



REFRESH

WIC THEME 2024



WESLEY INTERNATIONAL CONGREGATION

TRANSFORMED
LIVES



TRANSFORMING
CITIES

By 2028 we see 5 vibrant church hubs across Sydney bringing holistic transformation to lives and communities. This will only be possible as Jesus continues His transforming work in us.

This year we will be expressing the vision through the theme of Refresh.



REFRESH

*Refreshed Relationship
Refreshed Community
Refreshed World*



Refreshed Relationship

Times of refreshing come from our **relationship with God** and His presence (Acts 3:20). He daily renews our inner being (2 Cor 4:16) into the image of our Creator (Col 3:10). He regenerates us by the power of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5). This year we want to encounter more of God's refreshing.



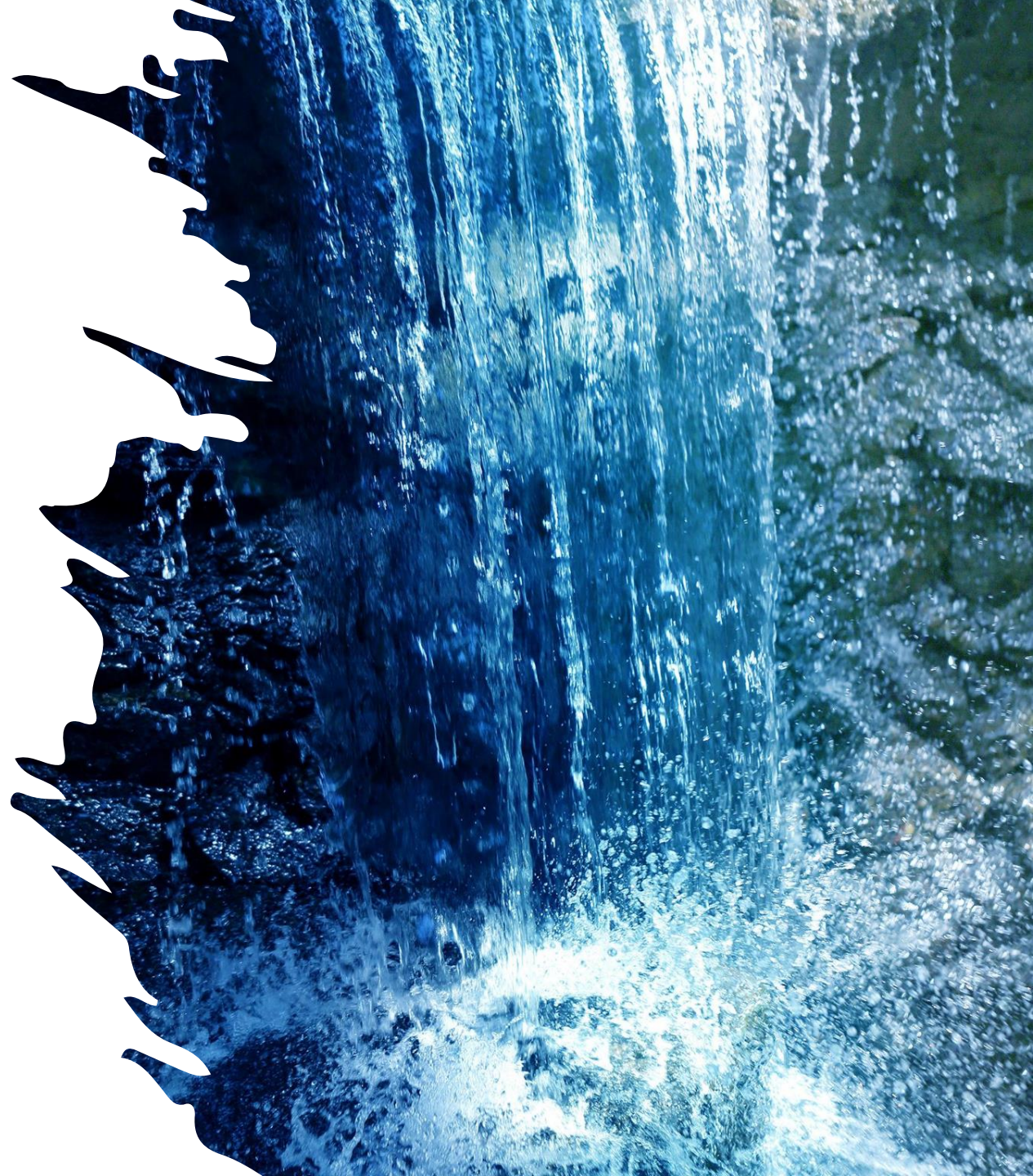
Refreshed Community

The Spirit birthed a **new community** that refreshed each other daily (Acts 2:42-47). Whether through prayer, teaching, sharing meals, encouragement or care, the early church refreshed one another. This year we want to grow in being a refreshing church community for one another.



Refreshed World

Jesus said that to those who believe in Him, out of their hearts would flow rivers of living water (Jn 7:37-39). God has always intended that His refreshing not only satisfy our thirst, but flow through us to touch our world. This year we want to be a loving source of God's refreshing to our world.



Refresh Sermon Series

- **Refreshed Relationships:** - through encounters with Jesus (Gospels)
