

GENESEO EVANGELICAL
FREE CHURCH

“But grow in the
grace and
knowledge of
our Lord and
Savior Jesus
Christ. To him
be the glory
both now and to
the day of
eternity. Amen.”
2 Peter 3:18

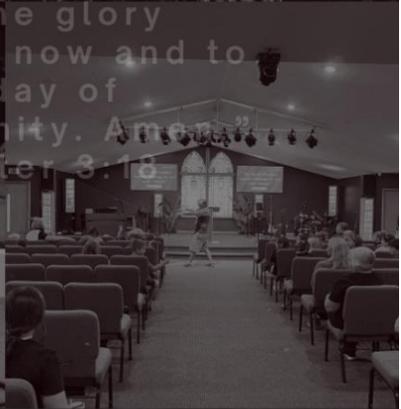
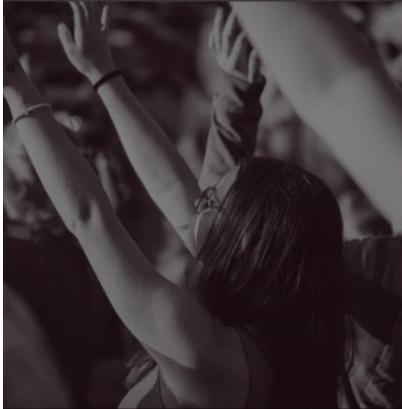
WALK THE WAY

DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY

“Rather, speaking the truth in
love, we are to grow up in every
way into him who is the head,
into Christ.” Ephesians 4:15

DECIDE - DEVELOP - DEFINE - DEPLOY

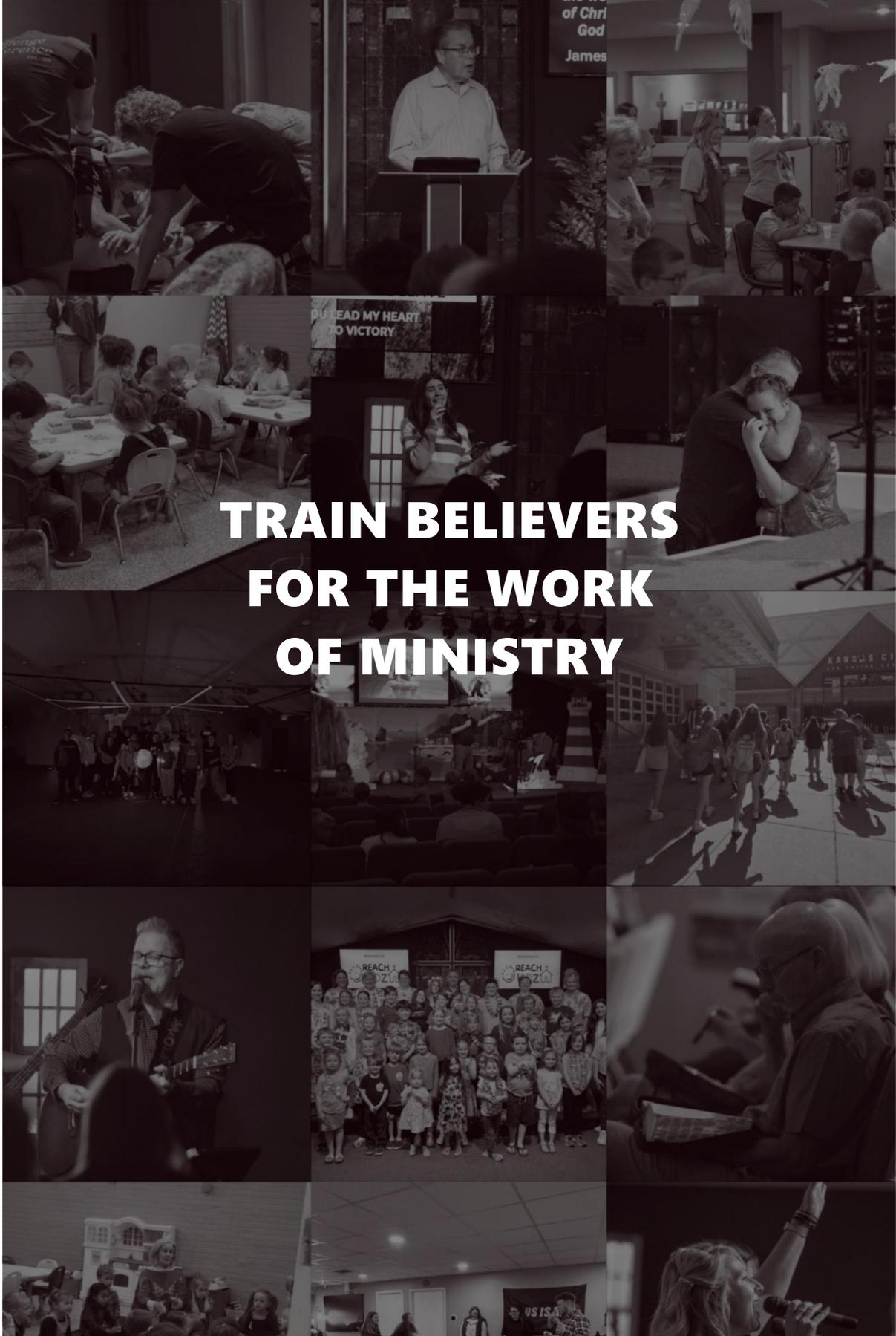




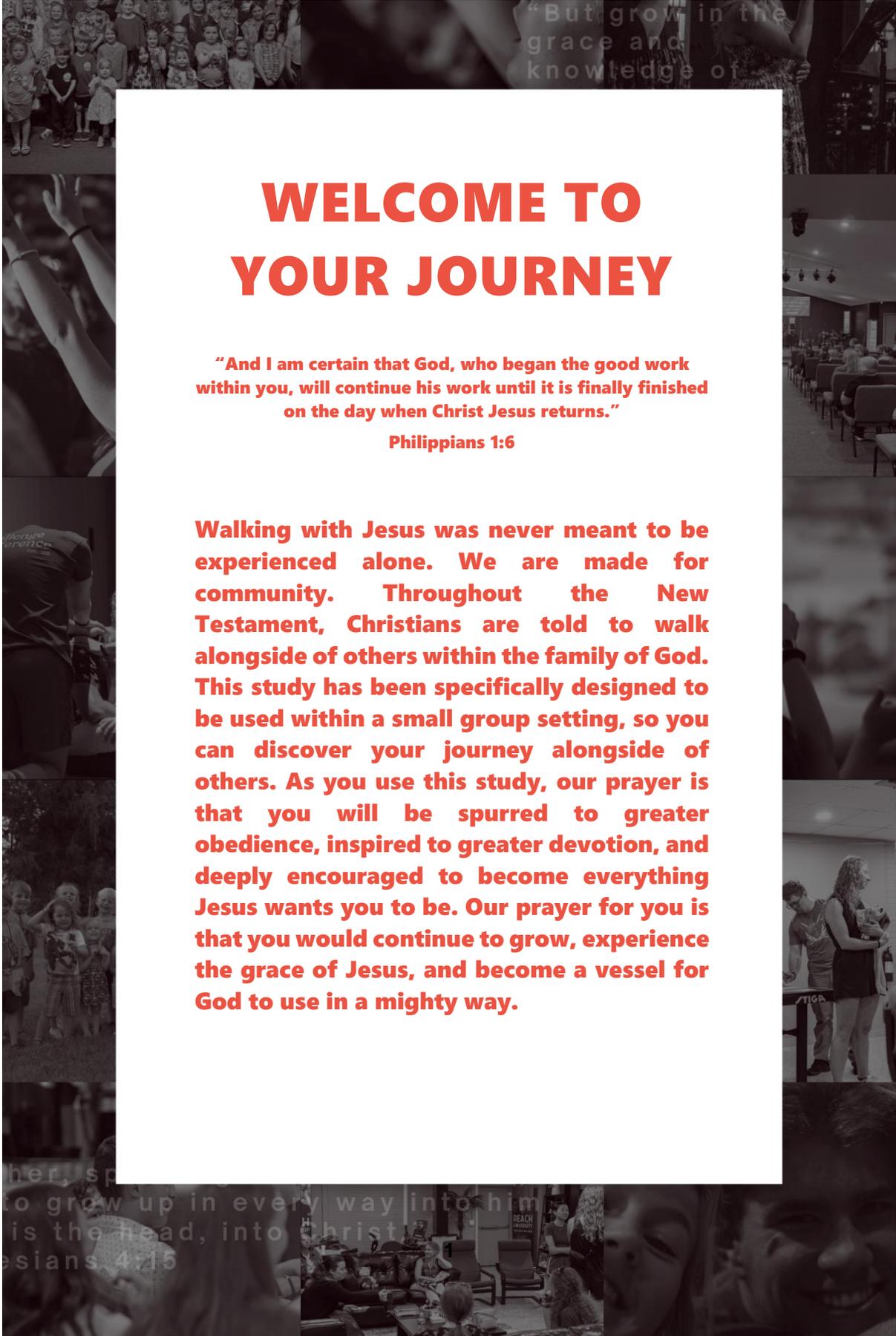
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...ND BREAK
...VERY CHAIN



