

SUNTREE UMC LAUNCH SEQUENCE



INITIATE LAUNCH:
Love God



BOOST:
Love Each Other



SUSTAIN:
Love Neighbors



ORBIT:
Extraordinary
Love

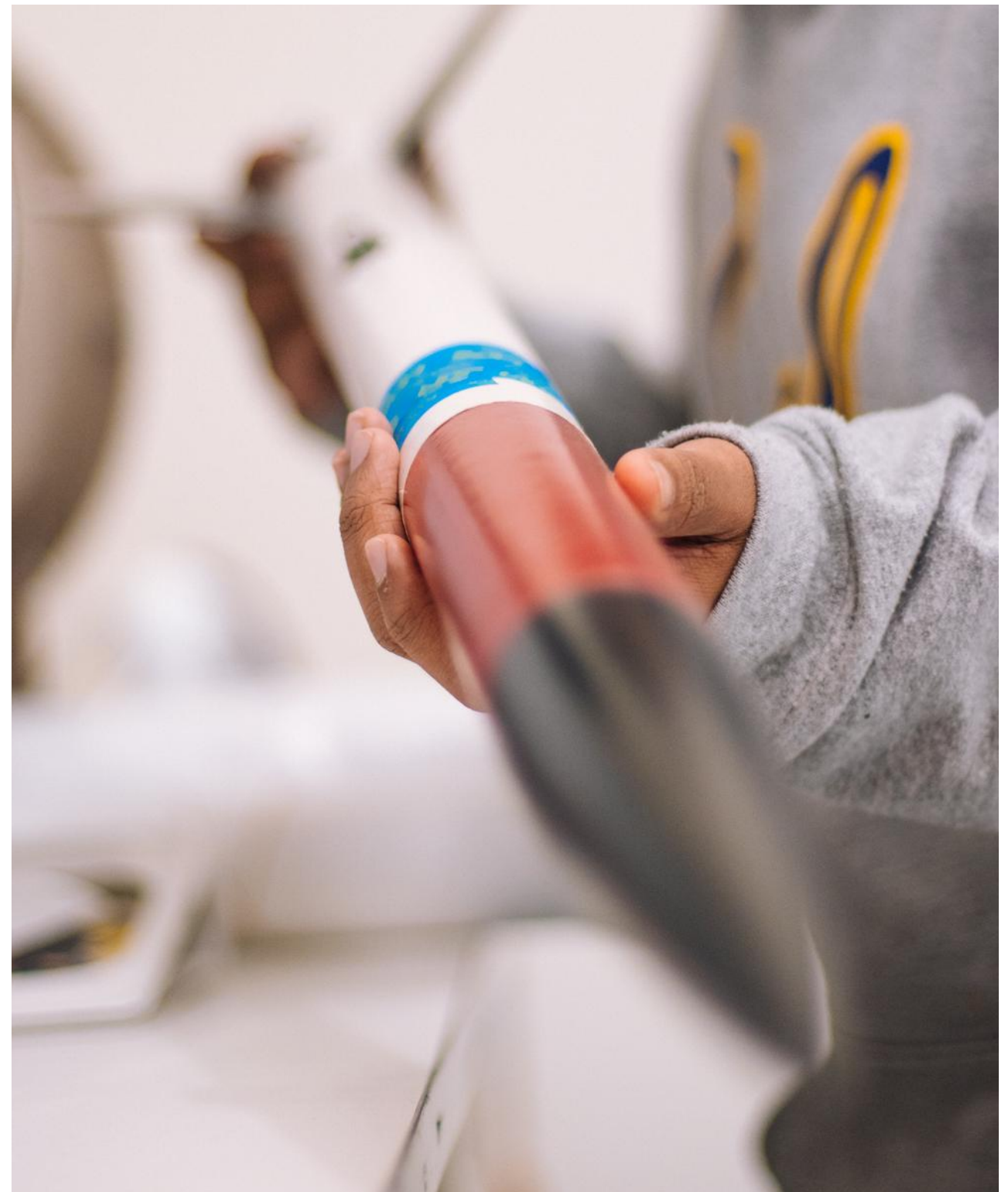
This is a four stage discipleship launch sequence, with guidelines for each stage.

It is designed to increase spiritual growth through acts of the Head (training), Hands (participation) and Heart (radical spirituality). Each sections offers ways for people to grow in their faith, discipleship, and overall Christian Love.



