

LEADERSHIP ESSENTIALS

DISCIPLESHIP

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20

DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING OVERVIEW

1. Understand God’s Vision & Why Discipleship is Important
2. Understand Summit Church’s Discipleship Framework
3. Discipleship Defined
4. How to Engage People in Discipleship
5. The Necessary Qualities of a Healthy Discipling Environment.
6. How is Summit pursuing intentional discipleship?
7. Leadership Principals: 10 Principals for leading a discipleship group.
8. Intentional Discipleship: What is it and how can it work?

A VISION FOR GOSPEL SATURATION

“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.” - Habakkuk 2:14

- The glory of the Lord is His **presence** with His **people**.
- God’s glory that once filled the tabernacle and temple (Exodus 40:34-35, 1 Kings 8:11) is now filling the whole earth through His people, who because of Jesus Christ, now have the Holy Spirit residing inside of them.

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be with you.” John 14:15-17”

SUMMIT CHURCH'S DISCIPLESHIP FRAMEWORK

Mission: Summit Church exists to glorify God by making disciples who represent the gospel to every man, woman and child.

The Values of Summit Church are what define us as a people and shape who we are and who we are becoming. In summary, Summit's distinctive values are:

- **God-Glorifying:** Knowing God (John 17:3), Worshiping God (Hebrews 12:28-29; Romans 12:1), Being Led by God (Galatians 5:16-25)
- **Gospel-Centered:** Embracing the gospel (1 Corinthians 15:1-4), Proclaiming the gospel (Romans 1:16), Applying the gospel to our every-day lives (Romans 8)
- **Missionally-Driven:** Embracing God's mission (Matthew 28:18-20), Understanding the missional demands of the gospel (1 Peter 2:9-12), Living as missional ambassadors of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:13-21)
- **Disciple-Making:** Seeing people trust Christ (John 3:16-21), Seeing people obey Christ (2 Peter 3:18), Seeing people imitate Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-16)

The Outcomes that are produced as we are shaped by our values, is *measurable growth* in the following areas, which in turn gets us after the mission of representing the gospel to every man, women and child.

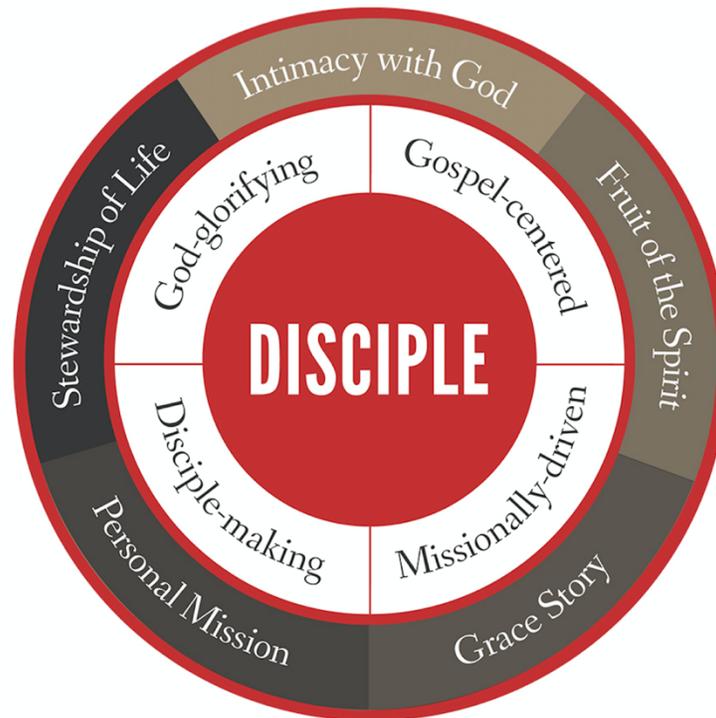
- **Intimacy with God:** A detailed knowledge and understanding of God's heart and activity that comes from pursuing Him as our greatest treasure.
- **Fruit of the Spirit:** The acting presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church that demonstrates the character of God and distinguishes His people from an unbelieving world.
- **Grace Story:** Embracing the fullness of the Gospel and being transformed by it in such a way that we desire to live out and share God's message with others.
- **Personal Mission:** Discovering and fulfilling our God given purposes in the church and in our community.
- **Stewardship of Life:** Faithfully using everything God has entrusted to us to reflect His glory.