**TRAIN BELIEVERS
FOR THE WORK
OF MINISTRY**



“But grow in the
grace and
knowledge o

WELCOME TO YOUR JOURNEY

“And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.”

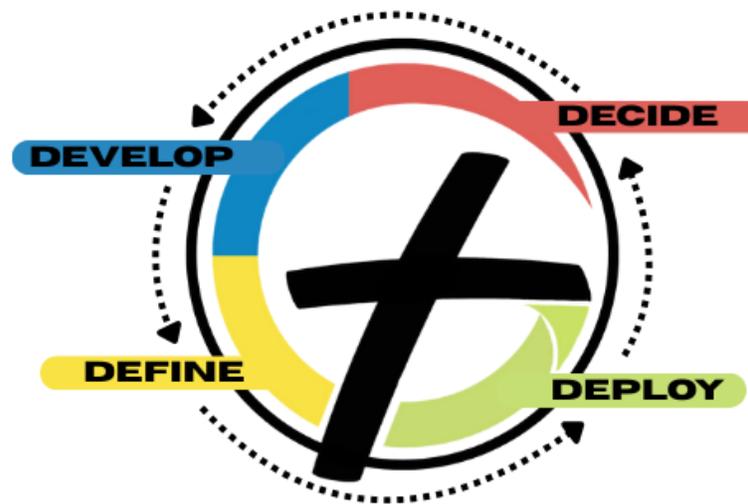
Philippians 1:6

Walking with Jesus was never meant to be experienced alone. We are made for community. Throughout the New Testament, Christians are told to walk alongside of others within the family of God. This study has been specifically designed to be used within a small group setting, so you can discover your journey alongside of others. As you use this study, our prayer is that you will be spurred to greater obedience, inspired to greater devotion, and deeply encouraged to become everything Jesus wants you to be. Our prayer for you is that you would continue to grow, experience the grace of Jesus, and become a vessel for God to use in a mighty way.

WHERE YOU'RE HEADED

JOURNEY OVERVIEW

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OUR GOAL

Discipleship is simply a process of learning. To be a disciple is to be a follower and learner of Jesus. This means that no one graduates from the process of discipleship as we will always have more room for growth. In this study, and through this process, our goal is simple. We want to be intentional and clear about how a person follows Jesus more closely. We know that everyone is at a different place in their walk, so this study should be used as a supplemental resource for an intimate walk with Jesus. We are aiming for every person to be discipled and disciple another. This was Jesus' commission to His disciples, and we want to do what He said.

OUR PRAYER

Our prayer is that this process would challenge you and encourage you. We believe God has a unique plan for each of us, which means we must learn to find Him and live out His purpose for us. We are praying that together; we would become more boldly obedient to Jesus to serve Him and His Kingdom in any way that He would ask. We pray that God would call pastors, missionaries, servants, volunteers. We pray that God would stir repentance, surrender, and obedience as we ponder His will for His children. We also pray that meaningful relationships would form through this process.

SERIES MEDIA:



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ICEBREAKER:

“If you had to make every decision for a whole day by flipping a coin, what part of your day would go the most wrong—and what part might surprisingly go right?”

1. Jesus’ invitation to “Follow Me” is simple but costly.

What do you think Jesus meant by “follow,” and how does that invitation challenge the way we normally make decisions in life?

2. Following Jesus often requires choosing between comfort and obedience.

Can you think of a moment when you sensed Jesus leading you in a direction that wasn’t the easiest or most convenient? What helped you make that decision?

3. Discipleship is both a daily choice and a long-term journey.

What daily habits or rhythms help you choose Jesus consistently, even when you don’t feel spiritually strong or motivated?

4. Jesus shapes our identity as much as our behavior.

How has following Jesus changed the way you see yourself—your purpose, priorities, or the way you make decisions?

5. We follow Jesus together, not alone.

Who has influenced your walk with Jesus the most, and how has community helped you make wise and faithful decisions along the way?

WK 1: DECIDE DAY 1

FOLLOW JESUS

Decisions are a natural part of our lives. Some estimate that we make 35,000 decisions in a single day, including our small, sub-conscious decisions. Honestly, it seems like it could be a little low when we consider what kinds of decisions we must make. Yet, there is something different about our spiritual decisions. Our spiritual decisions are not often as tangible or recognizable, but they are significantly more impactful.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.” Proverbs 3:5-6

Despite our instinct and strongest intentions, the Bible encourages us to trust not in ourselves, but in the Lord. It teaches us that our decision-making will fail. Have you ever experienced this? Maybe a moment, a season, or a situation where your decision-making was poor. We all have. None are immune to making poor or wrong decisions, and this is the very reason this verse should mean so much to us.

While we may not always make the best decisions, we serve a God who will guide our decisions when we trust in Him. The God of the Bible is a guiding light, and a wise counselor. When we lean on and listen into His Word and His guidance, we will find our decisions growing stronger and healthier.

The first, and best decision before every man and woman, is the decision to follow Jesus. Upon His call upon our lives, a decision is laid before us whether we will accept His invitation or not.

*“And he said to them, ‘Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.’”
Matthew 4:19*

- *Have I accepted Jesus' invitation to follow Him? If not, why?*

- *What am I doing to follow Jesus daily and wage war against my flesh?*

“Dear Lord, I hear your call to follow, I know the cost is to deny myself, take up my cross, and I'm ready to do that today. Lead me in surrender and obedience to you, Jesus. Teach me to follow you every day, in every decision, so you are glorified in every way through my life. Amen.”

DECIDE: DAY 2

SURRENDER TO JESUS

After man's rebellion, Adam and Eve were cast from the presence of God. After Jesus' incarnation, mankind is invited back through His invitation to follow. There is no path to God that we can earn, only a path that we are invited to walk when Jesus calls us by name. To accept Jesus' invitation, we must first deny our inclination to rebel.

