

firststep >

LET THE ADVENTURE BEGIN

PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE
FIRSTSTEP 01/02

damascus.com

firststep > 01

CONNECT

RAJENDRA'S STORY



RAJENDRA PILLAI
Senior Pastor

NOTES:

What part of Rajendra's story do you resonate with most?



“DEAR FRIENDS,
LET US LOVE ONE
ANOTHER, FOR LOVE
COMES FROM GOD.”

1 JOHN 4:7A

THE DAMASCUS ROAD STORY

NOTES:

MEN'S BREAKFAST



Word bank:
the main thing
mission-driven
community-focused
essentials
equally a minister
community
power

CORE VALUES

We keep the main thing the _____
_____.

We are a _____ - _____ church.

We are a _____ - _____ church.

We focus on the _____.

We believe every member is _____
_____ of Jesus Christ.

OUR VISION

Our calling together at DRCC is to be a _____
of light by the _____ of the LORD Jesus Christ.

How did you discover DRCC and what made you come back?

A woman with sunglasses and a striped shirt is walking on a paved path, holding the hand of a small child in a striped dress. Two other children, a girl in a white shirt and pink shorts and another girl in a pink shirt and pink shorts, are walking ahead of her. They are in front of a modern building with a large window and a gabled roof structure. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

“ALL THIS IS FROM GOD,
WHO RECONCILED US TO
HIMSELF THROUGH CHRIST
AND GAVE US THE MINISTRY
OF RECONCILIATION: THAT
GOD WAS RECONCILING THE
WORLD TO HIMSELF IN CHRIST,
NOT COUNTING PEOPLE’S
SINS AGAINST THEM. AND HE
HAS COMMITTED TO US THE
MESSAGE OF RECONCILIATION.
WE ARE THEREFORE CHRIST’S
AMBASSADORS, AS THOUGH
GOD WERE MAKING HIS
APPEAL THROUGH US.”

2 CORINTHIANS 5:18-20

YOUR STORY

NOTES:

YOU ARE NOT HERE BY CHANCE. YOU ARE NOT A MISTAKE.

Where are you in your spiritual journey?



GROWTH STAGES

Exploring, you are asking questions about faith and Jesus

Beginning, the point where you come to know Jesus as your Lord and Savior. Christianity is still new to you and you are taking your first steps of growth through the community of God.

Growing, you are regularly pursuing a deeper relationship with Jesus and are connected with His community, and you are increasing in your knowledge of scripture and identity in Christ.

Overflowing, you are continually maturing in your walk with Jesus, conforming to His image, serving, and helping others grow in their faith as well.

It really doesn't matter where you fall on this continuum. We want to help you take your _____, _____, _____!

You become part of a community where _____ is found, authentic _____ and _____ are experienced, and the radical _____ and _____ of Jesus get dispensed.



Word bank:
next right step
hope
love
acceptance
grace
joy



EVERYONE IS WELCOME.
NO ONE IS PERFECT.
AND ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE.

SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL

Select a phrase for each section that best represents where you are now. At the end of the assessment you will receive a suggestion on where you may want to dive in on the Damascus Road ALL IN Pathway. For the most accurate results, read through each statement carefully and answer honestly.

CIRCLE THE NUMBER BEFORE THE PHRASE THAT BEST REPRESENTS YOU NOW.



READ YOUR BIBLE & PRAY

1. I know of the Bible but am not really too sure what is in it or what it has to do with my life. I really am not sure how I would begin to learn more about it but I'm open to hearing about it if it will help make my life better. Prayer is something that I may have done before, but usually just when I was in a desperate situation.
2. I've committed my life and my mind to Jesus and I understand that the Bible is God's Word to me as one of His people. There is a lot that I don't know about the Bible but I am excited to learn more. I have a basic understanding of some things in the Bible, but I'm no expert. I've been praying a bit and, though I'm not sure it's doing anything, I do feel better when I make time for it.
3. I have built regular times of Bible study and prayer into my life. I am really learning how these times make a huge difference in my interaction with others and with God. It seems like the more I learn about Him, the deeper my relationship and commitment becomes.
4. I have a settled sense of clarity in my life; not about all of life's questions or every decision but about where I turn for daily guidance, inspiration, and when difficult decisions arise. The Bible and prayer are the grounding elements for understanding who God is and who He is calling me to be.