Vision to Multiply: Disciples, Leaders, Churches and Gospel-Influence.

DISCIPLESHIP DEFINED

Disciple: One who trusts, obeys and imitates Jesus Christ.

Disciple-Making: Together, trusting, obeying and imitating Jesus Christ and teaching others to do the same.



As disciples of Jesus Christ, our primary concern should be God's Glory as we seek to Know, Worship and Be Led by God. This type of life will produce Intimacy with God and Stewardship of Life.

If God's glory is our primary concern, we will value the gospel above all else and seek to embrace, proclaim and apply the gospel to our every-day lives. As we live gospel-centered lives, it will produce Intimacy with God and Fruit of the Spirit.

As we value the gospel above all else, it will propel us to be Missionally-driven people that share our grace story with others as we live into our personal mission.

And the result of all of this will be a life of discipleship. Together, trusting, obeying and imitating Jesus Christ and teaching others to do the same.

HOW TO ENGAGE PEOPLE IN DISCIPLESHIP

DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY

NAME	MISSION		GOSPEL-GROWTH		MULTIPLICATION	
	Demonstration	Proclamation	New Believer	Maturing	Disciple-Maker	Leader

SIMPLE IDEA: THE GOSPEL PRODUCES GROWTH

*“We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, **the gospel**, which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing -- as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth.” Col. 1:3-6*

1. The growth of the gospel happens in the lives of people, not in the structures of a church.
2. Because of this, we must be willing to lose people from our own congregation if that is better for their growth in the gospel.
3. The understanding of “Gospel Growth” in this way makes us focus on people, not programs.

SIMPLE STEPS: PRAY, PURSUE, PROCESS

PRAYER - Pray regularly for opportunities to pursue the individual for discipleship

PURSUIT - Identify 1-2 simple ways that you can pursue the individual

PROCESS - Invite them into a simple process for discipleship

10 NECESSARY QUALITIES FOR HEALTHY DISCIPLESHIP¹

1. **Empowered by the Holy Spirit** (John 14:15-20, 16:7-15, 1 Cor. 2:10-14, Romans 8:5-14, Galatians 5:16-26, Acts 1:8)
2. **Gospel Saturated** (Romans 8:28-29, Galatians 2:14, Matthew 15:1-20, 20:20-28, Luke 6:1-11, 8:1-15)
3. **Community Influenced** (Matthew 8:23-27, 9:9-13, 9:35-38; Luke 22:14-23, 22:39-46)
4. **Missional, Serving Others** (Matthew 8:1-3, 8:14-17, 10:5-8; Luke 9:10-17, 18:35-43)
5. **Holistic** (Matthew 5:1-12, 6:1-4, 6:19-34; Luke 5:5-11, 6:37-42)
6. **Frequent and Long-Term** (Matthew 4:18-23, 9:35-38; Luke 8:1, 8:22)
7. **Experiential** (Matthew 9:9-13, 9:18-33; Luke 8:26-56, 17:11-14)
8. **Individually Tailored** (Matthew 14:28-31, 16:15-19, 26:36-38; Luke 9:28, 22:31-34)
9. **Modeled** (Matthew 8, 9, 14:13-21; Luke 5:12-13, 13:10-17, 14:1-6)
10. **Expectation of Multiplication** (Matthew 4:19, 10, 28:19-20; Luke 10:1-3, 10:17-20)

OBSTACLES AND MYTHS OF DISCIPLESHIP

- **Obstacles**
 - Busy or inconsistent schedules – *Practice “In your going” and adding intentionality*
 - People showing up on time or at all – *The Leader needs to over-communicate & pray*
 - Isolation – *Leader’s responsibility is to engage those outside the group for encouragement*
 - Consistency – *Leader needs to show up no matter if nobody else does. He/She sets the tone.*
 - Complexity – *Simplicity is key.*
- **Myths:**
 - Older/ Younger
 - Has to be 1:1 or the phrase of “*I disciple someone or someone discipled me*”
 - Everyone knows how to do it, except me.
 - I have to know the scriptures better than I know them now.