“And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.” Luke 9:23

Many people today prefer to follow God on their terms, and this attitude undermines the entire purpose of accepting an invitation. If you get invited to a wedding, you don't decide when to show up, how the ceremony goes, and what food you get to eat. Okay, maybe you decide what to eat, but you aren't in charge. When you accept an invitation, you agree to follow their terms and expectations. To accept and follow Jesus, is to bow to His rules, declare Him as Lord, and follow the steps that He determines.

“As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” 1 Peter 1:14-16

Following Jesus takes serious intention and discipline. The path forward with Jesus is also a path away from our former lives and former habits. Life with Jesus is a life of change. We are constantly forced to grow and change as we are transformed into His likeness. Jesus is Holy, and He calls us to the same high standard of holiness. Be assured today that Jesus is in the business of changing us from the inside out. We are not called to muscle up and become self-righteous followers of Jesus, but instead we are called to humble ourselves and become surrendered followers of Jesus. We are changed as we follow Him.

- ***Have I genuinely surrendered my life to Jesus? How do I know?***
-
- ***What patterns, habits, do I have yet to cast off? How can I pursue holiness?***
-

Dear Lord, conform me to your image. Redeem me from my former passions and conduct. Let me live for you, with you, and to reflect you in all that I think, all that I say, and all that I do. Amen.

DECIDE: DAY 3

IDENTIFY WITH JESUS

After giving our lives to Jesus, we must commit to the things the Lord commanded us. The first step is for us to publicly be baptized as a public witness of our faith in Jesus. Baptism is simply a way of publicly identifying with Jesus before a church family.

“And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.”

Acts 22:16

Baptism is to be the first step we take after giving our lives to Jesus. Baptism itself does not save, nor does it itself remove our sins, but it is an outward expression of an inward change. Baptism serves to make public what God has done in private. It is to share with the world that we have been saved by the grace of God and the blood of Jesus.

A NOTE ON INFANT BAPTISM

As a church and denomination, we do not practice or recognize infant baptism. We believe each person ought to be baptized after making a personal, conscious decision of faith in Jesus. We will perform child dedications but baptize only after a personal confession of faith in Jesus has been made.

“We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.” Romans 6:4

What a beautiful gift God has given to us! When we believe in Jesus by faith, we are identified with Him in His death, His burial, His resurrection, and even His ascension. Baptism symbolizes being buried with Christ and being raised to new life by His power and grace. This is why our church practices baptism by immersion.

If you have been baptized as a believer, and even were baptized many years ago, take some time now and praise God for the work He has done in your life. Thank God for your church family and praise Him for providing it to you. Maybe you have missed this step in your walk with Christ. We invite you to celebrate God’s work by scheduling your baptism today.

- **Have I taken the step of being baptized? If not, what is preventing me?**

- **What does it mean to me that I am identified with Christ in death, burial, resurrection, and ascension?**

“Dear Lord, I hear your call to follow, I know the cost is to deny myself, take up my cross, and I’m ready to do that today. Lead me in surrender and obedience to you, Jesus. Teach me to follow you every day, in every decision, so you are glorified in every way through my life. Amen.”

DECIDE: DAY 4

READ HIS WORD

The moment of our salvation, we begin a process known as sanctification. This is the process that we are under as God, by His grace, makes us more like Jesus. This process is not easy and is in fact very difficult. This process includes transformation of our heart, radical changes to our attitudes, behaviors, and interests. It also includes deep conviction of sin. Jesus is purifying us and slowly but surely making everything new.

“Therefore, put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.” James 1:21

James tells us that the new calling on our life is to become more like Jesus. This is why in the opening verses of his letter; he teaches us that trials are beneficial to our sanctification. He reminds us that we must be on guard against the attack of the enemy and his attempt to pull us off course. James is describing here a cleansing which removes the old filthy way we used to live, and the entry of a new, purified life.

***“Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.”
Proverbs 30:5***

***“I have stored your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.”
Psalm 119:11***

“Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation.” 1 Peter 2:2

Like food for our bodies, we ought to read God’s Word like it is food for our souls. His Word is where we draw from the fountain of living water. His Word is where we find instruction for life and wisdom for responding to God as we ought. A Christian without the Word is like a plant without soil. Where will its roots go? What will it draw its nutrients from? The Christian therefore is helpless without the Word.

Let us depend on and cling to God’s Word every day of our lives.

- ***Do I currently read my Bible consistently? What could I do to improve this habit?***

- ***What is my plan and goal for memorizing scripture, to hide it in my heart?***

Dear Lord, saturate my heart with your Word. I pray that I would dig roots into your Word that would strengthen my walk, embolden my witness, and guide my worship, every day. Amen.

DECIDE: DAY 5

GATHER WITH HIS PEOPLE

By now, we can see what some have called the “spiritual sphere”. This refers to the things in your walk with Christ that you must manage, control, and practice to have a healthy spiritual life. Specifically, we have discussed the initial decision to follow Jesus, being baptized to publicly declare your faith, and God’s Word. Today, let’s discuss a little about being part of the body of Christ, or as we call it, the Church.

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting the meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” Hebrews 10:24-25

In this passage, there are a few things to point out. First, we are told as believers that we should give intentional thought to how we can encourage one another to love and to good works. The fact is simple: we are not meant to walk alone. We are hard-wired for relational connection, and it is God’s design of His Church. Therefore, second, this passage tells us that we should not neglect meeting together. The reason is simple, we need each other.

“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”

Romans 12:4-5

You see, the Church is a widespread community of those who have been “called out” by Jesus. God has structured this assembly to be composed in a similar way to our bodies. We have lots of body parts, each having a different function, yet working together. That is how the Church is to be. This means that you don’t just take part *in* the Church, you are part of the church. You need the Church, and the Church needs you to function well.

- *Do I make the gathering of believers a priority in my life? Why should it be?*

- *If Church doesn’t just exist to serve me, what part can I play in the Church?*

“Dear Lord, help me to gather with your people, worship you and be a part of the body of Christ. Amen.”

ONE-ON-ONE DISCIPLESHIP

One on one discussions are one of the most essential parts of discipleship. This pathway serves as the vehicle to take us along, but we must have key people driving, and in the vehicle with us to take this journey. That's why we have not only designed this pathway to be used with a small group, but with a one-on-one relationship as well.

For this week's discussion, we will focus on the first part of the pathway called "Decide". What we want to identify clearly is if we have decided to build the right foundation for spiritual growth. Do we have a commitment to follow Jesus? Are we committed to reading God's Word every day? Have we plugged into our local church and maybe even a small group? As you take discuss with your partner, be open, honest, encouraging, and supportive as you challenge each other to grow.

In your mind, is there a difference between being a Christian and being a disciple? Why, or why not?

Do you consider yourself a disciple? Why?

Describe what you think someone who is spiritually mature looks like.

How might being a disciple affect the way that you view your calendar and schedule? Since you follow Jesus, should anything about your calendar or activities change?

What is one challenge you are facing currently as you decide to follow Jesus?

"Dear Lord, move with your power and will in our lives. May we serve you and glorify you with our speech, conduct, and thoughts. Give us strength to face new challenges and to pursue godliness in every way. Teach us to live and love like you do. We are thankful for your love and pray that we would honor you in all that we day. In Jesus' name, Amen."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ICEBREAKER:

“If you could instantly become an expert at any completely random skill, what would you pick?”

1. Growing in Relationship with God

“What practices or rhythms have helped you feel closest to God, and what gets in the way of consistently cultivating that closeness?”