- **Refreshed Community** - through the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts)
- **Refreshed Perspective** - a **topical** series exploring contemporary social issues
- **Lord of the Sabbath** - understanding God-given rest and rhythms that refresh us and others (Gen-Exo)
- **The Lord is my Shepherd-** focusing on God's character as revealed in Psalm 23
- **Living Water-** reflecting on the biblical theme of God's living water
- **Refreshing Advent-** seeing Christmas with a fresh lens

Bible study resources for this year will be a combination of in-house written studies for series 1, 2, 6, and external resources for series 3-5.

Transformed Lives Transforming Cities

“Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper” -
Jeremiah 29:7

We are seeking to transform lives in our city through:

- Community Engagement
- Discipleship
- Prayer and healing ministries
- Community Equipping & Empowerment
- Growing Church Unity and Partnerships



Community Engagement

Ways in which we are engaging with our local communities include:

- Community meals in Ryde
- City Playgroup
- City for Jesus Outreach



Discipleship

We seek to make disciples who make disciples through:

- sharing Jesus with pre-believers
- life groups that prioritise spiritual growth and a heart for the lost.





Community Equipping & Empowerment

We seek to equip and empower our communities to address areas key areas of challenge, pain or struggle:

- Parenting Courses
- Anger Management courses
- Other programs we can offer to meet the pain in our city.

Prayer, Care & Healing

We regularly intercede for our cities and offer:

- Stephen Ministry
- Freedom Prayer Ministry



Growing Church & Unity Partnerships

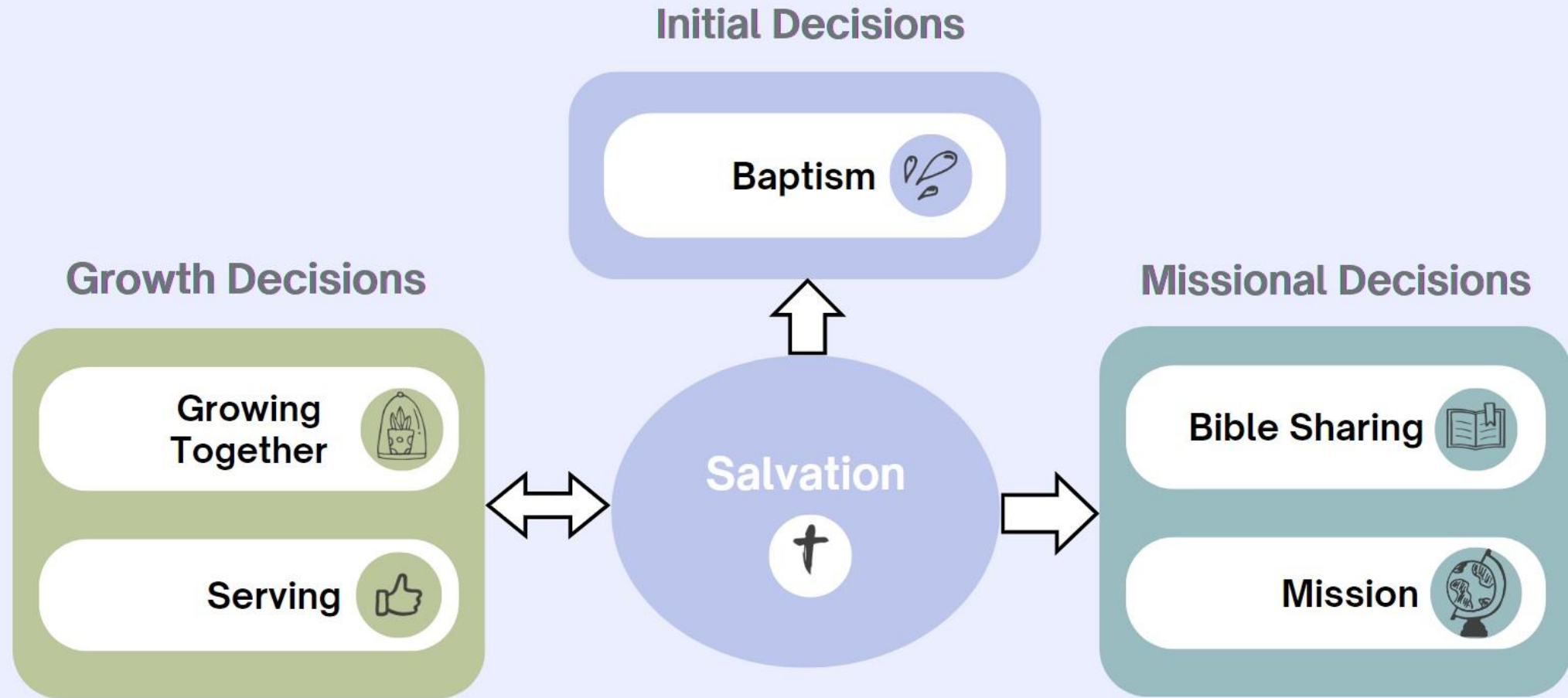
We cannot transform our cities alone. Ongoing and new robust partnerships with other churches and ministries are vital to transform lives and transform our cities.





Growing as committed followers of Jesus is a lifelong journey involving many steps and a number of key decisions. Whether you are a visitor or a long-term member of WIC, you are able to take the next step in your discipleship journey by making a key discipleship decision.

WIC 6 Discipleship Decisions





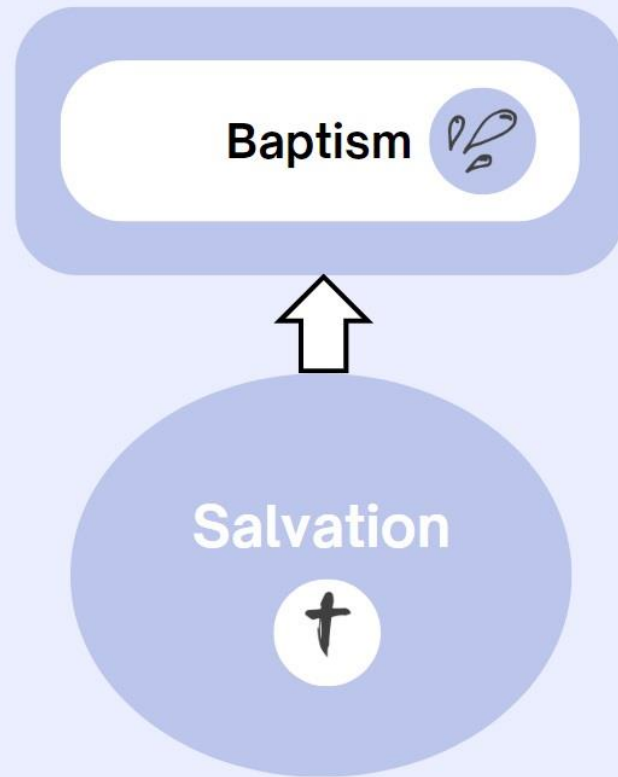
Next Step Sundays

Everyone who attends WIC will be encouraged to make a decision to take the next step in their discipleship growth journey on:

- 4-17 March
- 8-22 September

WIC 6 Discipleship Decisions

Initial Decisions



1. Salvation



Attendees at WIC services, groups and programs will be encouraged to make a decision to put their faith, trust and hope in Jesus and His finished work on the cross for them throughout the year and on “Next Step” Sundays.