¹ Saturate the World: <https://saturatetheworld.com/2017/08/29/creating-an-environment-for-discipleship/>

ENVIRONMENTS FOR DISCIPLESHIP

At Summit Church, we desire to see everyone connected and disciplined by engaging in all 4 of these difference environments.

PUBLIC: WEEKEND GATHERING

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

SOCIAL: COMMUNITY GROUPS OR MINISTRIES

Community Groups focus on **worshiping, being** and **servicing** together.

PERSONAL: INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP

Summit Church refers to Discipleship Groups as these common “intentional discipleship environments”. We discover truths about who God is, what He has done, and who we are as we study Scripture together (**God-Glorifying**). We nurture hearts by calling people to repent and believe the gospel in light of what we discover (**Gospel-Centered**). Then we act on what we believe in obedience and sharing what God has done to others (**Missionally-Driven**).

PRIVATE: PERSONAL INTIMACY WITH GOD

Romans 12:1-2 (MSG) – *“So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you; Take your everyday, ordinary life – your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life-and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.*

10 PRINCIPLES FOR BEING A DISCIPLE-MAKER

1. **Leader's Intimacy with God** – Maintaining a healthy relationship with God is the first and most important thing a disciple of Jesus needs to do. This is especially true for individuals who are leading others in discipleship. Be committed to knowing, worshiping and being led by God.
2. **Embracing the Gospel** – Our number one goal is to direct individuals to embrace Jesus. Leaders should plan, pray and be intentional on how to effectively lead others toward embracing, applying and proclaiming the gospel.
3. **Set the Example** – A leader should be living life that is consistently pleasing to God. If a leader's witness is poor, they can expect that their actions will speak louder than words. Leaders should keep in mind that they represent Jesus to the group. Their lives should proclaim their great love for Jesus and demonstrate that they belong to Him – both inside and outside the church.
4. **Commit to Prayer** – Loving Jesus, hating sin and turning from idols is supernatural. A leader must understand and embrace that one of the most important things they can do is pray for those they lead individually. In light of this, leaders should consider the cost of leading a group, knowing that in order to be effective they will need to pray daily for the needs and growth of members.
5. **Build Up Those you Lead** – As a representative of Jesus, the leader should express God's love and care, and be able to offer Godly counsel to their group. A quick phone call or quick text message during the week can powerfully aid in accomplishing this.
6. **Be Humble** – Leaders need to be humble just as Jesus exemplified for us. Leaders are in place to serve others, helping them develop and grow in their walk with God. Also, leaders are not expected to have all the answers to questions raised on small group settings. Although it might be humbling for a leader to admit this, it is best to be honest and ask for a reasonable timeframe to find an appropriate response.
7. **Be Consistent (on time, present and prepared)** – Leaders need to be on time and prepared to facilitate discussion. People quickly become discouraged with a leader who cancels frequently, is never on time and isn't prepared. Being prepared for a discipleship group is impossible for a leader who isn't regularly in God's word and prayer in this own time.
8. **Keep it Simple** (3 values of discipleship)
 - *Word Centered* – Books can be a resource, but Scripture should be the focus.
 - *Gospel Centered* – Understand how the gospel applies to every situation and scripture.
 - *Missionally Driven* – Always pray for those who don't know Jesus.
9. **Understand and Communicate the "One Another" Principle** – Even though effective groups need to have someone facilitating discussion and accountability, the group is responsible to disciple one another.
10. **Identify and Invest in Future Leaders** – Lead together. Here is a basic 12-week rhythm to invest and release another leader.
 - Weeks 1-3: I lead / you watch
 - Week 4: You lead / I help
 - Weeks 5-6: I lead / you help
 - Weeks 7-8: You lead / I watch
 - Week 9: I lead and communicate hand over
 - Weeks 10-12: You lead / I champion

WHAT COULD INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP LOOK LIKE?

- **Prayer**
- **Accountability**
 1. Give an update on your application from the previous discipleship time.
- **Read Scripture Together:** Luke 8:4-15
- **Scripture Discussion**
 1. What does the text say?

