

# Academy CHRISTIAN CONNECT GUIDE



Winter/Spring 2026

**We exist to  
GATHER people into authentic worship,  
GROW together in Christ, and  
GO into our neighborhoods as  
everyday missionaries to share Jesus  
and make disciples.**



**Get more info and  
request to join online!**  
[academychristian.org/connect-groups](http://academychristian.org/connect-groups)

# WELCOME!

**Dear Friends,**

Our sincere desire is to help you grow in your relationship with God. One of the most important steps in that journey is connecting regularly with other believers. This booklet was created to help you find those opportunities for connection.

Life can be challenging, and we were never meant to walk through it alone. Being part of a Bible study group provides encouragement during struggles, deepens our understanding of God's Word, and offers loving accountability as we seek to follow Christ. We hope you'll discover a group here that inspires and strengthens your spiritual walk.

Each group is committed to studying God's Word—not simply to gain knowledge, but to experience transformation. As Howard Hendricks said, *"We do not study the Scripture to become a smarter sinner, but so that it will transform us to be more like the Savior."* When our hearts are shaped to reflect Christ, we grow in love for those who do not yet know Him. Spiritual growth naturally leads us to share the gospel, and we want to help equip you for that mission.

There are many steps in the journey of faith, and joining a Bible study group is one of the most impactful. If you need help finding the right group, please reach out—we would love to walk alongside you as you take this step toward deeper connection and transformation.

**Your Fellow Servant in Christ,**

Kirk Gambrell

Pastor of Discipleship

# Next Steps

If you are new to Christ, or new to  
Academy Christian Church  
take your next step to  
*Gather, Grow, and Go!*

At ACC we firmly believe God that has a plan for everyone. Jeremiah 29:11 says, *“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.”*

With that in mind, the plan below is essential to help you take your next steps to grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ:

- **WORSHIP:** We grow in our relationship with Jesus when we spend time in His Word and in prayer. Make daily worship a priority and commit to worshiping God with other believers.
- **GROUPS:** True life happens in the context of relationships. Groups provide an opportunity to be real with others, to learn how to apply God's Word and to learn from one another.
- **VOLUNTEERING:** One of the greatest investments you will make in God's kingdom is to serve and love one another. Allow God to move in and through you by volunteering.



## **BAPTISM**

If you would like to follow Christ in believer's baptism, please contact the pastor of your choice for one-on-one instruction on baptism.

## **GETTING TO KNOW ACC**

Take one hour to get introduced to ACC, and ask some questions of your own. Offered five times a year from 4-5 PM on Sundays, and held next on February 1 and March 22.

## **MEMBERSHIP CLASS**

Meet the pastors, learn the vision and mission of ACC, and what it means to be a member. It's the next step for greater involvement and is offered five times a year from 3-5 PM on Sundays. The next classes will be on January 25 and March 1.

# ABFs

## **8:00 EXPLORERS**

8:00a

Room A6

Led by Bob Eaton, John Oswald, Rob Wilson  
*Joshua*



## **#4FAMILY**

9:30a

Room L5

Led by Dave and Julie Mintz, Michael and Karen Flaherty  
A class for adults who have kids living at home  
*Ephesians*

## **DIGGING DEEPER**

9:30a

Room A6

Led by John Boska, Larry Lawrence  
*Gospel of Mark*

## **DISCOVERY**

9:30a

Room L1

Led by John Hickman, Gerald "Chief" Rendel  
*1 Corinthians*

## **9:30 EXPLORERS**

9:30a

Room L6

Led by Bill Walter, Bruce Wadman, and VJ James  
Old Testament—Minor Prophets

## **GOLDEN EAGLES**

9:30a

Room A2

Led by Craig Campbell, Larry Izenbart  
A class composed mostly of adults in their 60-90s  
Contemporary Christian Topics