SERVE & GIVE

1. "Serving" is not really something that is a part of my life, per se. I have activities that I am a part of but most of them are not charitable in nature. I am open to hearing about ways to get involved and help others, but I don't know where I would begin. Beyond a couple dollars here and there, I would not say that I give to any causes outside of my family and my finances.

2. I have served and given in different capacities and can see where God has used these experiences to grow me. I don't really have an area of passion that I'm committed to yet but understand that God does want to use me and my resources to further His work.

3. Serving and Giving have become a regular reminder to me that God is in charge of every part of my life. His plan for my life might not always be comfortable, but I can tell that it is good. I want to figure out exactly where I can be best used to further His kingdom work.

4. I strive, in all areas of my life, to have an open hand of generosity and absolute trust that God is in control; I am only the steward of His resources and am grateful to give Him the final say in their allocation.



DO LIFE TOGETHER

1. I have had experiences in my life with other people, some of them may have even been positive and uplifting, but right now I don't know that I would say that I'm sharing my life with anyone (other than my family, maybe) in a very close way. Going to church isn't really a regular part of my life either, except maybe on holidays.

2. In checking out weekend services I have found that they add value to my life. I am learning and growing from the messages and would like to get more involved. In checking out a small group I found that it was helpful in getting to know other people in the community. I'm not part of a small group on a consistent basis but would be open to seeing what that would be like.

3. I really do look forward to attending the weekend services and my small group. I have formed some relationships that are life giving and authentic. I am realizing that I am an important part of the community that God is building; both the community and I would be missing out on something significant if I weren't here.

4. The worship service experience is a joyful celebration of who God is and what He has done for me. It is my weekly resurrection party and reminder of who we are in Christ Jesus. Small Groups are an authentic and honest place of trust where I find community and support in the reciprocal love and care of my brothers and sisters.



SHARE JESUS

1. I don't think I know enough about Jesus to tell anyone else about him without sounding weird or religious.
2. I'm learning more about Jesus and about myself day by day. I'm definitely not an evangelist but would be open to sharing what I know with others if the right opportunity came up.
3. My relationship and knowledge of Jesus is a source of great joy for me; sharing what I know of Him is something that I look forward to; I look for opportunities to let others know about the Good News.
4. Jesus is the source of all life and everything good flows from Him. I recognize what Christ has done for me and am quick and eager to share the life that I am living with others.



REMOVE BARRIERS

1. I probably have parts of my life that I would not want other people to know about things that I would be pretty upset if someone else found out. Those areas are my personal business and I will deal with them if I feel like I need to. I am open to hearing if God has something to say about them or some way that I can work through some of the things that might hang me up.
2. I have settled the issue of who is in control of my life; I have given Jesus the top position as LORD. As I learn more about what that means I am starting to realize that there are areas of my life that, if I don't allow Him to help me deal with them, will become a persistent barrier to my ability to say "yes" to His will in everything.
3. I am grateful for the journey that I am on toward Christ. I have seen old barriers to my growth overcome but have also seen new ones present themselves. Working to remove these barriers can be difficult and painful, but I am committed to addressing them as they arise.
4. I am far from perfect, but I do have clarity on the things in my life that lead to abundance; I have resolved to swiftly and soundly reject all paths that might keep me from growing in Christ. I am doing my best to be relentless about removing barriers to Christ in my life and helping others do the same.

TOTAL & ASSESSMENT

Add up all of the numbers that you circled and enter the sum: _____

Your answers to this assessment tool reveal where you *might fall* in your present journey toward a Christ-centered life. There are four phases of growth in the ALL IN discipleship pathway:

5 - 6 / EXPLORING - asking questions about Faith & Jesus

7 - 11 / BEGINNING - new to faith or taking my first steps

12 - 16 / GROWING - regularly meeting with Jesus & am being changed into His likeness

17 - 20 / OVERFLOWING - continually maturing and helping others to grow in their faith



YOUR NEXT RIGHT STEP

Now think about your NEXT RIGHT STEP. Damascus Road offers multiple opportunities throughout the year designed to help you grow in faith, community, and service. Here are some suggestions...