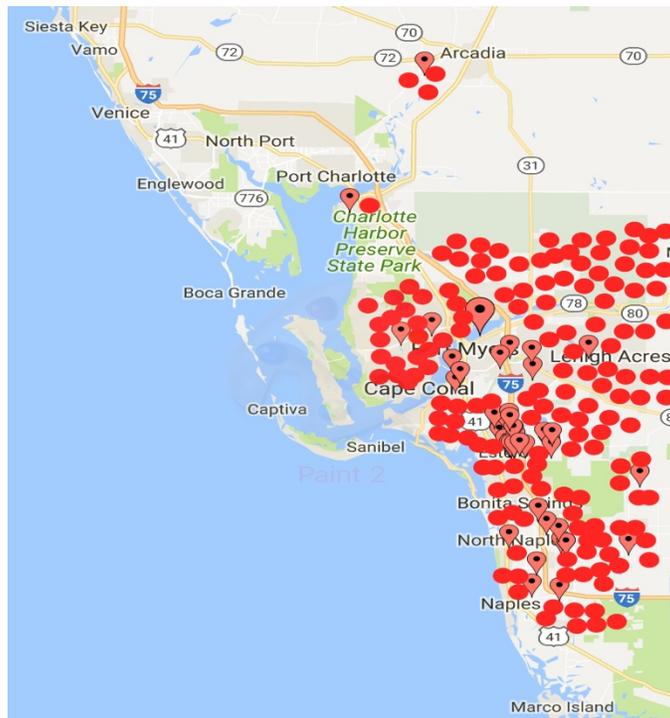
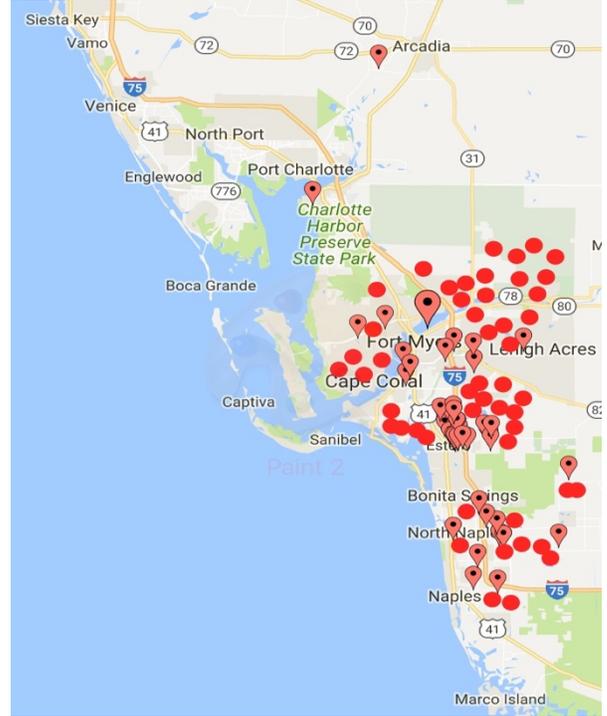
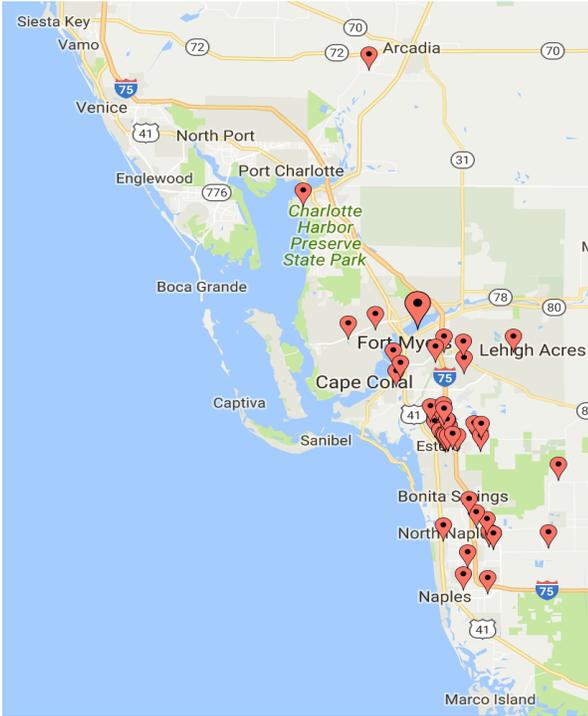
 2. What does the text mean?