**OPEN ARMS**

9:30a

Room A7

Led by Dawn McClung

*Joshua, then 1 & 2 Thessalonians***ROAD TO EMMAUS**

9:30a

Room A4

Led by Carol Norris

A class composed of mostly adults 40s—80s

Genealogy of Jesus

**FAMILY FOUNDATIONS**

11:00a

Room L6

Led by the McKees, Savages, and Harpers

A class composed of young families

Biblical Principles to Grow Your Family

**THE MASTER'S CLASS**

11:00a

Room L2

Led by Kathleen Fast and Jeremy Jordan

A class composed of post-high school/post college young adults

"Practicing the Way" by John Mark Comer

# Life Groups

## **FAMILY DISCIPLESHP**

### **Sundays 5:30p, 80922**

Led by Kevin and Tami Good, Kreg and Keleigh Kell

This group for young families meets two Sundays a month

"Habits of the Household" by Justin Whitmel Early

## **WORSHIP & THE WORD**

### **Mondays 7-9p, 80920**

Led by Jadon and Shawna Pratt

Mostly made up of young adults and young marrieds

Expository Scripture study with occasional topical study

## **DOWNES/STOEL LIFE GROUP**

### **Tuesdays 7p, 80920**

Led by Stan Downes, Kelvin and Lilah Stoel

"Deeper" by Dane C. Ortlund

## **FLYING HORSE LIFE GROUP**

### **Tuesdays 6:30p, 80921**

Led by Bob and Lisa Gaby

*Romans*

## **PARENTS OF YOUNG ADULTS**

### **Wednesdays 6:30p**

Meets at the ACC Main Office

Led by Mike Folkerts and Kevin Seay

"Doing Life with Your Adult Children..."



## **ACTIVE SINGLE WOMEN**

### **2nd & 4th Wednesdays 6:15p, 80917**

Led by Barb Collins and Debbie Rohan

Active single women of any age

"All Things New" 1 Corinthians

## **BOOMERS**

### **Wednesdays 6:30p, NSC L1**

Led by David and Karin Sleeger

A group of Boomers, single or married—they meet the 2nd and 4th Weds of the month.

"The Chosen", Season 5, then Season 6

## **BYARS CONNECT GROUP**

### **Thursdays 6:30, 80132**

Led by Bill and Suzanne Byars

This group is made up of Empty Nesters

"The Chosen—Season 2"

## **EATON LIFE GROUP**

### **Wednesdays 6p, 80920**

Led by Bob and Cathie Eaton

*Numbers*

## **NEWKIRK LIFE GROUP**

### **Thursdays 6:30p, 80132**

Led by Paul and Denise Newkirk

"Deeper" by Dane C. Ortland

## **FRIDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY**

### **Fridays 7p, NSC Office**

Led by Brad Harper

Couples 50+, kids out of high school at least

*Joshua*

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# Specialty Groups

## BECOMING A CHURCH THAT CARES WELL FOR THE ABUSED

### **11a Sundays, Room A2**

Led by Jessy Reisiger

January 11—March 29, 2026

Be better prepared to respond to domestic abuse when you see it. Attend a 12-week class, *Becoming a Church that Cares Well for the Abused* beginning Jan 11 at 11AM in Room A2. Class will follow the book and video teaching of the same title.

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## GRIEFSHARE

### **6:30p Mondays, Room A2**

Led by Bill & Cindy Walter, Marcy Tourville, Allison Harmon

February 2 - April 27, 2026

Have you lost someone precious to you? This much recommended small group encounter will help lead you through the important and challenging experience of grief.

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## relengage

### **6:15p Wednesdays, NSC**

Led by Joe and Connie Brossard

January 14—May 13, 2026

relengage examines God's design for marriage and applies principles from the Bible to guide couples towards growth in their relationship with each other. You will learn practical ways to grow in oneness with your spouse and gain insights from others in your small group. This 17-week program is offered once a year on Wednesday evenings. It will begin Jan 14 and end May 13. Early bird cost is \$95/couple. Academy Kids is included for birth—5th grade.

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# Young Adults

## THE MASTER'S CLASS

**11:00a Sundays, Room L2**

Led by Kathleen Fast and Jeremy Jordan

"Practicing the Way" by John Mark Comer

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## THE ARMORY

**6:30p Mondays, Room L2**

Led by Kathleen Fast

"The Seven Primal Questions" by Mike Foster

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## YOUNG & HUNGRY LUNCH

Connect over lunch at noon and then feed the homeless.

Typically the last Sunday of each month.