EXPLORING

Read the Bible and Pray: Download the YouVersion App and start with the Gospel of John, consider attending an ALPHA class

Serve and Give: Serve one-time on a S.W.A.T. team, Easter, Christmas, Summer VBS

Do Life Together: Commit to a weekend service for a month

Share Jesus: Share DRCC social media posts

Remove Barriers: We offer classes and experiences like AA, GriefShare, DivorceCare, Financial Peace, Marriage Class, Parenting Class, etc.

BEGINNING

Read the Bible and Pray: Study the weekly message

Serve and Give: Serve on Parking or Greeter Team, damascus.com/volunteer

Do Life Together: Attend a monthly Refuge Worship Event, damascus.com/events

Share Jesus: Connect with our local community during our food drives and Christmas Alive

Remove Barriers: We offer classes and experiences like AA, GriefShare, DivorceCare, Financial Peace, Marriage Classes, Parenting Classes, etc.

GROWING

Read the Bible and Pray: Consistently read and study the Bible

Serve and Give: Explore God's purpose in a PLACE workshop

Do Life Together: Regularly invest in your small group

Share Jesus: Invite a friend to your small group or weekend service

Remove Barriers: We offer classes and experiences like AA, GriefShare, DivorceCare, Financial Peace, Marriage Classes, Parenting Classes, etc.

OVERFLOWING

Read the Bible and Pray: Daily Bible study and prayer

Serve and Give: Serve or lead a ministry team

Do Life Together: Help expand ministry team you serve on

Share Jesus: Share DRCC social media posts

REMOVE BARRIERS

We offer classes and experiences like AA, GriefShare, DivorceCare, Financial Peace, Marriage Class, Parenting Classes, and more.

DON'T FORGET TO ATTEND FIRSTSTEP 02!

Next week.
Same time, same place.

Remember...

Look for an email from us with "Go Deeper." The table with the highest percentage that does one or all of them will win a prize! Bring this booklet back next week.

Your **Next Step Guide** will be contacting you. We are here to serve you!

Questions?
Connect@Damascus.com



firststep > 02

COMMUNITY

STORY



NOTES:

The **ALL IN Pathway** is a plan to help you move toward Christ-centered maturity - there is always a next right step! We want to be a church where community is flourishing and people are personally connected to Jesus, serving and sharing Him with joy.



Read the Bible & Pray



Serve & Give



Do Life Together



Share Jesus



Remove Barriers

Share a group experience when you felt energized.

“AND WHATEVER YOU DO,
WHETHER IN WORD OR
DEED, DO IT ALL IN THE
NAME OF THE LORD JESUS,
GIVING THANKS TO GOD
THE FATHER THROUGH HIM.”

COLOSSIANS 3:17



SMALL GROUPS

YOU'RE DESIGNED FOR COMMUNITY

Whether you're looking for help in a practical area of your life, navigating a difficult season, seeking to learn more about God and the Bible, or pursuing new skills, you'll find insightful content and dedicated teachers that will equip you to do life better. Visit the Groups Kiosk in the lobby and browse through the groups cards to find one that fits or visit damascus.com/groups. Group categories include:



FIND A GROUP THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU! BROWSE THE GROUP OFFERINGS AT THE KIOSK IN THE LOBBY ON WEEKENDS OR VISIT DAMASCUS.COM/GROUPS.

- Women's Groups
- Men's Groups
- Mixed Groups
- Parent Groups
- Spanish-speakers
- Young Adults
- Special Needs Adults & Children
- Sports Teams

AFFINITY GROUPS (CLUBS)

Affinity groups are great places to connect with others over a special interest like photography, hiking, sewing for missions, and more. Learn more on our website.

NOTES:



FIND A GROUP THAT
WORKS WITH YOUR
STAGE OF LIFE, INTERESTS,
OR SCHEDULE - AND
EXPERIENCE COMMUNITY
AND CHRIST'S LOVE
ALONG THE WAY!

SERVING WITH A PURPOSE

FIND YOUR FIT

Damascus Road believes that we are most fulfilled when investing our gifts and energy into the lives of others. Collectively, we can do much to impact our communities and world. We organize and offer serving opportunities for:

- The local church by joining a service team.
- Our community and in partnership with local organizations (Mt. Airy Net, SWAT Teams, Vulnerable Children's Ministry, and more).
- The world through global missions on five continents.