Growth Tool 1: Christian Basics Program



Initial Decisions



Those considering making the decision or who have recently made the decision to follow Jesus are encouraged to take the next step to participate in the:

Christian Basics Program

When a pre/new believer takes this step, they agree to meet with an equipped believer for for six 1.5 hour sessions to explore the basics of the Christian faith.

Growth Tool 2 – “First Steps” Program



Once a new believer has completed the Basic Discipleship program, they will then have the option to grow in their faith by completing the 7-week *First Steps* program with an equipped believer. Topics covered in this program include:

- Experiencing God’s Love and Forgiveness
- Living with the Assurance of Salvation
- Living in the Power of the Holy Spirit.

2. Baptism



Those who have accepted Jesus as Lord will be encouraged to take the next step of Baptism. In 2024, there will be two official baptism Sundays on the following dates:

- 7 April
- 10 November

Baptisms may also occur on other Sundays, as required.

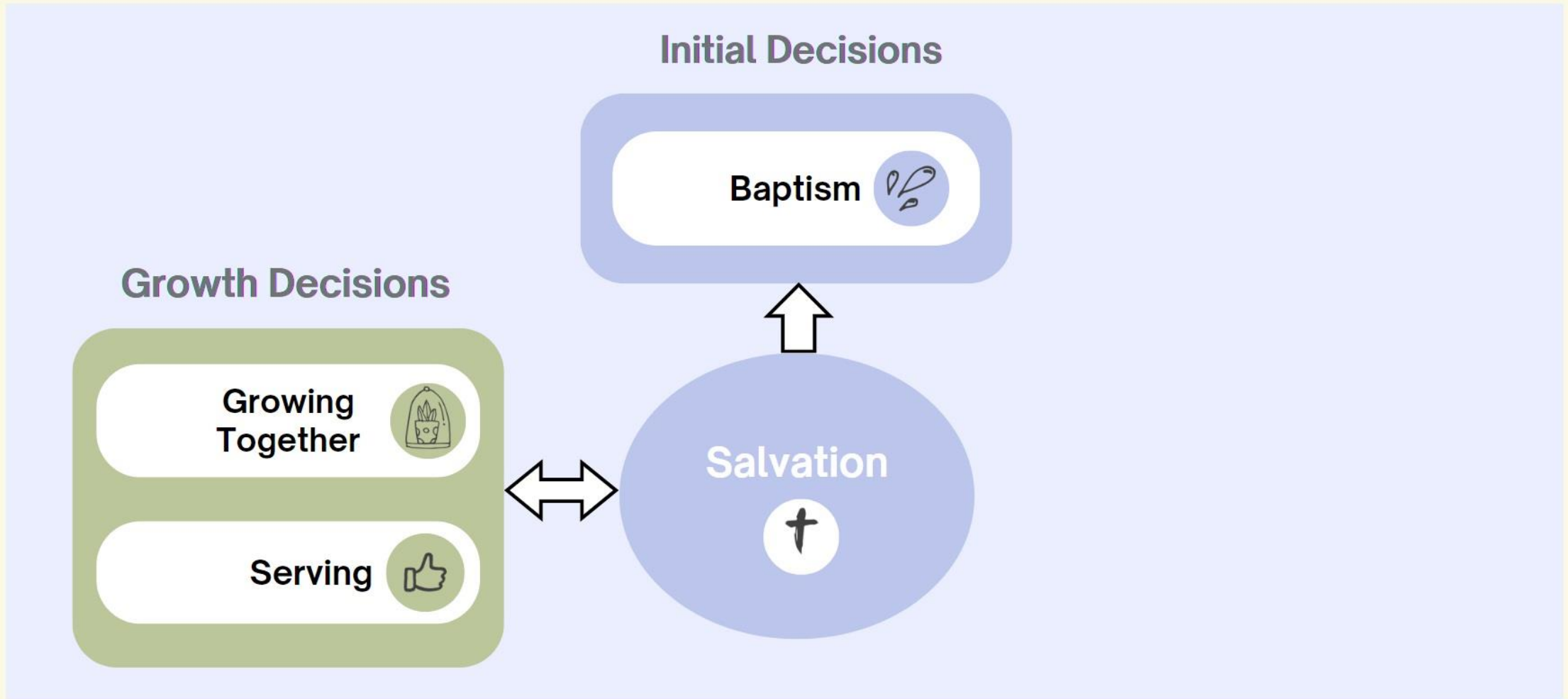
Growth Tool 3 – Baptism Classes

All baptism candidates are offered two one-hour preparation sessions in the weeks prior to the baptisms. The sessions cover the following material:

- Meaning of salvation through faith in Christ
- Biblical meaning of Baptism
- Biblical imperative of Baptism
- Common questions regarding Baptism
- Church Membership



WIC 6 Discipleship Decisions



3. Growing Together

The Scriptures are full of examples of believers meeting together in smaller groups to encourage one another and to grow in their faith. A key step in discipleship growth is to join a smaller discipleship group in the church.

Individuals may consider joining an existing life group or start a new one to focus on one or more aspects of spiritual growth, including Bible study, prayer, fellowship, outreach etc.



4. Serving

Our faith in Jesus naturally leads us to love and serve others.

Therefore, a next step in your discipleship journey could be to join a serving team within WIC and/or the broader Christian community.