2. Connection to the Church

“When you think about your relationship with the local church, what has helped you feel like an active participant rather than just an observer?”

3. Life With God’s People

“Who in your life has helped shape your faith the most, and how has Christian community strengthened—or challenged—your spiritual growth?”

4. Worship as a Lifestyle

“How would you describe the difference between ‘attending’ worship and engaging your heart in worship? What helps you bridge that gap?”

5. Understanding the Bible More Deeply

“What has helped you understand Scripture more clearly—tools, habits, people, or experiences—and what areas of the Bible do you still find difficult to grasp?”

WK 2 - DEVELOP: DAY 1

RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS

Part of God's design of your life is that you have relationships with other people. This is where our deep desire for intimacy, love, and connection come from. Relationships are not only nice to have, but they are essential to our development. The Bible is clear that bad company corrupts our good morals (1 Cor. 15:33). So, it would be a mistake to choose friends that pull us away Jesus. We need to find those who make us more like Jesus.

"Iron sharpens Iron, and one man sharpens another." Proverbs 27:17

In the previous few weeks, we discussed the necessity of the church in the Christian life. What we need to consider now is that attending church once a week is only the beginning. Day by day, we will naturally drift into dull, dry, and distracted behaviors that keep us from thriving in our journey with Christ. This is why it is the people who make the difference.

Community matters. You need to develop people who surround you, know you deeply, and love you fully. We are charged in the Bible to love one another as Christ has loved us (John 13:34-35; 1 John 4:11). Who are the people in your life who are your 'mat carriers' and the ones to walk with you shoulder to shoulder?

"Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ."

Galatians 6:2

"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing." 1 Thessalonians 5:11

It's been said that "if you want to go fast, go alone, but if you want to go far, go together." The best way for us to progress spiritually is to move and live alongside others with the same goal. We should have people in our lives that help shoulder our burdens and encourage us as we do to them. The way we build community at Geneseo E-Free is first through our worship service. Then, we encourage everyone to join a Bible study or Sunday School class, and finally we want everyone to be in a small group. This helps everyone establish a community of faith.

- **Who are the 4-5 people in your circle you are accountable to spiritually?**

- **What do you need to do to cultivate deeper, genuine relationships with believers?**

Dear Lord, thank you for surrounding me with like-minded people. Help me to lean on others. Bless my relationships and help me to invest in others. Amen.

DEVELOP: DAY 2

COMPREHENSION OF HIS WORD

“For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.” Hebrews 5:12-14

Every believer is at a different stage of spiritual development. Exploring this stage of the discipleship journey will show you that no Christian ever truly graduates from this stage. We are all, constantly developing a closer walk with Jesus and a more Christ-like character.

“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.”

2 Peter 3:18

“And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.” Colossians 1:9-10

Take note of the various pieces working together in Colossians 1:9-10:

- We have not ceased to _____ for you.
 - Asking that you may be filled with the _____ of his will.
 - Fully _____ to him.
 - Bearing _____ in every good work.
 - Increasing in the _____ of God.
-
- What am I doing to develop my comprehension of God's Word?

 - What impact does Biblical knowledge have on a person's life?

Dear Lord, thank you for your Word and its power. Thank you that you are patient with us as we grow, and that you help us along the way. Help me now as I pursue you. Amen.

DEVELOP: DAY 3

CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

Our habits, daily disciplines, and even some of our interests have to change as we grow and mature as people. This is also true in our walk with Jesus. When we are young followers of Jesus, we will act and think one way, but as we age in our faith, many things will change.

“When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways.”

1 Corinthians 13:11

Within its context, Paul pens these words as a brilliant expression of mature love. The way we love as children should not be the same as the way we love as adults. This is true for many things. The way we approach church should change as we grow and mature. The way we approach our Bible reading should increase as we mature.

“For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus

Christ.” 2 Peter 1:5-8

Peter lists many things that should supplement our faith:

- *Virtue - this means to have an excellent character.*
 - *Knowledge - this means to have understanding.*
 - *Self-Control - this means to have mastery of the self.*
 - *Steadfastness - this is the patience to endure.*
 - *Godliness - reverence for God that promotes personal godliness.*
 - *Brotherly Affection - love for other believers in your life.*
 - *Love - goodwill and benevolence toward others.*
-
- What does a mature Christian look like? What qualities best describe them?

 - What area do you need to grow in the most right now?

Dear Lord, thank you for being Holy and Righteous. Help me to reflect you in all that I do. I give you my mind, will, body, and spirit and ask that you transform me. Teach me your ways and guide me in your path. Amen.

DEVELOP: DAY 4

HEART OF WORSHIP

“O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure.” Isaiah 25:1

A heart of worship is a heart devoted to the exaltation, glory, and praise of God. A. W. Tozer said, *“God wants worshippers before workers; indeed, the only acceptable workers are those who have learned the lost art of worship.”* Worship comes before work...but does it? In modern Christianity, we worship second and work first. We praise God after we've accomplished rather than praising God because He has already accomplished.

“For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.” Romans 11:36

“...To linger in His presence, to shut out the noise of the city and, in quietness, give Him the praise He deserves. Before we engage ourselves in His work, let's meet Him in His Word...in prayer...in worship.” - Chuck Swindoll - Worship is so much more than a well-tuned band playing a well-known song and others joining in. Worship is an outward expression of the very worth and majesty of God. This means we worship in the way we live, walk, talk, and behave. Our very conduct speaks of there being an occupied throne in our hearts.

“God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”
John 4:24

Worship is a central part of the Christian life. To cultivate or develop a greater heart of worship, we must begin with having a greater understanding of just who our God is. If we believe in a small or weak God, then we will struggle in worship. The greater our God, the greater our worship ought to be. Worship is war, it happens in the valleys and the peaks. It's a choice we make to sing praise to God regardless of what life looks like.

- **Why is worship so important as an activity and discipline for Christians?**

- **How could you develop a greater heart for worship? What might that look like?**

Dear Lord, you are worthy of all my praise all my days. Teach me to remember your majesty and power. Teach me to worship you as you deserve, and may it pour from my life. Amen.

DEVELOP: DAY 5

HEART OF GENEROSITY

That's right, we're talking about money. Why? Mainly because money so often is unaddressed and yet has one of the greatest holds on our hearts and walks with Christ. Jesus wants us to see our money as a gift to be stewarded rather than a reward to be used as we please. It all starts with getting the vision of the generosity of God himself and His grace that was lavished upon us.

“He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?” Romans 8:32

We first must see all that we have as a gift from God that must be used as He would ask us to. Giving of our resources, specifically our finances, is a decision that each of us must make individually. We should give because we want to, and we are happy to.

“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:7

Generosity is a natural reflection of a person who has been saturated with God's grace. When we understand how gracious God has been to us by sending His Son Jesus to bleed and die on a cross for the forgiveness of our sins, then we will hold nothing back in our response to Him. He has given us above and beyond anything we could ever ask for or deserve, so we can be generous people.

Take some time with the Lord and really reflect. Ask Him to give you insight, clarity, and wisdom regarding your resources and how He may be asking you to respond to Him.

- Why is giving as a Christian important?

- What might need to change in my habits or perspective regarding my resources?

Dear Lord, you have given me more than I could ever ask for. I have been saturated in your grace, and I pray that you will help me overflow in generosity. Help me reflect your heart and character with my money, time and talents. I want to serve you the rest of my life and with all my things, so please help bring glory to your name in this way. Amen.