You can find a comprehensive **Serving Directory** at the **Guest Central** for a complete list of opportunities where you can use your gifts and talent to make a difference or visit damascus.com/serve to learn more.

NOTES:



OUR MISSION TEAMS ARE
CHRIST-CENTERED,
CULTURALLY SENSITIVE,
RECEPTOR-FOCUSED, LEAD
BY COMPETENT LEADERS,
SERVING WITH HUMILITY,
WORKING AS A UNITED TEAM.

A woman with red curly hair is singing on stage, her eyes closed and her arms raised in a gesture of praise. She is wearing a dark blue sleeveless top with a colorful floral pattern and blue jeans. She holds a black microphone in her left hand. In the background, another person is visible, also with their arms raised, and a bass guitar is partially seen. The stage is lit with blue and white lights.

“FOR WE ARE GOD’S
HANDIWORK, CREATED
IN CHRIST JESUS TO DO
GOOD WORKS, WHICH
GOD PREPARED IN
ADVANCE FOR US TO DO.”

EPHESIANS 2:10

RESOURCES

ALL IN



JESUS SAID, "FOLLOW ME" – AND HE IS LEADING US SOMEWHERE. WE ARE ALL CALLED TO BE PART OF A SHARED JOURNEY AND THIS NEXT SEASON REQUIRES US TO TEAM UP LIKE NEVER BEFORE.

Fully Invested, Moving Forward ALL IN the Name of Jesus

We are a Community of LIGHT by the power of the LORD Jesus Christ. Achieving our vision involves more than bricks and mortar - it's about relationships. Our God-given vision is to be a community where people learn about Jesus and the abundant life He offers, a community people run to - *not from* - in their struggles and challenges.

The ALL IN generosity journey launched in December 2018 with the intent to:

- Increase capacity by meeting the physical needs of our growing campus.
- Engage the community by creating a venue for engagement through the week and expand our impact through local missions and partnerships to bring the hope of Christ to the under-resourced
- Fuel outreach by investing in our current partnerships with our mission partners around the world and preparing for a second campus to reach local neighborhoods.

In two years, through an unprecedented world-wide pandemic, God and His people remained faithful, and we achieved 99% the two-year goal of \$11.5M. Though the world has changed greatly in two years, and our needs and challenges may look different, the mission is still the same: to proclaim Christ and present everyone mature in Him (Colossians 1:28-29) using ministry methods and approaches adapted to an ever-changing world.

Imagine the possibilities!

To learn more visit: www.damascus.com/allin



ALL IN

And whether in your do it all

STAY CONNECTED THROUGH THE WEEK

THE OFFICE

Hours: Mon through Thurs, 9am-3pm*

Phone: (301) 829-3722

Email: damascus@damascus.com

*holiday hours vary, please call first

DAMASCUS.COM

As a newcomer to Damascus Road, we highly recommend that you check out the *I'm New* page of our website. Here you'll find a welcome video, some FAQs to common questions, along with information about Damascus Road.

DOWNLOAD THE APP

Download and listen to recent messages, connect through the digital Connection Card, enjoy the convenience of online giving, register for events right from your phone or tablet, sign up for push notifications for weather alerts, and more. Search Damascus Road Community Church on the App Stores.

PRAYER & CARE

During times of joy or crisis, the DRCC community provides a network of care for one another. After-hours emergency on-call is available by calling (800) 645-0161. To learn more (or to send a prayer request to the Prayer Team), visit damascus.com/prayer-and-care.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Stay up on what's happening through the week, find encouragement, and connect! You will find Damascus Road on all of your favorite social media channels:

Facebook:

[/DamascusRoadCommunityChurch](#)

Instagram: [drcc_church](#)

YouTube: [DamascusRoadChurch](#)

Spotify: [/drcc_church](#)

Vimeo: [/drcc](#)