CREATING A BLUEPRINT

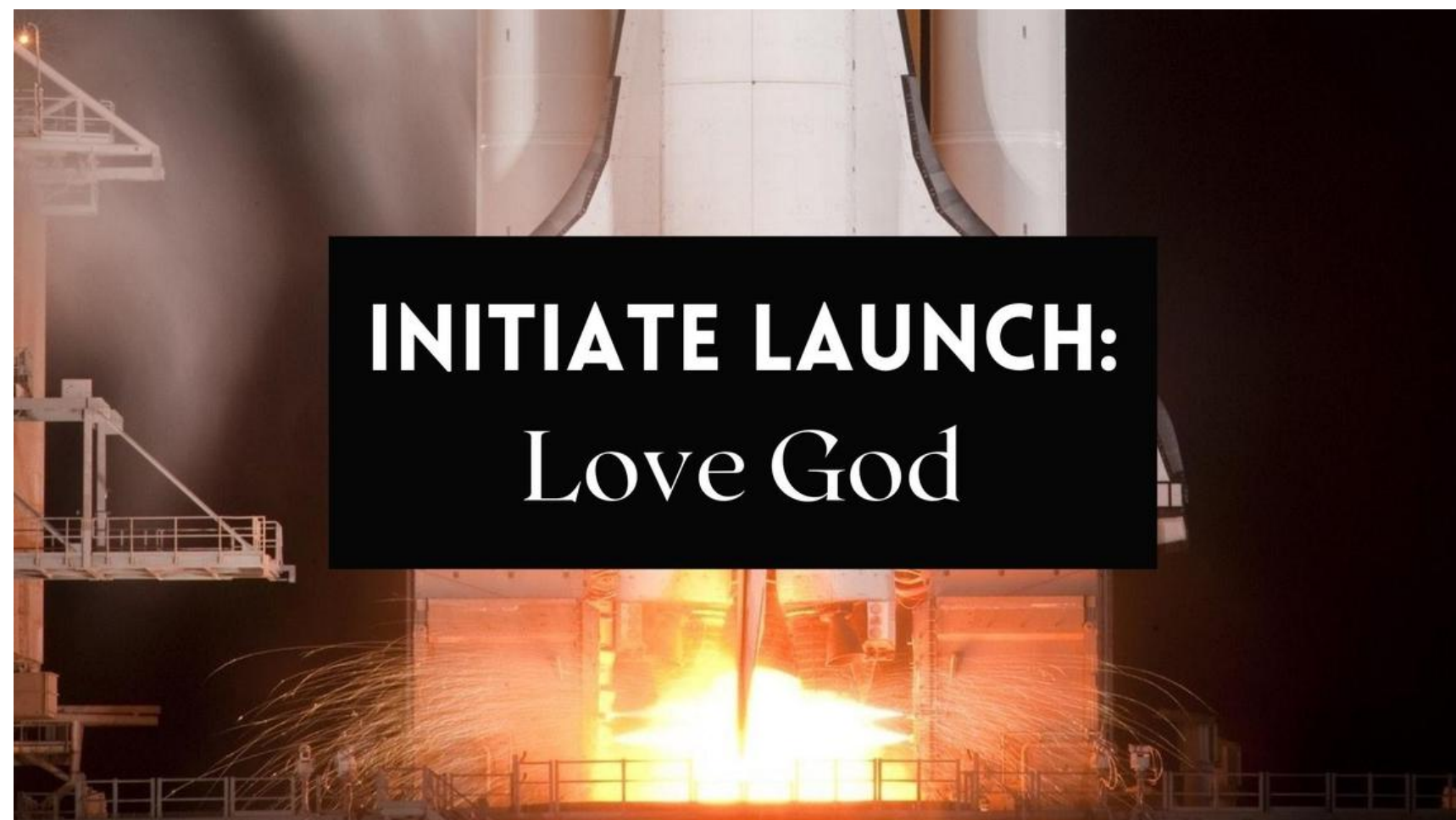
In 2018, a group of Suntree Pastors and Lay People met to cast vision for the future of our church. After much prayer and conversation, E3, a four step plan for expanding discipleship, community, outreach, and missions at Suntree United Methodist Church, was born.



As our team prayed about developing creative ways to communicate this 4 step process, our minds turned to the history of our local community, the Space Coast. We arrived at language we felt would be familiar to many of our members with ties to the Space Program: a 4 stage launch sequence.

