

# Catalyst 2026

Your year of  
*discipleship* starts here.



CATALYST

A YEAR OF DISCIPLESHIP



# Dear Emerging Leader,

I am so thankful that you would prayerfully consider embarking on this journey as part of the Catalyst cohort. This dream began as a hope and passion in our Church to see the leaders of tomorrow shaped, formed and commissioned as the disciples of today.

When I was emerging as a leader I read Henri Nouwen's classic, *In the Name of Jesus*. In this book Nouwen asks:

*'The central question is, Are the leaders of the future truly men and women of God, people with an ardent desire to dwell in God's presence, to listen to God's voice, to look at God's beauty, to touch God's incarnate Word and to taste fully God's infinite goodness.'*

Our world needs a better standard of leadership. Leaders who have humbly decided to be formed in the ways of Christ, are hungry to outwork the kingdom of God and have their identity and value intertwined into the story of God. This is not about ministry inside the church, but rather the people who are the church understanding they are in ministry wherever God has placed and called them.

If you are willing to surrender a year of your life to be formed, challenged, shaped, empowered and commissioned as a leader in either the ministry or marketplace - then Catalyst is for you.

I am so excited about what God is about to do.

With Prayer and Love,

**MICHAEL HANDS**



# Overview of Purpose

Catalyst seeks to provide a foundation to both identify and form leaders for both marketplace and ministry leadership. The Church should be involved in the development of disciples for both the marketplace and the ministry platform – as the renewal of the church and planting of new Churches will need both. We passionately believe the game-changers, pioneers, entrepreneurs, revivalists, change agents, the leaders of tomorrow should be the disciples of Jesus today.

Over three phases Catalyst - a year of discipleship will seek to form the cohort by focusing on our head (what we know), heart (who we are), and hands (what we do).

This will be done through three basic themes of Knowing God - a journey into the biblical story and theology of God and existence, Being a Disciple - an understanding of the revolutionary rhythms and practises of an apprenticeship to Jesus, Leading with Wisdom and Courage - outworking how our knowledge and rhythms can bring influence and transformation to the world around us.

# Dates

The cohort of Catalyst will take place between February and November 2026. Catalyst is split into three eight week phases; each with a retreat, Wednesday night weekly gatherings and VIP moments with special conference guests.

We would also hope that those who are involved in Catalyst are already outworking their leadership gifting amongst our Newlife community and in their world.

It will be important to attend each of the retreats and at least 85% of the weekly sessions - We will be hosting weekly content sessions on zoom so regardless of where you are geographically, Catalyst is accessible for you!



## Phase 1 KNOWING GOD

Welcome Dinner  
Retreat 1  
Wednesday Night Sessions  
End of Phase 1 Dinner

**26TH FEB - 13TH MAY**

26th February  
5th March - 7th March  
March - May  
13th May



## Phase 2 BEING A DISCIPLE

Retreat 2  
Wednesday Night Sessions  
End of Phase 2 Dinner

**3RD JUNE - 8TH AUG**

3rd June - 6th June  
June - August  
8th August



## Phase 3 LEADING WITH WISDOM AND COURAGE

Retreat 3  
Wednesday Night Sessions  
Retreat 4 & Graduation Dinner

**3RD SEP - 7TH NOV**

3rd September - 5th September  
September - November  
7th November



# Cost

We are committed to providing a quality experience for the cohort Catalyst, with access to world-class thinkers, experiential discipleship, transformative retreats and resourced formation.

Catalyst will cost \$1500 (\$500/phase) which will be all-inclusive for retreats and sessions. It does not include any transport costs.

There are options for Catalyst to be paid via a payment plan and financial assistance opportunities such as scholarships will be available via application.



## Who should apply?

If you would classify yourself as an emerging leader (regardless of age) hungry to be formed, have a teachable spirit, are ready for rigorous discussion and community, and can commit to joining the upcoming dates we would encourage you to apply.

If the only reason why you would hesitate to apply is due to financial concerns or date clashes, please be in touch with our team at [catalyst@church.nu](mailto:catalyst@church.nu)

# *“I fully believe that Catalyst has changed my life”*

“I sat on the fence for Catalyst for a while umming and ahing about if it was going to be ‘worth it’. Eventually I felt the nudge to give it a go so I enrolled. Fast forward to the night before the first retreat feeling anxious and unsure, I nearly backed out.

Knowing what I know now, I find it funny that I questioned if it would be worth it. Looking back, it was more than worth it. More than I can put into words. Allowing the time and space to be formed head (theology), heart (discipleship) and hand (leadership) was the best decision I made last year. I would tell anyone considering applying for Catalyst to jump in with both feet. The retreats, the content nights, small groups and books are of such a high standard and it is so special to journey with a group of people going through the program with you.

Being a new mum at times I was definitely nervous about being away for the retreats and Wednesday night’s but God is so faithful, and through Catalyst I received so much more than I sacrificed.

When we allow God space to speak and move, He does. And He did. Each phase held fresh revelations and lightbulb moments.

My standout moment was the work God did in my heart, the deep, hidden places that He touched and healed as I carved out time to prioritise my discipleship journey. I fully believe that catalyst has changed my life.

It has changed the trajectory of my marriage, my family and my future. I believe I am a better wife, mum and stumbling forward disciple because of Catalyst. I am so thankful that despite my doubts and questions I said yes.”



**THE CATALYST JOURNEY TOLD**  
*by Bek Stevens*

# *Application*

Catalyst will be run annually, therefore we hope to limit the cohort to a size that is conducive to discipleship and community. Our hope is to develop a community of transformative disciples and leaders who form relational ties for life.

Because of this, we want to ensure that Catalyst is the right option for you in this season. We would love to invite you to apply for Catalyst through this link. Applications for the 2026 cohort close 31st October 2025.

Any questions can be forwarded to our email [catalyst@church.nu](mailto:catalyst@church.nu)

While not everyone that applies may be a part of our upcoming cohort, we will be running Catalyst yearly and would hope that everyone receives the right opportunity in the right season.

*Apply now!*  
[church.nu/catalyst](https://church.nu/catalyst)

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of *discipleship*