



STARTING POINT

Take the Next Step on
Your Discipleship Journey

WELCOME TO STARTING POINT!

Whether you're new to Long Hollow or have been here for a while, you've come to the right place. We believe that church isn't just a place to spend an hour on Sunday mornings; church is a family of believers where every person matters, and every person plays a role.

We believe that God is calling everyone at Long Hollow to take part in the life-changing mission of the Gospel. That's why we created Starting Point... We want to help you find and take your next step in your own Discipleship Journey. Maybe you're looking for a way to grow with others; maybe you want to find out how God has wired you, and find ways to use those gifts. It may be that you want to know more about Christianity in the first place. **NO MATTER WHAT YOUR NEXT STEP IS, THIS IS THE PLACE TO START.**

Over the four sessions of Starting Point, you'll discover:

- What it means to **ENCOUNTER JESUS** in a tangible way.
- How to **GROW WITH OTHERS** in meaningful relationships.
- Tools to **DISCOVER YOUR PURPOSE** and use your gifts.
- And opportunities to **MAKE A DIFFERENCE** in your community and around the world.

Each session consists of a quick video and some meaningful questions to think through your own journey. You can take part in-person or online and start wherever you like, but we recommend going in order for the best experience.

No matter how you join us, we encourage you to complete all four sessions and prayerfully consider what your next step is. We can't wait to see how God works in and through you at Long Hollow!

OUR MISSION

**We exist to
invite one
another into
a growing
relationship
with Jesus.**

It's a simple mission, but one that drives everything we do as a body of believers. From our weekend services to our ministry programs and outreach initiatives, our goal is to invite everyone we meet to a thriving and vibrant relationship with Jesus.

THE DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY

We believe that coming to know Christ isn't the conclusion of your spiritual experience; it's the beginning of a lifelong discipleship journey that will mold you and shape you as you grow in your relationship with Jesus for many years to come. In other words, becoming a Christian isn't the end of something... it's the start of something!

We believe that there are **four important steps** in every believer's Discipleship Journey:



ENCOUNTER JESUS - We want every person to come to a saving faith in Christ and be transformed by God's Word on a regular basis.



GROW WITH OTHERS - We want every person to find community and develop meaningful relationships through groups and discipleship.



DISCOVER YOUR PURPOSE - We know that each of us is fearfully and wonderfully made, and God has a plan and purpose for our gifts and skills.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE - We want every person to join God where He's working to spread hope in our community and around the world.

Each session of Starting Point will focus on one part of the Discipleship Journey, and we'll discuss several practical ways that you can take the next step in your own life.

WHO IS LONG HOLLOW?

Long Hollow is one church that gathers in multiple locations in Tennessee and online. From a small group of committed believers to the thousands that gather to worship every weekend today, our story is filled with examples of God moving among ordinary people to do an unimaginable work in an unlikely place.

It's hard to summarize all of the ways that God has moved in our midst throughout the years, but the following is a brief timeline of our past.



1977:

LONG HOLLOW BEGINS - Pastor W.W. Harrison launches Long Hollow Baptist Church with a deep heart for evangelism.



1979:

WE BUILD OUR FIRST BUILDING - Long Hollow purchases 33 acres on a sleepy country road and builds its first building, seating 250 people.



1986:

GERRY CLAYBROOK BECOMES OUR SECOND PASTOR - God expands our faith family as we strive to be salt and light in our local community.



1988:

WE BUILD IN RESPONSE TO GROWTH - Our church continues to grow, and we respond by building a new space that can hold four times as many families as the previous building.



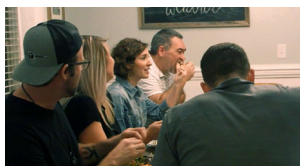
1996:

A SEASON OF CHANGE - The church begins a new season with no staff and many financial challenges. We earnestly pray as Gene Mims serves as the Interim Pastor.



1997:

LONG HOLLOW WELCOMES DAVID LANDRITH - God brings David Landrith to serve as our third pastor in what will become an amazing new season of life change and growth.



