

Discipleship

A commitment to growing as followers of Christ

Intentional relationships create a safe place for us to listen, ask hard questions, diligently pray for and unconditionally love others while pointing to Jesus. (Titus 2)

Suggested meeting times: Relationships are worth your time. Meeting every other week is recommended (for some weekly will work), once a month at a minimum. Connect by phone, text or email weekly for encouragement and prayer requests.

Suggested commitment: Make a plan to meet for a 3 month commitment. In the final month decide together if you would like to continue. It is important for both people to be willing to commit to the time frame.

Goals in meeting: *We aim to equip the church to look like Jesus, to know Jesus and to be unified with each other. (Eph 4:11-13)*

- Create Safety: A discipleship meeting should be a safe place to process life, share struggles, concerns, joys, accomplishments and prayer needs.
- Pointing North: Jesus is the True North, and we see and experience Him through His Word. Your goal is to find answers to life's questions in Scripture and encourage application.
- Provide Accountability: Be willing to ask hard questions, encourage, and bring accountability to worship, the Word, and prayer.
- Listen: Cheer and challenge to live boldly for Jesus!
- Pray: Take seriously the privilege of prayer. Be someone who is truly invested in going to the throne on the others behalf.

Suggestions for first meeting: Find a space that is quiet and equally convenient and meet there. Once you are together establish expectations regarding meeting dates, time spent and goals of time. Decide what forms of communication are best in connecting weekly and commit to that plan. Choose and discuss resource material you will focus on over the coming months (i.e. bible study, book of Bible or devotional material.) Take some time to get to know one another and share prayer requests.

*Other General Suggestions:

- Be punctual for meetings and respectful of one another's time.
- Be real and intentional in each meeting, making the most of the opportunity.
- Be accountable for assigned work and for areas where it's been agreed that growth is needed.

Remember: Depth and vulnerability may take time, but it is important to go into this commitment knowing that discipleship takes work.

Structuring Your Time - not everyone will need the structure and this can be adapted with lots of adjustments, but a plan never hurts!

Sample Meeting

- 1) Start with Prayer
- 2) Catch up Questions (What is something bringing you joy lately? What's something that's been really difficult?)
- 3) Curriculum - Use the questions provided or if not provided you can develop your own using some of these as a starting point:
 - a) What stuck out to you from the reading this week?
 - b) What challenged you the most?
 - c) Where have you personally struggled with this topic in your faith?
 - d) What does it look like for you to live out the theme/topic discussed in the book this week?
- 4) Set a goal for how to live out the topic in the coming weeks, and discuss expectations for the next meeting
- 5) Close in prayer.

Resources:

For the New & Growing Believer

- 1) *"My New Life: A New Christian's Guide to Building Your Life on God's Word"* by Lifeway (5 lessons weekly for 6 weeks, with reflective questions at the end of each week for discussion)
- 2) *"Growing in Christ: a Thirteen-week course for New and Growing Christians"* by Navigators
- 3) *"Partners: 1on1 Discipleship"* by Dr. Mike Fabarez (10 weekly studies)

Recommended Books to Discuss

- 1) *"The Fight: A Practical Handbook for Christian Living"*, John White
- 2) *"Who I Am In Christ"*, Neil T. Anderson
- 3) *"Crazy Love"* by Francis Chan
- 4) *"The Pursuit of Holiness"*, Jerry Bridges
- 5) *"The Freedom Of Self-Forgetfulness"*, Timothy Keller
- 6) *"Just Do Something: A Liberating Approach to Finding God's Will"*, Kevin DeYoung
- 7) *CASKET EMPTY* by David Palmer and Carol Kaminski (this is a bible overview book for those looking to understand the word at 30,000 feet)

Studies

- 1) *Discipleship Essentials* by Greg Ogden.
- 2) The Daily Grace Co.: Equipping Disciples in the Word (great options for 3 week studies)
<https://thedailygraceco.com/collections/bible-studies-devotionals>

- 3) She Reads Truth (great options for Bible Reading Plans to do together as well as studies) <https://shereadstruth.com/plans/>