 3. What am I going to keep thinking and praying through as I leave this time?
- **Gospel Discussion**
 1. Where have you seen the transforming power of the gospel at work this week?
- **Mission Discussion**
 1. Identify 1 person in your everyday life that doesn't know Jesus and that you want to intentionally pray for and engage with the gospel.
 2. Update you group on that person.
 3. Pray together for that person.
- **Prayer**

A PICTURE OF SATURATION

*“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory
of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.”*

Habakkuk 2:14



10 NECESSARY QUALITIES FOR HEALTHY DISCIPLESHIP

1. **Empowered by the Holy Spirit** (John 14:15-20, 16:7-15, 1 Cor. 2:10-14, Romans 8:5-14, Galatians 5:16-26, Acts 1:8)

Only the [Holy Spirit](#) can change hearts and transform lives. Therefore, He is the primary discipler and equipper of people. He teaches, reminds, convicts, helps, leads, reveals, counsels.

The Holy Spirit's job is to make us like Jesus and to help us accomplish the works we've been created to do. The Holy Spirit calls us, equips us, and sends us out to bear fruit through his power.

"Making disciples" must be done in submission to and in partnership with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the primary discipler and equipper of people. We can do nothing apart from him (John 15:5).

2. **Gospel Saturated** (Romans 8:28-29, Galatians 2:14, Matthew 15:1-20, 20:20-28, Luke 6:1-11, 8:1-15)

The gospel must permeate the discipling environment. It is ultimately the answer to every problem and the motivation to submit every area of life to Jesus.

As we are amazed by God and His wisdom, power, glory, grace, and goodness revealed through His Story, and especially in Jesus, we find our security, significance, approval, joy, and satisfaction in Him rather than anything else.

As the gospel [seeps into every crack and crevice of our lives](#), we walk more and more in submission to Jesus, for our good and His glory.

We often see Jesus help the disciples reflect and apply truth based on experience. In the course of everyday events and conversations, He showed them how being a part of His kingdom gives a new perspective on *everything*. The truth of the gospel, when connected to experience, is much more likely to be remembered and applied.

Can the people in my missional community apply the gospel to their own lives and each other's lives? Do our casual conversations often go to the gospel?

10 NECESSARY QUALITIES FOR HEALTHY DISCIPLESHIP

3. **Community-Influenced** (Matthew 8:23–27, 9:9–13, 9:35–38; Luke 22:14–23, 22:39–46)

The role of a discipleship group leader is important as a primary discipler, but much learning, modeling, and sharpening takes place between others in the group as [they serve together](#) and experience life together.

The accountability that can and should take place, as a group of individuals live open and transparent lives before each other, is also critical to the discipleship process. Without a high level of accountability, most people are likely to keep significant areas of their lives hidden and in sin. A group of trusted friends is usually the only safe place where sin can be confessed and healed.

4. **Missional, Serving Others** (Matthew 8:1–3, 8:14–17, 10:5–8; Luke 9:10–17, 18:35–43)

Jesus placed a high value on service and evangelism to those who were not yet His followers, especially to those in great need. Jesus was consistently exposing the disciples to different kinds of people, in different kinds of places, with different kinds of needs. Many of these people were [physically, relationally, emotionally, or spiritually needy](#). He often placed the disciples in situations where they could learn to love and serve “the least of these” by watching Him or by serving alongside Him.

Character qualities, such as love, compassion, servanthood, sacrifice, and generosity, are more likely to be integrated into a person’s life as they enter into the lives of others and frequently demonstrate the above qualities in the context of those relationships. Spiritual growth is often more significant when people serve outside the church family and serve people who are desperately needy. (It’s very important for these things to be practiced frequently so they become part of a person’s lifestyle, rather than a project that they participate in a few times a year.)