2005:

GOD MOVES AMONG US - God ushers in an unprecedented season of growth as we add a second physical campus in Gallatin, Tennessee, and more than 3,000 people join us each week.

2009:

A CALL TO RADICAL COMPASSION - God continues to move in our church family as more than 5,000 join us each week and we build orphanages in Haiti and Uganda.

2013:

AN UNEXPECTED CHALLENGE - Even in the midst of his serious cancer diagnosis, Pastor David Landrith leads Long Hollow to reach more people than ever with the hope of the Gospel.

2014:

GOD IS FAITHFUL - Our church mourns the loss of Pastor David Landrith, but not as those without hope. God is faithful to our church family.

2015:

LONG HOLLOW LOOKS FORWARD - Kevin Ezell serves as our Interim Pastor until the church enthusiastically calls Robby Gallaty to serve as our fourth pastor.

2016:

A HEART FOR DISCIPLESHIP - Long Hollow combines its DNA of outreach and evangelism with Pastor Robby's heart for discipleship, launching hundreds of new Discipleship Groups.

2020:

EXPANDING OUR REACH - As the COVID-19 pandemic brings the world to a halt, we launch a new Online Campus that allows us to reach more people than ever before.

2021:

PURSUING GOD'S FACE - Pastor Robby calls us to radical prayer and more than 1,000 people respond in baptism in only four months.

MEET PASTOR ROBBY

Robby has served as Long Hollow's Senior Pastor since 2015. He wasn't always a pastor, though.



For three years, he battled a drug addiction that ravaged his life. A \$180 a day heroin and cocaine addiction forced him to steal \$15,000 from his parents. After living without gas, electricity, and water for months, losing eight of his friends to drug related deaths, watching six friends arrested, and completing two rehab treatments, Robby remembered the gospel that was shared with him by a friend in college and was radically saved on November 12, 2002.

Eight months later, David Platt, a seminary student and church member at the time, asked Robby to meet weekly for accountability, prayer, and bible study. For the next two years, David installed a passion for missions, expository preaching, and disciple-making in his life. He also encouraged Robby to go back to school to pursue theological education.

Robby completed his Masters of Divinity Degree in Expository Preaching in 2007 and his Ph.D. in Preaching in 2011 from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Today, Robby's gospel conviction and evangelistic zeal drive him to passionately "make disciples who make disciples."

In addition to his leadership at Long Hollow, Robby is also the founder of Replicate Ministries and the author of several books, including **Growing Up**, **Rediscovering Discipleship**, and **Recovered**.

Robby and his beautiful wife, Kandi, have two young sons: Rig and Ryder.

WHAT WE BELIEVE



We believe that the Bible is God's Word and our sole authority. You can find a detailed overview of our beliefs (and the scriptures that inform them) on our website.

[LONGHOLLOW.COM/BELIEFS](https://longhollow.com/beliefs)

MEET OUR STAFF

Our church is led by a vibrant team of believers that come from different backgrounds but are unified around one purpose: inviting our community into a growing relationship with Jesus. You can meet and reach out to any member of our staff by using the directory on our website.



[LONGHOLLOW.COM/STAFF](https://longhollow.com/staff)

OUR MINISTRY PLAN



When you give at Long Hollow, you're supporting the every-day ministry that takes place in and through our church. Every year we publish a detailed ministry plan explaining the vital ministries that your gifts support. You can find this year's ministry plan on our website.

[LONGHOLLOW.COM/MINISTRYPLAN](https://longhollow.com/ministryplan)

ENCOUNTER JESUS



Our mission is to invite _____

into a growing _____ with Jesus.

The Discipleship Journey:

_____ Jesus

Grow with _____

_____ Your Purpose

Make a _____

Notes



ENCOUNTER JESUS



RELATED LINKS AND RESOURCES:

Watch the Long Hollow Story

To celebrate our 40th anniversary in 2018, our church produced a powerful documentary covering all of the ways God has moved in our midst. It's available to watch in its entirety online.

