



Celebrate Recovery®

## **The Christ-centered, 12-step recovery program that addresses hurts, habits and hang ups - CRPGC at the City of Praise Family Ministries in Landover, Maryland**

BY

### **LEARN ABOUT CELEBRATE RECOVERY**

Seven Keys to Celebrate Recovery and Advanced Leadership Training will be held from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, April 21, 2018 at the City of Praise Family Ministries, 8501 Jericho City and Bishop Peebles Drive, Landover, MD 20785, for those interested in starting a program and for current leaders. Early Registration is \$69 (ends 3/25/18) Regular and Walk-In Registration is \$99 per person at the door, or \$89 each for a group of four. More Info: [www.celebraterecovery.com](http://www.celebraterecovery.com)

The Bible clearly states “all have sinned.” It is my nature to sin, and it is yours too. None of us is untainted. Because of sin, we’ve all hurt ourselves, we’ve all hurt other people, and others have hurt us. This means each of us need repentance and recovery in order to live our lives the way God intended.

You’ve undoubtedly heard the expression that “time heals all wounds.” Unfortunately, it isn’t true. Most of the time people are carrying hurts from 30 or 40 years ago. The truth is – time often makes things worse. Wounds that are left untended fester and spread infection throughout your entire body. Time only extends the pain if the problem isn’t dealt with.

This is a biblical and balanced program to help people overcome their hurts, habits and hang-ups. Celebrate Recovery is that program. Based on the actual words of Jesus rather than psychological theory, our recovery program is unique, and more effective in helping people change.

Most people are familiar with the classic 12 step program of AA. and other groups. While undoubtedly many lives have been helped through the twelve steps, Pastor Rick was always uncomfortable with that program’s vagueness about the nature of God, the saving power of Jesus Christ, and the ministry of the Holy Spirit. So an intense study of the Scriptures (by Pastor Rick Warren and Pastor John Baker) discovered what God had to say about “recovery.” To their amazement, they found that the principles of recovery, and even their logical order, was given by Christ in his most famous message, the Sermon on the Mount.

The study resulted in a ten-week series of messages called “The Road to Recovery.” From that series, Pastor John Baker developed the CR workbooks, which became the heart of our Celebrate Recovery program. I believe that this program is unlike any recovery program you may have seen.

There are seven features that make it unique:

1. This recovery program is based on God’s Word, the Bible. When Jesus taught the Sermon on the Mount, he began by stating “Eight Ways to Be Happy.” Today we call them the Beatitudes.

2. This recovery program is forward-looking. Rather than wallowing in the past, or dredging up and rehearsing painful memories over and over, Celebrate Recovery focuses on the future. Regardless of what has already happened, the solution is to start making wise choices now and depend on Christ's power to help me make those changes.
3. This recovery program emphasizes personal responsibility. Instead of playing the "accuse and excuse" game of victimization, this program helps people face up to their own poor choices and deal with what they can do something about. We cannot control all that happens to us. But we can control how we respond to everything. That is a secret of happiness. When we stop wasting time fixing the blame, we have more energy to fix the problem. When you stop hiding your own faults and stop hurling accusations at others, then the healing power of Christ can begin working in your mind, will, and emotions.
4. This recovery program emphasized spiritual commitment to Jesus Christ. The 3rd principle calls for people to make a total surrender of their lives to Christ. Lasting recovery cannot happen without this step. Everybody needs Jesus. Celebrate Recovery is thoroughly evangelistic in nature. Don't be surprised if this program becomes the most effective outreach ministry in your church. Today, nearly 73% of the people who've been through Celebrate Recovery have come from outside of the church. Changed lives always attract others who want to be changed.
5. This recovery program utilizes the biblical truth that we need each other in order to grow spiritually and emotionally. It is built around small group interaction and the fellowship of a caring community. There are many therapies, growth programs, and counselors today that are built around one-on-one interaction. But Celebrate Recovery is built on the New Testament principle that we don't get well by ourselves. We need each other. Fellowship and accountability are two important components of spiritual growth. If your church is interested in starting small groups, this is a great way to get started.
6. This recovery program addresses all types of habits, hurts and hang-ups. Some recovery programs deal only with alcohol or drugs or another single problem. But Celebrate Recovery is a "large umbrella" program under which a limitless number of issues can be dealt with.
7. Finally, this recovery program produces lay ministers! Because Celebrate Recovery is biblical and church-based, it produces a continuous stream of people moving into ministry after they've found recovery in Christ.

Once you try it, you won't be able to keep it a secret for long! You are going to see lives changed in dramatic ways.

You are going to see hopeless marriages restored and people set free from all kinds of sinful habits, hang-ups, and hurts as they allow Jesus to be Lord in every area of their lives. To God be the glory! Will you come out and join us on April 21, 2018. We'll be praying for you!