ONE-ON-ONE DISCIPLESHIP

One on one discussions are one of the most essential parts of discipleship. This pathway serves as the vehicle to take us along, but we must have key people driving, and in the vehicle with us to take this journey. That's why we have not only designed this pathway to be used with a small group, but with a one-on-one relationship as well.

For this week's discussion, we will focus on the first part of the pathway called "Develop". In this stage, we want to look at the elements of spiritual growth that we need to cultivate and intentionally engage in on a routine basis. This weeks discussion should revolve around spiritual disciplines and practices for Christians in all walks of life.

From this week's studies, what did you find most challenging, encouraging, or convicting?

What area of development do you want to work on most?

Describe what is so valuable and important about gathering with other believers.

How do we remain fervent in spiritual growth?

What is one challenge you are facing currently as you develop as a follower of Jesus?

"Dear Lord, thank you for making us stronger, and more like Jesus. We praise you because without you, we are wandering sheep without hope, promise, or peace. Thank you that where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is peace, freedom, and life. We pray that as we continue to pursue you diligently, that you would draw near to us and help us to grow. We pray for the fruit of the Spirit to be evident in our lives and that in all we say, think, and do, we would be living testimonies of what you can do. Amen."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ICEBREAKER:

“If your personality had a warning label, what would it say?”

1. Spiritual Gifts & Identity

“When you think about your spiritual gifts, which ones feel most natural to you — and which ones have others affirmed in you that you might not have recognized on your own?”

2. Serving in the Church

“What kinds of serving roles in the church give you life rather than drain you? What might that reveal about how God designed you?”

3. Barriers to Using Gifts

“What fears, insecurities, or uncertainties tend to hold you back from using your spiritual gifts or stepping into a serving role?”

4. Investing in One Person

“If you were to pour into just *one* person spiritually this season, who comes to mind, and what first step could you take toward encouraging or discipling them?”

5. Clarifying Your Calling

“How do your spiritual gifts, personal story, and current opportunities come together to point toward the specific kind of impact God is shaping you to make?”

DEFINE: DAY 1

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

When you take the time to define your gifts, it's crucial that we see these gifts correctly. These are gifts that can only be made possible by the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. These gifts cannot be manufactured or developed by anyone. Like any true gift, they cannot be earned or achieved; they are given to you. Pay close attention to what Paul says in Ephesians chapter four:

“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.” Ephesians 4:11-12

What were the five primary roles that Paul described?

_____ , _____ , _____ , _____ , _____

Paul describes specific roles being filled so that others can learn, grow, and serve. Paul emphasized here in Ephesians 4 that it's essential for others to be built up as we wait for our Lord to return. Building others up ensures that they are not hurt by false teaching and deceitful schemes. When we use our spiritual gifts, growth happens. We grow, and others grow.

“For this reason, I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands...” 2

Timothy 1:6

- **What are my top three spiritual gifts?**

- **What ministry in our church would allow me to use my gifts the best?**

Dear Lord, thank you for giving me these gifts. Please give me wisdom and opportunity to use these gifts for your glory and your Kingdom. I pray that you would inspire me and challenge me to serve you. In Jesus' name. Amen.

DEFINE: DAY 2

ROLE IN THE CHURCH

Jesus called His disciples not to follow casually, or listen passively, but to bear fruit as a result. John 15:8 describes the proof that someone is following Jesus. They are known by their fruit, and this is how God is glorified. Part of defining our role is understanding the overarching role that Jesus calls us to play. He calls us to live lives that are set apart, bearing fruit, pursuing holiness, and seeking His Kingdom.

“For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” Galatians 5:13

- Why is it necessary to use our freedom in a specific way?
- Who is an example of a person who serves others through love?

Our freedom was purchased by Jesus' blood, which means we ought to use this freedom in the way He deems appropriate. As a response of worship and obedience to Him, we do what He did by serving others. There is no greater example of someone who served others through love as Jesus.

“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Mark 10:45

We believe that an essential piece of following Jesus includes serving His sheep. Serving others is not only for paid pastors, but for everyone inside of a congregation. We believe that serving is an essential element of our growth in Christ.

- What area of ministry am I interested in or might God be leading me step into?

- How can I develop more of a serving heart?

Dear Lord, thank you for including me in your Church. Open my eyes and change my heart toward the opportunities in front of me to serve. Help me to honor you with my time. Amen.

DEFINE: DAY 3

YOUR "ONE"

Witnessing can be a frightening thing for many people. It can sometimes feel like we're trying to sell a car to a child. Maybe it feels like we're trying to persuade someone into something nonessential and something that's even threatening to the very relationships that we have.

Jesus is the great lover of our souls who invited His beloved children to surrender to Him and experience His grace and salvation. It's been said that *"Witnessing is taking a good look at the Lord Jesus and then telling others what you've seen."* – Vance Havner

- **What most commonly prevents Christians from sharing with others?**

"Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself..." 1 John 5:10

Those in Christ have been witnesses to His grace, power, and salvation. To be a witness is first to see or experience, and second, to go and tell someone. The very concept of being a disciple is that we would not follow silently, but that we would replicate courageously. What has God done for you? Can you tell someone what He has done?

"Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for my soul." Psalm 66:16

- **Why is sharing our faith and investing into one person so important?**

- **What needs to change in my heart to be more willing to do this?**

Dear Lord, thank you for _____. I pray that you would move with power, grace, and love in their life until they give their life to you. I pray that you would give me opportunities to witness to them, but even if you don't, that you would remind me to keep them in my prayers. Amen.

DEFINE: DAY 4

YOUR IDENTITY

Identity is the backbone of our lives. What we identify with or how we choose to identify ourselves can make a big difference. For example, many of us identify ourselves most with our work, or our families. It's not that these are wrong, but our identity is so much more.

“Therefore, is anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17

When we define ourselves by Christ's truth instead of the world's standards, we see life differently. Challenges no longer define us; God's promises do. Mistakes don't erase our worth; His grace restores it. Instead of defining ourselves by performance, accomplishment, popularity, or mistakes, we must identify ourselves with Christ, and His love for us. We must never make our sin our identity.

“Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,” Colossians 3:12

Our enemy is a sore loser who loves to shout all the reasons you should turn from God. He will tell you all kinds of reasons to doubt God's promises. He wants you to question your worth, your value, and God's purposes for you. You must remember that in Christ, you are loved, you are chosen, you are uniquely made and equipped by Him for His work. You are redeemed, justified, cleansed, delivered, new, and alive!

- **Why is it so important that we identify with the right things?**

- **List what the Bible says about you now that you are in Christ.**

Dear Lord, thank you for redeeming us by your blood. Thank you that our identity is not defined by the enemy, or our mistakes or occupation, but by our King and Savior who defeated the grave and now reigns with power in heaven. Remind me of this as I pursue you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DEFINE: DAY 5

YOUR PURPOSE

Your life has purpose. This even goes deeper than the mere filling of space and relational impact you might make. Because of what we have in Christ, and all that God has purposed through His Son Jesus, we have a purpose that stretches back to the garden, and will stretch into eternity.

“Everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.” Isaiah 43:7

Notice the important words in this verse! Called, created, formed, made. You have been called by God out of darkness into light. You were created for His glory, and you were formed and made intentionally for this purpose. Your highest purpose in life is to bring God glory. That is why He made and formed you just the way that you are.

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.” John 15:16

What an amazing, glorious thing this is! Jesus chose you. He chose you so that you would go and ‘bear fruit.’ You see, our greatest purpose in this life is to live for God, live with God, and bring glory to Him. Defining our purpose by the Bible’s definition is one of the most important things we can do.