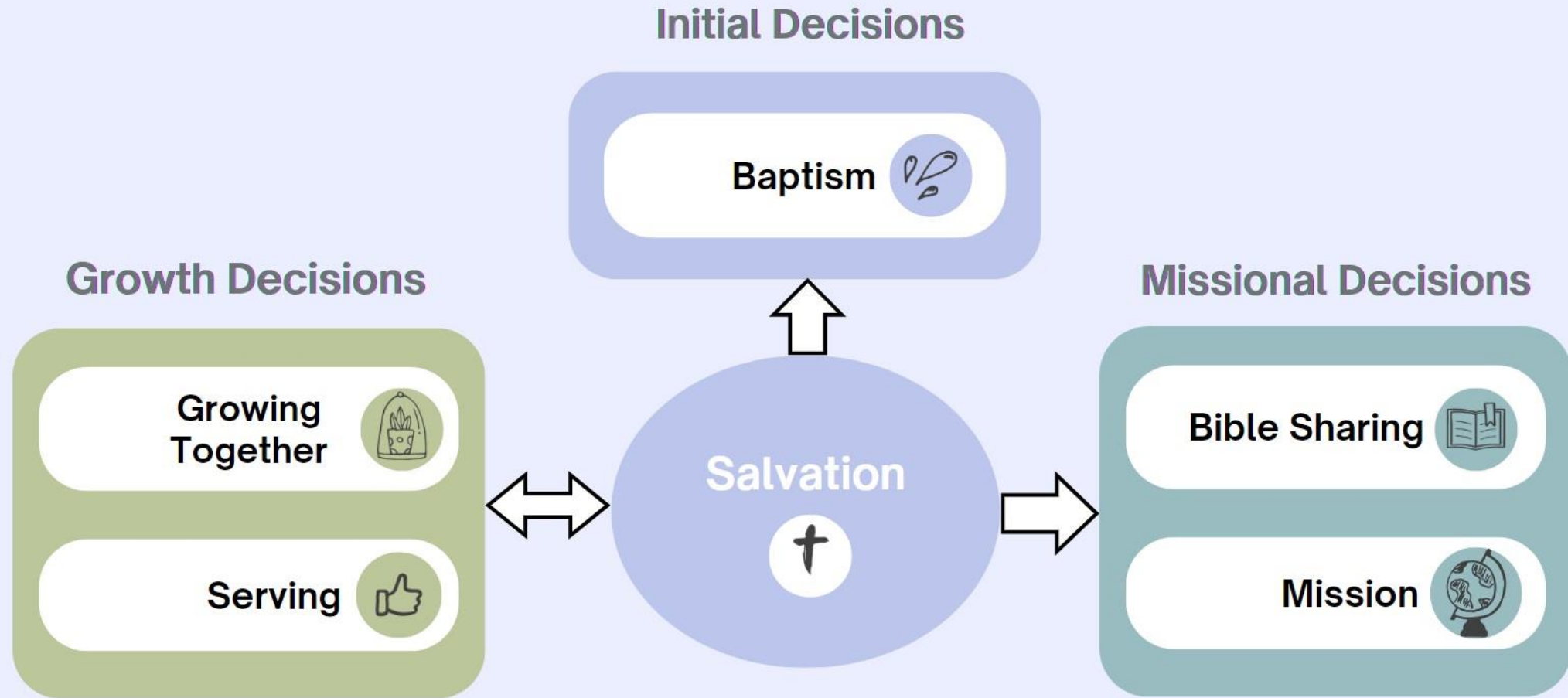
Growth Tool 4 – SHAPE

God has shaped each one of us uniquely, each one having our own combination of talents, passions, experiences and spiritual gifts to be able to serve in His kingdom.

Those wishing to take the next step of joining a serving team can make use of the SHAPE tool which includes videos, exploratory studies and questions to help determine the best kingdom serving opportunity for them.



WIC 6 Discipleship Decisions



5. Bible Sharing

All believers in Jesus are encouraged to share their faith with those they encounter in their world. The next step for a growing Christian is to help others discover and grow in their knowledge of Jesus by reading the Bible with a friend or acquaintance who is a pre-believer.





Growth Tool 5 – DBM

Those wishing to take the next step of reading the Bible with a pre-believer will have access to training in the **Discovery Bible Method (DBM)** which involves reading a small passage of the Bible with the pre-believer and asking simple questions concerning the text. This has helped countless people to encounter Jesus through the Scriptures and come to a personal faith in Him.

Growth Tool 6 – “*My Friends*” Training

This training provides biblical principles and a practical and natural approach to reaching out to those who don't yet know Jesus.



6. Mission

