

REVIVALIST LIFESTYLE

When you come to a new place you are often wondering, “What are the rules?” because you need to know them so you’ll know when you’ve scored a touchdown or when you’ve stepped out of bounds. Well, at LCSSM our rules are buried beneath the values we are trying to get you to adopt. In other words, you might stumble into our rules but we’re more worried about you breaking our values than our rules. It’s our desire to help you, and the Kingdom you serve, to thrive!

God has called you to LCSSM, and our mission is to call out the **revivalist** in you.

***Revivalist** : (n) a believer who is focused and passionate, willing to pay any price to live in community, purity and power because they are loved by God and love Him whose manifest presence transforms lives and cultures.*

Over the years, we have learned the important truth that who we are becoming is both expressed and affected by simple choices and behaviors. These choices and behaviors produce a lifestyle. Based on your call to become a revivalist, we have a set of expectations that we want you to adopt.

Ultimately, we want choices to flow from who we are. However, some things are first learned from the “outside in.” In other words, we adopt them before they feel quite natural or necessary because they help shape our inner world. School is often an “outside in” experience. For example, when we were first born the English language was foreign to us, but through imitation we learned the language and adopted a set of behaviors, principles and exercises over time.

The following is a practical expression of choices and behaviors that flow from your core mission of becoming a revivalist. We believe they will be very helpful in creating an atmosphere that advances the Kingdom.

Let’s break down the definition of “revivalist” and demonstrate the choices and behaviors we believe naturally flow from it:

Believer - We expect you to grow in the Truth, come to love it, deeply enjoy its value to save and transform, and ultimately, radically live it. So, among other things, being a “believer” in Truth is expressed in the following simple behaviors:

- 1) Do your Bible reading on time in order to be ready to discuss the truth of the Word.
- 2) Read the assigned books on time so that you can discuss them and understand a lecture in order to integrate the truth they contain into your life.
- 3) Memorize any assigned scriptures on time that you might know the Word.
- 4) Do any extra readings or assignments on time so you can discuss them and understand a lecture about them, thus building a strong foundation.

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Focused - “You can have anything you want, but you can’t have everything you want.” When a person is focused they make a “To Do” list and a “Not To Do” list. Students with focus have a “Yes” in their spirit so strong that they can say “No” to distraction and compromise. Focus is key in accomplishing all that God has called you to become. So, at the very least, “Focus” is expressed by the following behaviors:

- 1) Come to class on time.
- 2) Give whoever is speaking the honor of your full attention.
- 3) Plan your restroom use for the break. Try not to leave in the middle of class. We especially ask that you are mindful of this when our senior leaders and guest speakers are ministering.
- 4) No matter how tired you are, don’t lie down or doze off.
- 5) Always turn your chair and/or body to face the speaker.
- 6) Turn your cell phone ringer off and don’t answer it in class. Return calls at the break or after-school. (This radical behavior is actually quite refreshing for everyone.)

Passion - When we are passionate about something, our whole being is engaged. Our mind, emotions, bodies and energy are all directed at that thing that has captured us. Obviously, the Lord Himself is the One we encourage you to direct your passion towards. As you love Him with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength you tap into His passion for His Church, the lost, and yourself.

There is a “passion continuum” or scale; in other words, you might say, “I’m a 2 on a passion scale of ‘1 to 10’”. Then this year will be a great success if you become a “6” by year’s end. We don’t expect everyone to be a 10, though many will be, but we do expect growth. At the very least, the core value of passion is expressed in the following:

- 1) Worship with your whole being. Worship is not free time, or conversation time, or necessarily “soaking” time. It is a vital sacrifice we bring to the King every day. It is a step beyond convenience. It does take a purposeful heart to worship every day with joy but He is so worth it! Allowing yourself to become disconnected or uninvolved is not an option and leadership will address it if we see this in your life.
- 2) Allow your passion to be revealed in excellence. Some of the work you are asked to produce is only viewed by you and God. That should be enough for you! If you find yourself trying to cut corners or “beat the system” you are missing the whole point of this school.

Willing to pay any price - Most of you are already well aware of what it has cost you to attend LCSSM and we recognize and value your sacrifice. Still, there is more.

“Willingness to pay any price” at least looks like the following attitudes and behaviors:

- 1) We don’t want you to miss a day of school, but you are allowed 3 absences per session. Please do not treat these absences as something to “spend” at your leisure or to take a day off. This is exactly what we don’t want you to do! They are

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for crises and unavoidable situations that often arise. We expect you to manage these “excused” absences so you will not require more.

- 2) You are responsible to manage these absences. If you come close to your limit, initiate a conversation with your leaders before they talk to you about it, to tell them how you will solve this situation.
- 3) Attendance at services, outreaches, conferences and other events is a large part of our school experience. So, we expect you to faithfully attend on time, and we check-in on your faithfulness.
- 4) Leading with a king’s heart and a servant’s hands is one of the core values of a revivalist. So, we ask you to serve a whole lot. Be quick to volunteer whether it be setting up or tearing down the room or serving at an event. Your leaders have been setting an example in this area for years. One important lesson they have learned is that “the seat of service often turns into the throne of destiny.”
- 5) LCSSM is dependent upon your faithful payment of your school tuition. None of our money comes from the church’s general fund. Paying any price looks like getting a job, diligently getting support, or giving up something important or pleasurable in order to keep your school tuition current.