- **How do God’s purpose for you and the enemy’s purpose compare?**

- **How can you discover more of God’s purpose for you?**

Dear Lord, thank you for giving me purpose. Thank you that my life is not an accident, but an intentional design and plan by your gracious, sovereign hand. Help me to rest in your plan and purpose for my life, so I may bring you glory in all that I do. In Jesus’ name, Amen.



ONE-ON-ONE DISCIPLESHIP

One on one discussions are one of the most essential parts of discipleship. This pathway serves as the vehicle to take us along, but we must have key people driving, and in the vehicle with us to take this journey. That's why we have not only designed this pathway to be used with a small group, but with a one-on-one relationship as well.

For this week's discussion, we will look at our 'Define' stage. Defining our gifts, defining our role in the church, and defining our one. These are the three primary areas we want to focus on, but we also want to be sure to discuss defining our identity and purpose, as these are crucial to our walk with Christ, especially as the enemy comes to attack.

From this week's studies, what did you find most challenging, encouraging, or convicting?

What area do you struggle to clearly define the most?

Why is it important to have a clearly, biblically defined identity?

When it comes to serving in the church, or investing in someone intentionally, which do you have the most concerns, reservations, or fear about?

What is one challenge you are facing currently as you define these areas?

"Dear Lord, thank you for being clear to us through your Word. Thank you for giving us wisdom to see and understand the things we discover in your Word. We praise you today that we are made with intention and purpose, and our soul finds rest only in you. Help us, Lord to define the ways you have wired and gifted us and help us to define how we might serve in church or invest in someone we know. Go before us and bless us as we go so we may bring you glory in all that we do. In Jesus' name, Amen.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ICEBREAKER:

“If you were suddenly tasked with a secret mission... what’s the one thing you hope is not part of the assignment?”

1. The Great Commission

“When you hear Jesus say, ‘Go and make disciples,’ what part of that command feels most challenging — and what part feels most exciting?”

2. Everyday Evangelism

“What does sharing your faith look like in your everyday life right now — and what small shift could make it feel more natural and less intimidating?”

3. Missionaries & Calling

“When you think of missionaries, what comes to mind? How does their example inspire or challenge you to live missionally where you already are?”

4. Being Deployed by Jesus

“Where do you sense Jesus ‘deploying’ you this season — a relationship, workplace, neighborhood, or situation where He’s clearly positioning you to make an impact?”

5. Courage & Obedience

“Can you think of one step of obedience—big or small—that Jesus might be inviting you to take to live out His mission more boldly?”

DEPLOY: DAY 1

THE GREAT COMMISSION

“Thriving churches have the great commission as the centerpiece of their vision, while dying churches have forgotten the clear command of Christ.”

Thom Rainer

As pastors, we talk about the great commission constantly. We put weight on Jesus’ command to go and make disciples. However, His great commission was designed to be for more than just the ‘professionals’ to do. Your role, as a disciple, is to know Jesus, and make Him known.

- **You must make Abiding in Christ primary.**
 - Jesus said, “Apart from me, you can do nothing” (John 15:5). Abiding in Christ is the individual primary focus of every Christian before anything else.
- **You must respond to the Great Commission.**
 - Jesus reminded His disciples that the reason they ought to go and make disciples is because He has overcome the world. We witness from a place of victory and triumph. Abiding in Christ allows us to live in victory and talk about it!

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,” Matthew 28:19

- **What is my impression of the Great Commission?**

- **What needs to change in my attitude to evangelize more?**

Dear Lord, thank you that your heart and will is to reach the ends of the earth with the good news. Help me to be your messenger. Give me courage. Amen.

DEPLOY: DAY 2

RELATIONAL EVANGELISM

“Every Christian is either a missionary or an imposter.” Charles Spurgeon - This quote from Spurgeon underscores the central theme of our faith being evangelism. Simply put, we are commanded to go and make disciples. It’s for you.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8

These were some of Jesus’ last recorded words to His disciples. We receive power when we receive the Holy Spirit, and He enables us to be Christ’s witnesses here on earth! Think about people in your sphere that don’t know Jesus. Now ask yourself, who will go and tell them about Jesus?

“For ‘everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!’” Romans 10:13-15

- Who are 5 people in your circle who don’t know Jesus?

- What is preventing you from sharing the good news?

Dear Lord, thank you that your heart and will is to reach the ends of the earth with the good news. Help me to be your messenger. Give me courage. Amen.

DEPLOY: DAY 3

MULTIPLYING DISCIPLES

The Apostle Paul set a brilliant example of how to make disciples, by simply doing what Jesus did first. When Paul would plant a church, they would identify men who qualified to lead that local church, and the mission of the church was to mature disciples and send disciples to go and make more. Here is what Paul instructed Timothy to do.

“⁶ If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed. ⁷ Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; ⁸ for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. ⁹ The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. ¹⁰ For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.

¹¹ Command and teach these things. ¹² Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. ¹³ Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. ¹⁴ Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. ¹⁵ Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress. ¹⁶ Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.” 1 Timothy 4:8-16

Dear Lord, thank you for the examples of multiplication in your Word. You are mindful of every generation, and desire that we would pass the baton to those behind us. Help me, Lord, to faithfully multiply disciples with the time I have. Amen.

DEPLOY: DAY 4

MULTIPLYING DISCIPLES PART 2

To multiply means to take what you have learned and invest it into someone else. We believe that every disciple needs to make disciples and needs disciples to follow. There should be someone in front, guiding us in our journey, and someone behind that we are guiding in their own journey with Christ.

In the journey of a disciple, a person will go through many changes and stages. Moving from decisions to deployment can take years, and lots of ups and downs. The deployed stage is designed to multiply the disciple-making effort by releasing, sending, or as we say, deploying mature disciples to make disciples.

Here is your challenge for today:

Identify 4 people who are your “mentors” or “mat-carriers” the people who will bring you the closest and most diligent support.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Identify 2 people to train in the work of ministry.

1. _____
2. _____

Dear Lord, thank you for these names. Thank you for adding support to my life. Lord, help me to lean on those in front of me, and support those behind me. Teach me to invest with humility, courage, and intentionality into their lives. Amen.

DEPLOY: DAY 5

DOING THE WORK OF MINISTRY

Every believer has a calling—not just pastors, missionaries, or church staff. You have been entrusted with a ministry that God specifically prepared for you long before you took your first breath. Scripture doesn't whisper this truth; it shouts it.

“We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them” Ephesians 2:10

Ministry isn't something *done for you*; it's something *done through you*.

Jesus echoed this truth when He said, *“As the Father has sent Me, I also send you”* (John 20:21). You are sent. You are commissioned. You are deployed.

Sometimes we imagine ministry only happens on mission fields or church stages. But Scripture paints a different picture:

- When Jesus talked with the woman at the well (John 4), He was simply sitting, tired, thirsty—and He ministered.
- When Philip met the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:26–39), he was simply obeying a nudge from the Holy Spirit.
- When the early church cared for one another's needs (Acts 2:44–47), they were living everyday life with gospel purpose.

Your ministry might begin with a conversation, a prayer, an invitation, a meal shared, or a burden noticed. Feeling unqualified? Perfect. That's exactly where ministry begins. Paul testified, *“Our competence comes from God”* (2 Corinthians 3:5).

- Encourage someone (Hebrews 3:13).
- Carry someone's burden (Galatians 6:2).
- Share your hope (1 Peter 3:15).
- Pray for the hurting (James 5:16).
- Serve with love (John 13:34–35).

Lord, thank You for calling me, equipping me, and sending me. Open my eyes to the ministry opportunities around me today. In Jesus' name, Amen.