5. **Holistic** (Matthew 5:1–12, 6:1–4, 6:19–34; Luke 5:5–11, 6:37–42)

It’s obvious from the teaching and experiences Jesus had with the disciples that He was committed to developing them holistically, concerned with helping them bring their whole lives under the will of the Father and offering their whole lives as worship to the Father.

Discipleship needs to involve caring for the whole life of a person. Every area of a person’s life needs the gospel, not just the “spiritual” areas, such as Bible study, prayer, etc. A person’s time, job, money, relationships, body, etc., must all be shaped from a gospel perspective.

10 NECESSARY QUALITIES FOR HEALTHY DISCIPLESHIP

6. **Frequent and Long-Term** (Matthew 4:18–23, 9:35–38; Luke 8:1, 8:22)

It took Jesus three years of investment in the disciples before they were ready to minister and lead on their own. During those three years, they spent an incredible number of hours together.

Discipleship is not fast. It takes a lot of time, commitment, and sacrifice. A discipler must be with his or her disciples frequently and must care for them throughout the long term.

Is it possible to disciple someone truly with the 1-2 hours a week that are spent together in most discipling relationships? How much time do you think it should take?

7. **Experiential** (Matthew 9:9–13, 9:18–33; Luke 8:26–56, 17:11–14)

Most of the time Jesus spent with His disciples was in an experiential learning environment. They were living together, traveling together, [eating meals together](#), ministering to the needs of people together, etc. Very little of their time spent together seems to be in what we would consider a formal learning environment.

People learn much more when they do something than when they just hear something. For this reason, we need to help people experience life lived in line with the gospel (Gal 2:14). We need to live closely with them outside of church gatherings, engaging in life, relationships, and ministry together.

8. **Individually Tailored** (Matthew 14:28–31, 16:15–19, 26:36–38; Luke 9:28, 22:31–34)

Though we see Jesus spending a great deal of time with the disciples as a group, we also see Him speaking specifically into the lives of individual disciples at different times and in different ways.

In addition to the need for the group dynamic, discipleship must have a personal nature, as well, because each person in a group has different needs, problems, passions, and spiritual gifts. [Each person must be viewed individually](#), in the same way parents view the development of each of their children individually. We need the leading of the Holy Spirit to identify needs and see effective ways to meet those needs.

How can you make sure you are giving regular and personal care to each member of your group based on his or her needs and personality?

10 NECESSARY QUALITIES FOR HEALTHY DISCIPLESHIP

9. **Modeled** (Matthew 8, 9, 14:13-21; Luke 5:12-13, 13:10-17, 14:1-6)

Though at times Jesus taught the disciples in more formal settings, it was His consistent example of love, servanthood, sacrifice, generosity, encouragement, worship, etc., that probably had the greatest impact on the lives of the disciples as they watched Jesus' life.

Disciples need to see most of what is expected of them lived out in the day-to-day example of their discipler. If a person cannot see a model of what they should be doing, it will be difficult for them to do it well or to do it consistently himself or herself.

10. **Expectation of Multiplication** (Matthew 4:19, 10, 28:19-20; Luke 10:1-3, 10:17-20)

It was Jesus' strategy from the beginning that His disciples would be the foundation for the church and the foundation for the multiplication of followers of Jesus around the world.

As disciples teach others to obey all of Jesus' commands, that includes His command to make disciples. Part of being a disciple of Jesus is making disciples of Jesus. This goal of [multiplication](#), with "disciplee" becoming discipler, should be stated and expected from the beginning. Though every person is not a gifted leader, every person is spiritually gifted and called to be a discipler as part of some form of gospel-centered community.

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DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY

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NAME	Demonstration	Proclamation	New Believer	Maturing	Disciple-Maker	Leader

SIMPLE STEPS: PRAY, PURSUE, PROCESS

PRAYER - Pray regularly for opportunities to pursue the individual for discipleship

PURSUIT - Identify 1-2 simple ways that you can pursue the individual

PROCESS - Invite them into a simple process for discipleship

NAME 1: _____

- Prayer:

- Pursuit:

- Process:

NAME 2: _____

- Prayer:

- Pursuit:

- Process:

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