Purity - A good definition of grace is “the power to change.” The Lord gives us grace to walk in purity. Holiness is really wholeness. The Lord asks us to walk in purity because it is life-giving! Sin hurts you. It hurts other people and it hurts God. Not only that, it makes people crazy. Really, sin makes people crazy. They find themselves doing things that they never would have thought of doing in a million years.

You may hear it a lot when we apply discipline because we believe it so deeply, but your leaders will say something like “What were you thinking? You are way too awesome to be behaving that way!”

At the very least, purity looks like the following:

1. Do your homework well and with the right heart. A while back at LCSSM there was a student who purposely wrote down wrong answers just to see if someone was reading her work. Their question to her was, “How’d that work out for you? Do you feel like you’re on the road to becoming a revivalist?”
2. Let your sexuality be expressed in a way that pleases God. The Father has blessed marriage with the gift of sex and married couples are obviously expected to be faithful in body, heart and mind. All of us who remain unmarried are expected to honor God and one another with our sexuality. Jesus never used another person for His own gratification and called it love. Rather, His sexuality was a blessing to Himself and others around Him.
3. LCSSM’s environment of freedom requires a high level of self-management. We are creating an ordered culture, but not a controlling one. We are calling out the royalty in one another, not just trying to abstain from sin. In the area of alcohol, we don’t make a strict rule concerning its use because Scripture doesn’t (except to never be drunk—Eph. 5:18). Our government does have strict rules (no alcohol under 21 and you are legally considered drunk with a “moderate” amount of alcohol), which we

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expect you to obey. However, we do not have a firm rule so that we can help you manage your freedom and pastor each person individually. In Galatians 5 we are told that our freedom is given so that we may serve one another in love.

The following concepts are very important to us as we fellowship together:

First, we totally disagree with the core value that alcohol is the key to having fun, enjoying a party, helping us relax, or distracting and easing pain. At these times, alcohol can act as a counterfeit of something the Holy Spirit has for us.

Secondly, we never take a “break” or “vacation” from our character or the above core value. Grace gives us the power to change and stay changed. If you find yourself believing that you need a break from holiness, it reveals a dangerous condition that Father is ready and able to heal, and into which you should invite your mature friends and leaders.

Finally, and this is key for us, though scripture has given us freedom to drink alcohol, how this freedom is expressed could potentially disempower our church’s influence and your individual influence. If or when you are drinking publicly or at parties with one another consider how we may be a stumbling block to other Christians and even pre-believers who may ignore our call to live a supernatural gospel because in their mind we lack personal holiness. Finally, consider your classmates who are recovering from alcoholic addictions or who are under age and may be tempted because of our freedom.

We say all of this so that love, wisdom and honor (for one another and for Life Church) are foremost in your heart as you weigh the exercise of your liberty in the area of alcohol. Consider the definition, “willing to pay any price”. We ask you to make loving, life-giving decisions in regard to alcohol with these factors in mind. Embrace and guard your role as an influencer as seriously as we do.

Power - The Good News without power is not good news. Paul was glad in I Cor. 2 that his preaching wasn’t with persuasive words but demonstrations of power. Throughout the year, you will have a lot of opportunities to allow the power of God to be demonstrated through you. One of our goals for you is the same as Christ’s assignment for the twelve disciples in Luke 9 - that every student would know how to drive out demons, heal the sick and preach the kingdom.

- 1) Make the most of your opportunities as a ministry team member, Prayer Servant, Children’s Minister, outreach team, mission trip, etc.

Loved by God and love Him - All of this we do **because we are loved**, not to earn the love of God. Kris Vallotton from Bethel SSM is fond of saying, “We work from love, not for love.” Jesus died so that He might have relationship with us; don’t let go of this in the swirl of activity that is LCSSM.

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- 1) Let all other motives, be they a desire to change the world, to be a person of vision who's "great for God," or the drive to please leaders and classmates, be secondary to our connection with Him.
- 2) Life is busy. LCSSM requires a commitment and there's a danger of losing your connection with Him in the midst of all this ministry. Concentrate on maintaining your personal friendship with the Lord this year. This is why journaling, prayer, and worship are so important. We don't make much space for these things Sunday night and Tuesday night because we have so much to impart. These are habits you must make space for outside of school. Encountering God as you do your daily Bible reading can be a revival experience! It is a mistake to let go of Him in this season of new friends, learning about Him and ministering to and for Him.

Transforms lives and cultures - Christ's mandate to us is that we make disciples of the nations as we are "going." All of us should graduate with a humble confidence that we can reproduce ourselves by "teaching them to obey everything Jesus Christ has commanded us" (Matt. 27). Like Paul says, "Follow my example as I follow the example of Christ."