THELONGHOLLOWSTORY.COM

Learn More About Baptism

Whether you were saved this week or even 20 years ago, baptism is an important step of obedience in your Discipleship Journey. You can learn more about baptism and schedule your own on our website.

LONGHOLLOW.COM/BAPTISM

Get Reading Plans and Share Prayer Requests

There are multiple ways to practice spiritual disciplines like reading scripture and praying for others, but one of the easiest ways to get started is to use the tools in our app. You can download it for free for both iOS and Android on our website.

LONGHOLLOW.COM/APP

Become a Member at Long Hollow

As you work through this course, don't miss one of the important commitments you can make with your church family: becoming a member! You can learn more about membership on our website.

LONGHOLLOW.COM/MEMBER

GROW WITH OTHERS



1. _____ community is _____ community. Acts 2:42-47

2. Life change happens best through _____.

3. Three Ways to Connect in Groups at Long Hollow:

- L _____
- D _____
- S _____

Notes



GROW WITH OTHERS



RELATED LINKS AND RESOURCES:

Learn More About Life Groups

Life Groups meet in locations all around our community in groups of 8-12 throughout the week. You can learn more about Life Groups on our website.

[LONGHOLLOW.COM/LIFEGROUPS](https://longhollow.com/lifegroups)

Learn More About Discipleship Groups

D-Groups are gender-specific groups of 3-5 that form organically and typically meet for about a year. You can learn more about D-Groups on our website.

[LONGHOLLOW.COM/DGROUPS](https://longhollow.com/dgroups)

Learn More About Support Groups

Numerous support groups meet in and near Long Hollow for a variety of needs and topics. You can learn more about Support Groups on our website.

[LONGHOLLOW.COM/SUPPORTGROUPS](https://longhollow.com/supportgroups)

Find Ways to Connect for Kids and Students

LH Kids and LH Students offer opportunities for kids and students to connect and grow with their peers in groups on a weekly basis. You can learn more on our website.

[LONGHOLLOW.COM](https://longhollow.com)

Get Help Finding a Life Group at Group Link

Group Link is the easiest way to get connected with others at Long Hollow through a Life Group. You can learn more about Group Link on our website.

[LONGHOLLOW.COM/GROUPLINK](https://longhollow.com/grouplink)

DISCOVER YOUR PURPOSE



1. God has created you with a unique _____.

Ephesians 2:10 "For we are his workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do."

2. Your unique design has a unique _____.

3. Our staff exists to help you _____ your purpose and make a difference where you live, work, and play.

4. Our staff wants to help every person who calls Long Hollow home finish this sentence:

"I am uniquely designed to _____ God and _____ others by..."

5. Spiritual Gifts are:

- Not _____
- Not _____
- Not _____

Take the Spiritual Gifts Assessment

Visit the link to take the quick spiritual gifts quiz that's mentioned in Session 3. You can use the results to help you find a place to serve at Long Hollow or in the community.

LONGHOLLOW.COM/GIFTS



DISCOVER YOUR PURPOSE



1. You were created by God on _____ for a _____.

2. We serve others because _____ did.

3. Write down your dominant spiritual gifts:

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Ministry Matches*

If your spiritual gifts were dominant or supportive in:

GIVING, SERVICE, HOSPITALITY, OR MERCY

- Guest Services
- Local Outreach
- Online Chat Host
- Prayer Ministry
- Media Production

DISCERNMENT, FAITH, KNOWLEDGE, PROPHECY, AND WISDOM

- Life Group/Discipleship Group Leadership
- Next Generation (aka Next Gen, and includes serving ages birth-high school)
- Worship
- Prayer Ministry

APOSTLESHIP OR EVANGELISM

- Local Outreach/Missions

ADMINISTRATION, LEADERSHIP, OR SHEPHERD

- Guest Services
- Worship
- Life Group/Discipleship Group Leadership
- Next Gen

ENCOURAGEMENT, TEACHING, AND DISCIPLING

- Guest Services
- Life Group/Discipleship Group Leadership
- Storytelling
- Online Chat Host
- Next Gen

* This assessment serves as a **guide** for you, but you're not bound by it. We want you to serve in a place where your gifts align with any of your talents and passions!