All disciples of Jesus are called to be involved in Mission, taking the good news about Jesus to those who don't yet know Him.

A next step for you as a disciple of Jesus may be to get involved in local and/or global mission. There are many ways to be involved in mission, including going, sending, praying and supporting missionaries and mission partners.





CALENDAR

2024

JANUARY

Good News Series

Combined Service
@CITY

FEBRUARY

*Refreshed
Relationship Series*

Combined Service
@CITY until 11/2

WIC Fast
(14/2-31/3)

YAM Camp
(16-19/2)

MARCH

*Refreshed
Relationship Series*

Child Dedication
(17/3)

Good Friday
(29/3)

Easter Sunday
(31/3)

APRIL

*Reborned Community
Series*

Baptisms
(7/4)

Jerilderie
Mission Trip
(20-25/4)

Family Services
(21/4 + 28/4)

MAY

*Reborned
Community Series*

Mother's Day
(12/5)

JUNE

*Refreshed
Perspective Series*

Thank You Lord
Sunday
(23/6 + 30/6)

JULY

*Lord of the
Sabbath Series*

Family Services
(14/7 + 21/7)

AUGUST

*The Lord Is My
Shepherd Series*

Missionsfest
(4-11/8)

2024 Church Camp
(30/8-1/9)

SEPTEMBER

*The Lord Is My
Shepherd Series*

Father's Day
(1/9)

OCTOBER

WCL Vision Series

Family Services
(6/10 + 13/10)

NOVEMBER

Living Water Series

Baptisms
(10/11)

KK Graduation
(24/11)

DECEMBER

Advent Series

Family services
(22/12 + 29/12)

Christmas Service
(25/12)



To access this slide presentation, Refresh Bible studies and the fasting material.