ONE-ON-ONE DISCIPLESHIP

One on one discussions are one of the most essential parts of discipleship. This pathway serves as the vehicle to take us along, but we must have key people driving, and in the vehicle with us to take this journey. That's why we have not only designed this pathway to be used with a small group, but with a one-on-one relationship as well.

For this week's discussion, we will look at our 'Deploy' stage. The final stage in our discipleship pathway is made to send us out to use our gifts, our time, and our resources to serve others. As a church, we exist to train believers for the work of ministry and send believers into a needy world. The question is are you ready, and will you go?

Where do I sense the Holy Spirit inviting me to step out in obedience this week—whether in sharing the gospel, serving someone, or encouraging a believer?

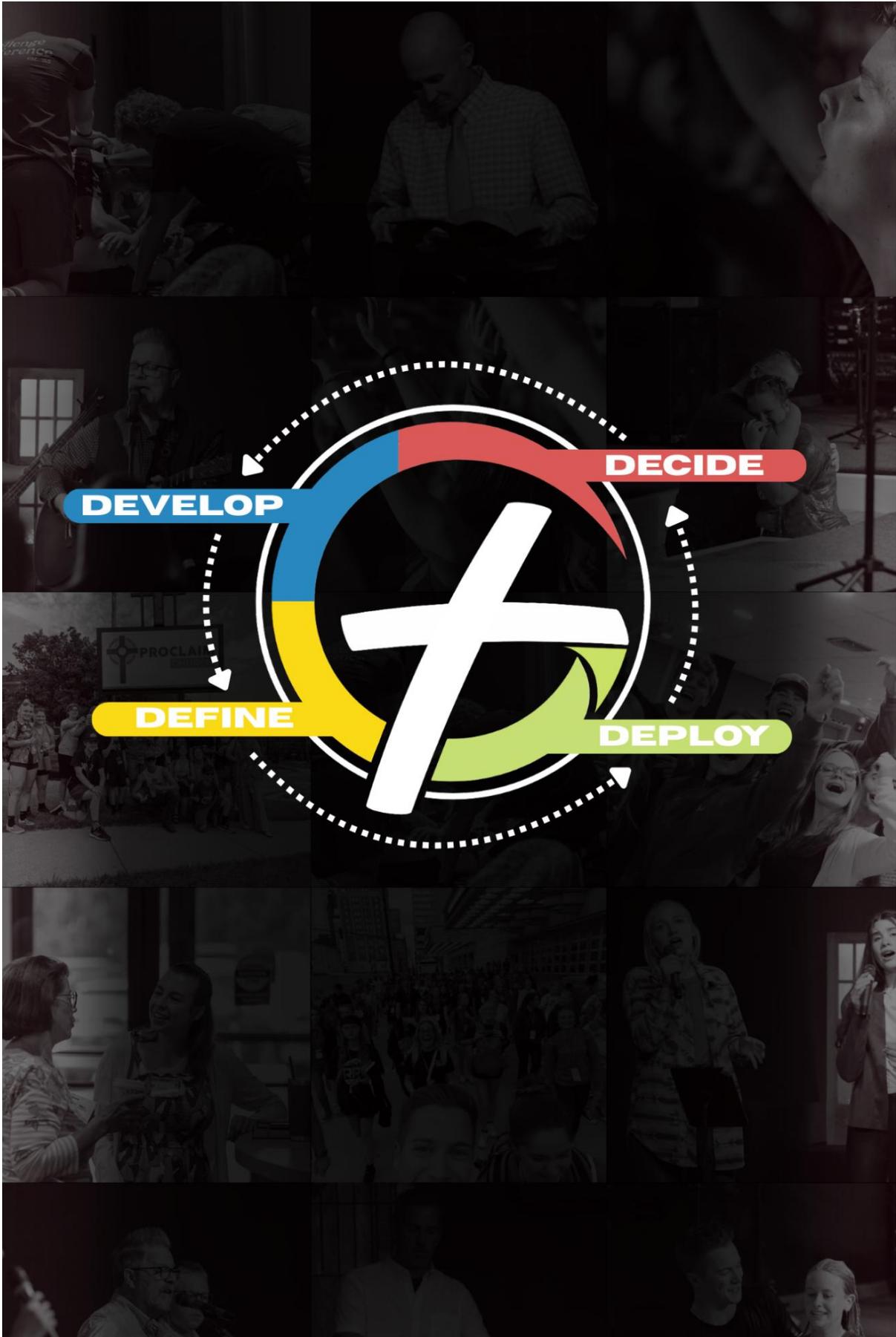
Who in my current circle (workplace, neighborhood, family, friends) might God be sending me to as His ambassador, and what simple step can I take toward them?

How am I using the gifts, experiences, and passions God has given me to participate in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18–20)?

What fears or excuses most often hold me back from living “sent,” and how can God's promises (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:20) help me push through them?

Looking back at the last week or month, where have I seen God use me in ministry—and how can I build on that momentum going forward?

“Dear Lord, thank you for deploying me. Help me to answer the call, and go and do what you ask. Help me to trust you, listen to your voice, and use the time you've given me to bring more people to you. Amen.