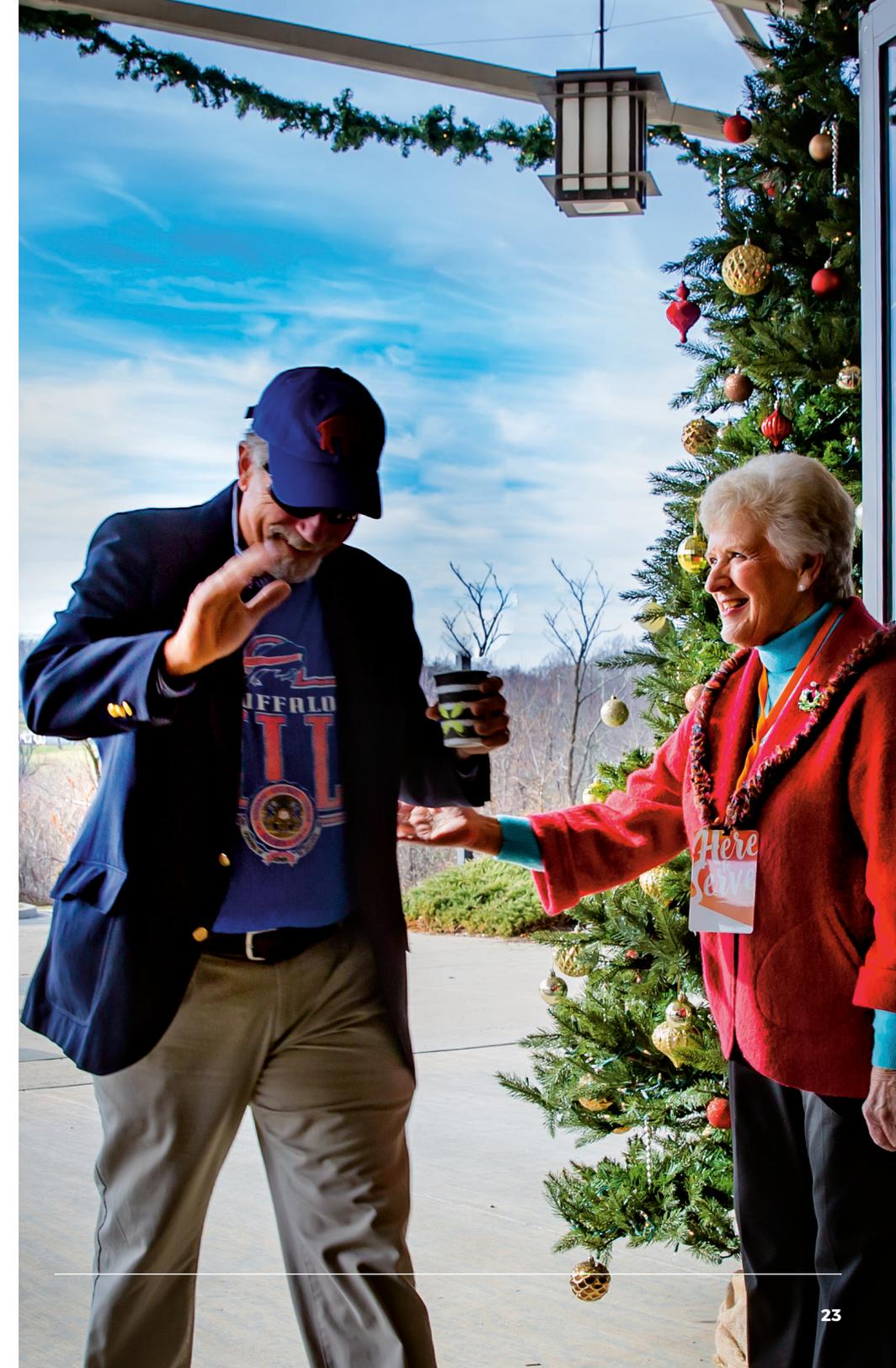
iTunes: [damascus-road-community-church](#)

WEEKLY UPDATE

Each Wednesday morning, the Weekly Update, the Damascus Road e-newsletter, arrives in your inbox with a message from the pastor, highlights, and upcoming news. When you provide your email address to Damascus Road via a Connection Card, you are automatically subscribed. If you haven't signed up, simply contact the main office (301-829-3722) or email damascus@damascus.com.

THE RESOURCE KIOSK

Located near the cafe in the lobby, the Resource Kiosk is where you can find DRCC merchandise and resources, as well as free Bibles.





DAMASCUS ROAD COMMUNITY CHURCH

12826 Old National Pike
Mount Airy MD 21771

damascus.com

rev. 10/2021