. Come along with us and let's bless one another and the world around us!

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*Sunday | May 30th | Time 11:00am*

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To prepare for Covenant Day, please read the following:

- Lineage covenant **pg 5**
- History of Lineage **pg 9**
- Lineage's Vision, Mission, and Core Values **pg 14**
- Lineage's Statement of Faith **pg 15**
- Prepare your heart through prayer

On Covenant Day, those who are ready to become members of Lineage will be given a digital covenant form to sign as a symbol of their commitment. After this is completed, each member will receive a personalized certificate in the mail and have the opportunity to celebrate this momentous occasion with other members!

## Part 05

# Keeping a Covenant

GENESIS 17:9

9 And God said to Abraham, 'As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations.'

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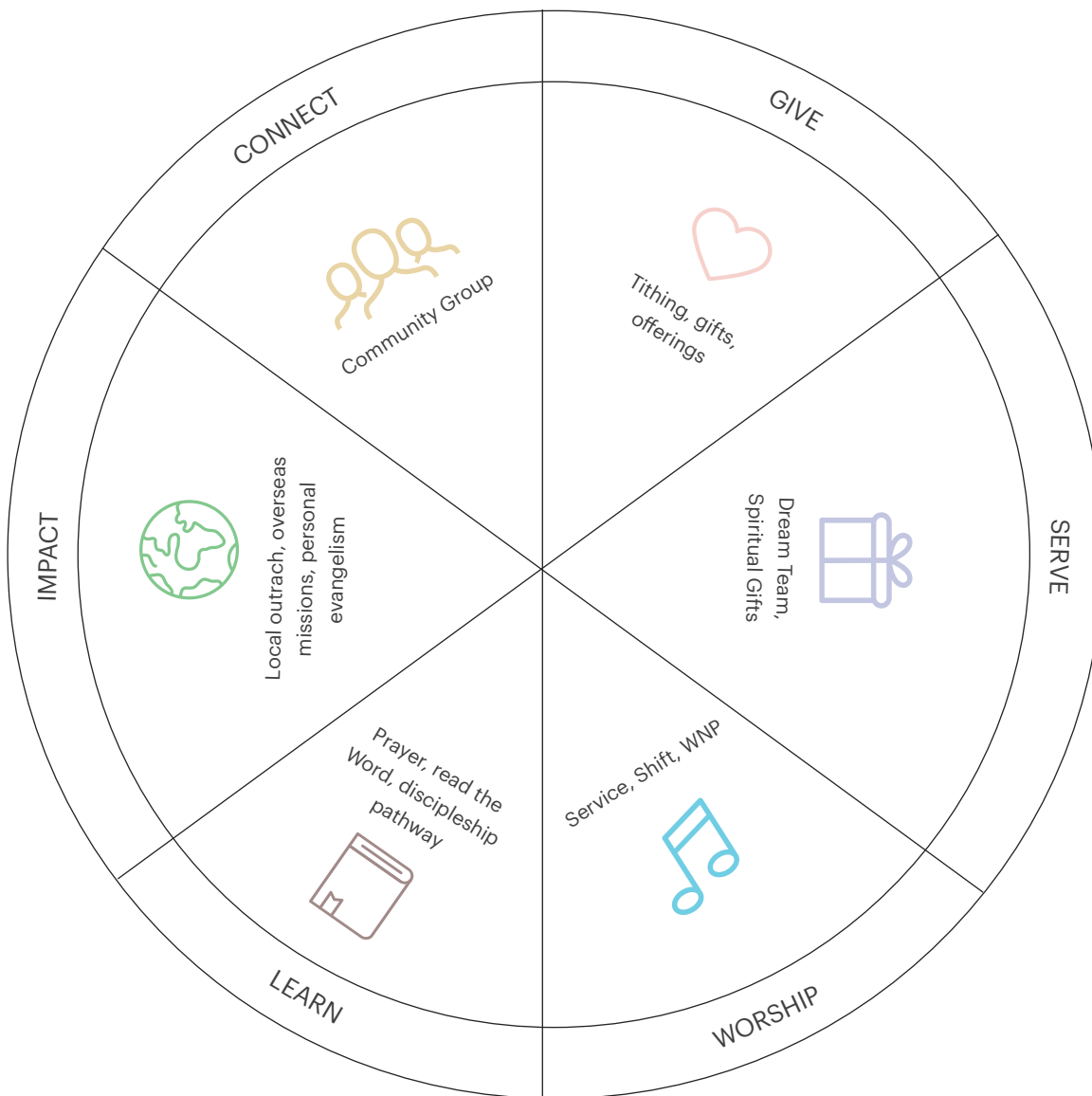
After Abraham said yes to God and made a covenant with Him, God took Him on crazy adventures and began to unlock his destiny. Abraham didn't just sit around thinking he was finished. The covenant was the start of his new destiny with God!

Now that you are a member of Lineage, it's time to activate our new covenant and live powerfully within it! This is the beginning of our adventure together as a community and there are some simple ways for you to get connected with us and get involved with building this house!

Just like any tribe or household, every person takes ownership for the health and welfare of the tribe. We want you to know this is OUR Lineage. We all build it together. We all care for it together. At the same time, we all celebrate together when there is victory and breakthrough. When the community grows, we all benefit and reap the rewards!

# Growth Track

Check out the growth track below. It displays the six areas of growth for all members of Lineage. These are the ways we can live out our covenant to one another. Use this diagram to see areas of strength where you are active as a member and other areas that can be improved. Any area that needs improvement is a great starting point to get active and walk in covenant relationship with Lineage in a deeper way!



## Group Discussion

- Looking at the growth map, what area do you feel you can grow the most?
- On a scale of 1-10 how connected are you to Lineage? Why did you choose that number?

## Make it Personal

What is one way you can grow in your membership and connection with Lineage?

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What is one small step you can take right now to help activate your membership in a greater way?

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Our home



Our family



Our lineage