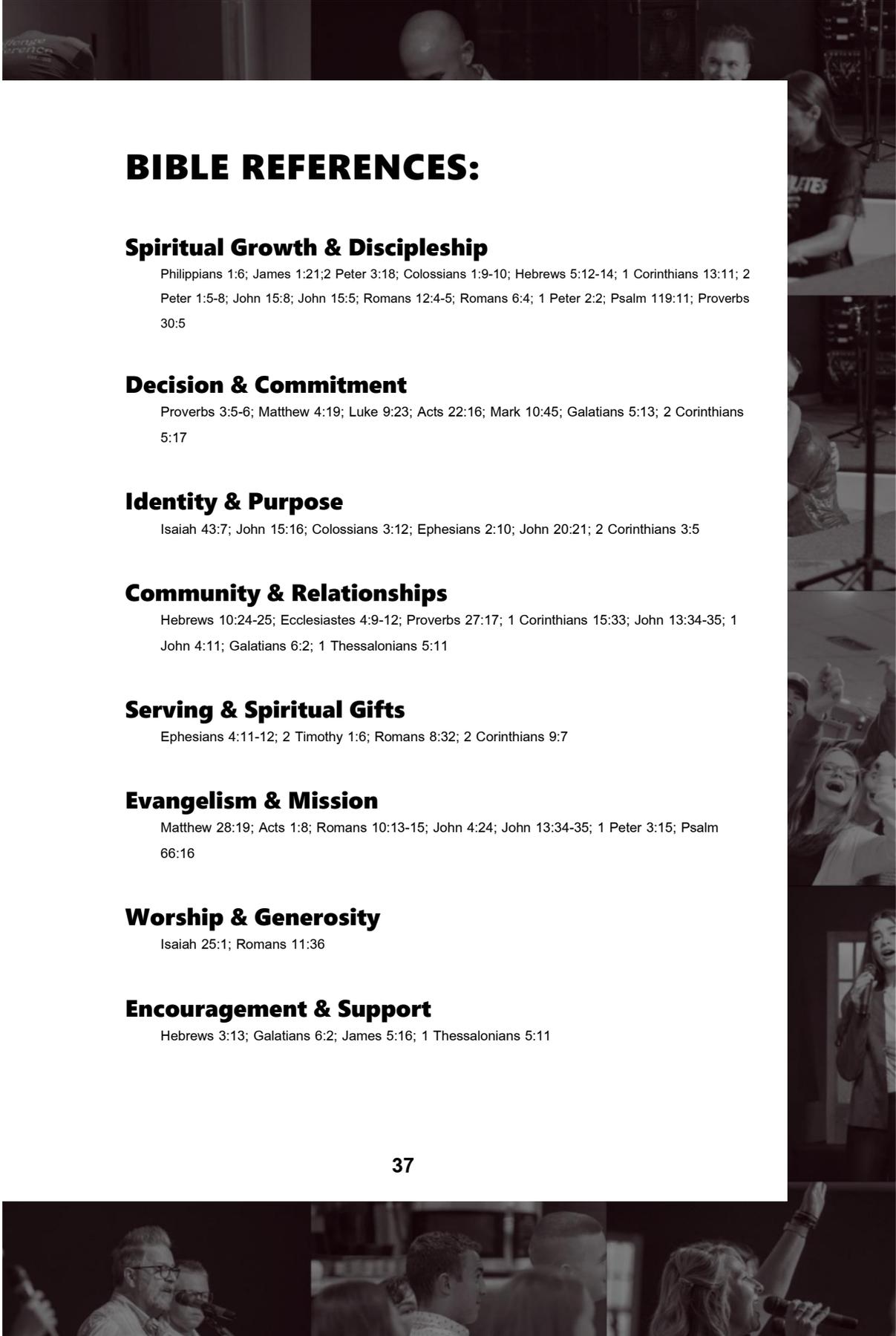


DEVELOP

DECIDE

DEFINE

DEPLOY



BIBLE REFERENCES:

Spiritual Growth & Discipleship

Philippians 1:6; James 1:21; 2 Peter 3:18; Colossians 1:9-10; Hebrews 5:12-14; 1 Corinthians 13:11; 2 Peter 1:5-8; John 15:8; John 15:5; Romans 12:4-5; Romans 6:4; 1 Peter 2:2; Psalm 119:11; Proverbs 30:5

Decision & Commitment

Proverbs 3:5-6; Matthew 4:19; Luke 9:23; Acts 22:16; Mark 10:45; Galatians 5:13; 2 Corinthians 5:17

Identity & Purpose

Isaiah 43:7; John 15:16; Colossians 3:12; Ephesians 2:10; John 20:21; 2 Corinthians 3:5

Community & Relationships

Hebrews 10:24-25; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; Proverbs 27:17; 1 Corinthians 15:33; John 13:34-35; 1 John 4:11; Galatians 6:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Serving & Spiritual Gifts

Ephesians 4:11-12; 2 Timothy 1:6; Romans 8:32; 2 Corinthians 9:7

Evangelism & Mission

Matthew 28:19; Acts 1:8; Romans 10:13-15; John 4:24; John 13:34-35; 1 Peter 3:15; Psalm 66:16

Worship & Generosity

Isaiah 25:1; Romans 11:36

Encouragement & Support

Hebrews 3:13; Galatians 6:2; James 5:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:11

STEP 1: FIND A GROUP

No journey can be taken alone. We are made to walk toward Christ, alongside of others. In your journey of discipleship, it's important that you do this with others. In fact, don't attempt doing this alone. If you aren't in a small group, let's find one for you!

Join a small group!



STEP 2: FIND A PARTNER

Each person needs someone farther down the road to help mentor, disciple, and guide them through the process of maturing in Christ. It's been described this way: "Spiritual children need spiritual parents. Spiritual young adults need spiritual coaches. Spiritual parents must have spiritual children." Very simply, we all need someone to walk side by side with.

We encourage you to reach out to our Pastors about finding the right person for you.

STEP 3: DETERMINE POSITION

Below are some assessment questions to help you determine your position:

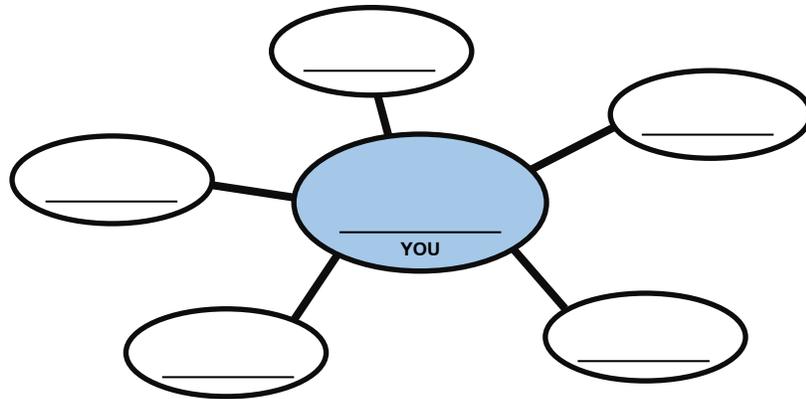
1. Have I decided to follow Christ?
2. How long have I been attending church regularly?
3. On a scale of 1-10 (10 being the most) how much biblical knowledge do I have?
4. Have I been baptized as a believer in Jesus?
5. Have I defined my spiritual gifts?
6. Have I found a place to serve in the church?
7. Is my relationship with Jesus new, very familiar, or something else?
8. In my spiritual life, what is the one thing that seems to be missing?

STEP 4: DETERMINE NEXT STEP

Contact our church office for help determining opportunities for baptism, membership class, or other options.

STEP 5: FIND YOUR "ONE"

A significant part of this journey is a fundamental belief about discipleship. Disciples exist to make disciples. Jesus invites you not to consume, but to invest. He invites you to multiply what he has given you by sharing it with others. The way we capture this is through the identification of our "one". In the map below, write your name in the middle, and then think of 5 people who you are close with, who are far from God. Write their names in the surrounding spaces.



STEP 6: INVEST IN ONE

Now decide one of the five that you will invest in first. By invest, we mean spend time with, pray for, talk to, and ultimately lead them into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

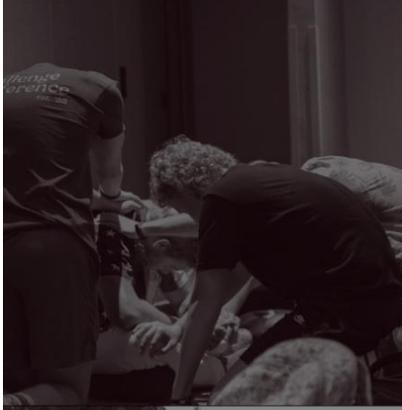
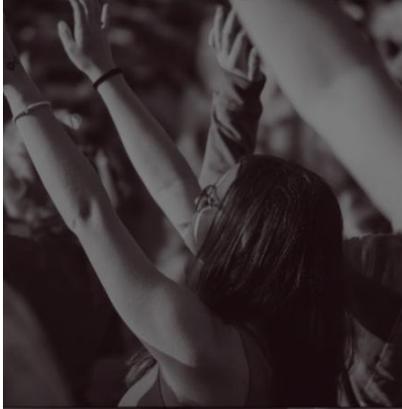
Your next step is simple. Build trust, build a connection, and develop a more consistent relationship with your 'one'. As you build a relationship with them, pray for them consistently until you see them come to faith in Christ.

- Pray for their salvation.
- Pray that God would grant you opportunity to share the gospel.
- Pray that they would commit to coming to church.

STEP 7: REPEAT

The work is never complete. Continue to be deployed to make disciples, serve Christ, serve your church, and follow Jesus with all your heart, soul, mind and strength.





“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.” 2 Peter 3:18

...er, speaking the truth in love, we
to grow up in every way into him
is the head, into Christ.”
esians 4:15

...ND BREAK
...VERY CHAIN



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