The goal of this plan is for it to be useful for all members at all stages in their discipleship, to help people grow in their love for God, their community, and the world, and for the Launch into Extraordinary Love to become a part of the way we talk about discipleship at Suntree United Methodist Church.

STAGE 1: LOVE GOD



Key Question: How can we come to know and love God?

Head:

- Connect into new members process
- Classes on theology, biblical studies, and more

Hands:

- Increase regular worship attendance
- Regular meetings with a Membership Mentor

Heart:

- Engage in daily devotions (meditation, prayer, etc.)
- Add yourself to our prayer list via the Congregational Care Office

STAGE 2: LOVE EACH OTHER



Key Question: How can we build relationships with one another?

Head:

- Join a regular Discipleship Opportunity: Sunday School Class, Journey Bible & Theology Classes, Women's Oasis or Men's Bible Study
- Training in Healthy Faith Based Relationships- (i.e.: Marriage and Family ministry, other e3 University opportunities)

Hands:

- Volunteer in our church by Signing up and serving in a Congregational Care Ministry or Participating in a Connect & Care Group
- Evaluate tithing processes; complete an Estimate of Giving card and commit to giving

Heart:

- Become a covenanted member of a Life Group and attend faithfully; or engage with one of the Life Stage community groups

STAGE 3: LOVE NEIGHBORS



Key Question: How can we serve those in our community?

Head:

- Training in Effective Loving and Service
- Complete a Called to Serve Survey with a focus on Outreach Ministries
- Meet with our Director of Outreach to discern where God might use your gifts to serve our community

Hands:

- Participate in a Mission and Outreach Ministry

Heart:

- Participate in short Mission Trip or weekend
- Leadership Participation in Mission and Outreach Ministry
- Participate in a Spiritual Journey Weekend off site
- Leadership in Outside Community Agency/Organization Mission

STAGE 4: EXTRAORDINARY LOVE



Key Questions: How do we intensify our love for God, our church family, and our neighbors?

Head:

- Leadership Training
- Participate in annual Church Leadership Retreat
- Identify extraordinary love in practice, at work, and in community service

Hands:

- Weekly worship attendance
- Increase giving
- Increase Prayers, Service, Witness and Advocate for Justice in the World

Heart:

- Membership Mentor one or more new members
- Practice the Presence of God and engage in Random Acts of Generous Kindness
- Engage in welcome through inward service to church
- Engage in witness through outward service to the world

SELF ASSESSMENT: WHERE ARE YOU IN YOUR LAUNCH SEQUENCE?

Read each statement and rate it on a scale of 1 to 5, one being "Not true of me," and five being "Very true of me."

At the bottom, average your score for each section.

Stage I: Love God

1. I see and worship God in my daily activities.
2. I regularly engage in a prayer discipline or quiet time.
3. I regularly attend worship (more than once a month).
4. I can speak freely and confidently about the character of God.

Reflection Question: Does something prevent me from attending worship or engaging God more personally?

Stage 2: Love God

1. I am part of a small group.
2. I attend Journey, Oasis, or another study opportunity.
3. I invite Christ into my interpersonal relationships, including with my children, spouse, parents, or friends.
4. I serve inside our church, including caring for church members in congregational care or welcome.

Reflection Question: What stands between me and more Christ-centered relationship or Christian community?

Stage 3: Love Neighbors

1. I know my spiritual gifts, and the ministries available to serve in at Suntree
2. I have set aside time to serve in my community.
3. I regularly share of my own resources to help neighbors in need.
4. I treat my neighbors, even those different from me, like children of God.

Reflection Question: What is my biggest struggle in serving my neighbors?

Stage 4: Extraordinary Love

1. I share my faith with friends who do not go to church.
2. I have considered leading or I do lead in our church.
3. I support my church fully with my prayers, presence, gifts, and service.
4. I seek new opportunities to learn and grow into God's love in my world.

Reflection Question: What prevents me from continuing to orbit in healthy discipleship?

RESULTS

Average your score from each stage of the assessment. Then, read the answer key and get ready to Launch into Extraordinary Love!

Between 1-2: There's room for growth. Make some goals to increase your effort in this area. Get an accountability partner.

Between 2-4: You're moving in the right direction! Maybe you need to focus your efforts in another area, but you can still grow here.

Between 4-5: You are strong in this area! Maybe you can mentor a friend or a neighbor in this area, or offer to facilitate an opportunity in this stage. Pray about how God can use your strength in this way.