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## COLLEGE CARE PACKAGE ASSEMBLY

**Feb 22, 1:30p, Room A7**



# Men

## TUESDAY MORNING MEN

### **Tuesdays, 8a**

Led by Steve Thiessen

Northside Campus, A3

The Journeys of Paul

## PSA LIFE GROUP

### **1 & 3 Tuesdays 6:30p, 80922**

Led by John Green

Prayer, Support and Accountability

## DADS TO DADS

### **Wednesdays, 6:30a**

Led by Taylor Downs

Northside Campus, A3 (Café)

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEN

### **Wednesdays, 6:30p**

Led by Russell Chun

Northside Campus, A6

"Fatherhood"

## LEAP OF FAITH

### **Thursdays, 6a**

Led by Kevin Seay and Russ Chun

Northside Campus, A4

*James with Proverbs*

## TRANSFORMING MEN'S STUDY

### **Saturdays, 6:30a**

Led by Marc Hoffmann

Panera Bread @ 1845 Briargate Pkwy

*1 and 2 Corinthians*

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## MEN'S MINISTRY OF ACC

Academy Men is here to help guys

*Rise Up* to biblical manhood...

*Lead Out* a life that honors Jesus...

*Disciple Others* to go and do likewise.

We are a group of guys who are truly authentic. You'll find no judgment here. Come as you are and allow God to move in you.

The first Saturday of the month is our Men's Breakfast. You'll find great food, worship, teaching and break out groups for further discussion. We also have many Men's Groups that take place throughout the week.

Plus, we have at least one Men's event a month. The monthly events rotate from serving projects to chili-cookoffs to fun hikes to Super Bowl parties. We try to mix it up throughout the year.

To summarize, we're a bunch of guys on a journey together to become the men God's called us to be. We'd love for you to come and join us!

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# Women



**9-11:30a Saturday Brunches, Jan 24, Mar 21, May 9, July 11, Sept 12**

Wouldn't it be incredible if every woman at ACC sparked the kind of curiosity that moved a neighbor, coworker, friend, stranger, or family member to say, ***"Tell me why you care so deeply. Tell me what makes you so different. Tell me about your Jesus."***

Even better, imagine all of us feeling equipped and eager to answer.

To grow into that community, we must reclaim the lost art of real conversation in a frantic culture that rarely listens and where our collective emotional awareness has sunk dangerously low. Let's lean into the way God designed us—two ears, one mouth—and practice it in everyday-missionary moments by gently saying to others, **"Tell me more."**

## **MONDAY NIGHT STUDY**

### **6:15p Mondays**

Led by Lorraine Wadman  
In the home of Lorraine Wadman  
*The Bible*

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## **TUESDAY NIGHT STUDY**

### **6:15p Tuesdays**

Led by Barb Collins  
ACC Room L2  
Jesus from the Eyes of Mary, Martha, and others

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## **MOM TO MOMS**

### **9:30a 2nd & 4th Wednesdays**

Led by Vicki Wise, Julie Nilsen, Amy Wilch  
ACC Room A4—with preschool childcare with registration  
"The Gospel Mom" by Jensen/Wifle

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## **THURSDAY MORNING STUDY**

### **9:30a Thursdays**

Led by Kathleen Fast  
ACC Room L2  
"The Seven Primal Questions" by Mike Foster

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## **KNOWING JESUS AS SERVANT**

### **6:00p Thursdays**

Led by Kelly Poirier  
Offsite at Village Coop  
"Knowing Jesus as God" by Tara-Leigh Cobble

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## **BIBLES, BOOKS, AND BANTER**

### **6:30p Thursdays**

Led by Sarah Hamel  
In the home of Sarah Hamel  
"The Women of Christmas" by Liz Curtis Higgs followed by  
"Life is Hard, God Is Good, Let's Dance" by Brant Hansen

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## NEED HELP FINDING A GROUP?

For personal assistance in connecting, contact:

KIRK GAMBRELL

[kirk@academychristian.org](mailto:kirk@academychristian.org)

KATHLEEN FAST

[kathleen@academychristian.org](mailto:kathleen@academychristian.org)

DAWN McCLUNG

[dawn@academychristian.org](mailto:dawn@academychristian.org)

*Academy*  
**CHRISTIAN**

[academychristian.org](http://academychristian.org)

1635 OLD RANCH RD, COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80908  
719-599-0476