DISCOVER YOUR PURPOSE



RELATED LINKS AND RESOURCES:

Take the Spiritual Gifts Assessment

Visit the link to take the quick spiritual gifts quiz that's mentioned in Session 3. You can use the results to help you find a place to serve at Long Hollow or in the community.

[LONGHOLLOW.COM/GIFTS](https://longhollow.com/gifts)

Try Out Serving at Serve Link

Would you like to see what volunteering looks like in a specific ministry for a weekend? Sign up to be a part of our next Serve Link Sunday. You can learn more and save your spot on our website.

[LONGHOLLOW.COM/SERVELINK](https://longhollow.com/serveLink)

Match Your Gifts With Ways to Serve

Use the table on the previous page as a quick guide to volunteer roles that would be a great fit for your primary areas of gifting. You can find a full list of current volunteer opportunities on our website.

[LONGHOLLOW.COM/VOLUNTEER](https://longhollow.com/volunteer)

MAKE A DIFFERENCE



1. God has made a _____ in us and calls us to make a difference in others.
2. God can use _____ to make a difference.
3. Your faith is _____, but it's not _____.

Who's Your One?

THINK THROUGH THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AS YOU PARTICIPATE IN SESSION 4:

- Who is one person in your life that would benefit from your experience with Jesus?
- How can you pray for them right now?
- How can you invest in them and share your experience with Jesus?
- How can you overcome the hesitancy/fear of sharing with others?

4. Make a difference in the _____ and around the _____.

.....

1. _____ we have comes from God.
2. When we _____ it is an act of _____
3. Where your _____ is, there will your _____ be.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE



RELATED LINKS AND RESOURCES:

Learn More About Church Planting, Mission Trips, and Local Opportunities

There are a number of ways you can join God where He's working to make a difference here and around the world. You can learn more about current opportunities on our website.

[LONGHOLLOW.COM/MISSIONS](https://longhollow.com/missions)

Become a Giver at Long Hollow

When you give at Long Hollow, you're investing in the vital everyday ministry that takes place in and through our church. You can learn more and give at any time on our website.

[LONGHOLLOW.COM/GIVE](https://longhollow.com/give)

Explore Our Ministry Plan

Every year we release a detailed ministry plan that outlines the vital ministries that your gifts support. You can read the plan in full on our website.

[LONGHOLLOW.COM/MINISTRYPLAN](https://longhollow.com/ministryplan)

BECOME A MEMBER

Many of the “next steps” we’ve discussed throughout Starting Point are obvious. After all, it’s easy to see the need to grow with others in a group, or find a place where you can use your gifts. As you wrap up this course, don’t miss one of the important commitments you can make with your church family: becoming a member!

Once you see all that God wants to do in and through you here, you can’t help but want to get off the sidelines and be a part of this family. Becoming a member means that you’re committing to being an active part of the work God is doing here, and giving us the opportunity to commit to care for you. Being a church member is one of the best ways you can put your gifts to work and make a difference here and in our community.

We have only a few simple requirements for membership:

- You have entered into a saving relationship with Jesus (The most important thing!)
- You have been biblically baptized by immersion
- You have completed all four sessions of Starting Point
- You have completed a membership interview (We want to hear your story!)



Ready to become a member?

Simply check the box when you complete any Starting Point session, or fill out the quick form at [LONGHOLLOW.COM/NEXT](https://longhollow.com/next)

CONNECT WITH US

[LONGHOLLOW.COM](https://longhollow.com) // [@LONGHOLLOW](https://twitter.com/longhollow) // [!\[\]\(8bba887393ca45b761e5cb49e755e762_img.jpg\)](#) [!\[\]\(b898b980f2d860cdb0237afbc3664529_img.jpg\)](#) [!\[\]\(489b6f540446f926b6e5cda90c9ff8a8_img.jpg\)](#) [!\[\]\(e7f9874ca42cf008bd27d8f4defa2004_img.jpg\)](#)