

What is Discipleship?

A DISCIPLE = One who **FOLLOWS CHRIST** toward **SPIRITUAL MATURITY**
DISCIPLESHIP = Intentionally helping others **GROW SPIRITUALLY**
to **FOLLOW CHRIST** toward **SPIRITUAL MATURITY**.

VISION for a Journey Discipleship Group:

The hope is that God would use this group to help us grow toward being more and more spiritually mature and equipped disciples¹, who are able to help others grow spiritually.² We'll do this as we grow in grace, connect in community, and serve on mission through life-on-life relationships that include teaching, modeling, equipping, encouragement and accountability.



DISTINCTIVES of a Journey Discipleship Group:

Discipleship can be a little different than a typical small group or Bible Study. Here are a few distinctives:

1. Goal is Life Transformation

— *Rom. 8:29; 2 Cor. 3:18*

The goal is not simply knowledge or learning, or even fellowship or mutual care. The primary goal is to see our hearts and lives changed and transformed to be more like Christ.

2. Life-on-Life

— *1 Thes. 2:8; Acts 4:13*

Jesus modeled to his disciples that much of the Christian life must be caught, not just taught. Therefore a primary goal in this group will be to do life together outside of group time.

3. Equipping, Accountability, and Mission

— *Mark 6:30; Eph. 4:12*

Many small groups include only teaching and prayer, but Jesus modeled that equipping, accountability, and mission is so important to see real change and life transformation.

4. Fewer People, Higher Commitment

— *Mark 3:14; Luke 9:23-25*

An average discipleship group will include 4-6 people, with each person committing to a higher level of commitment to the group time, the material, and each other. (*See Member Covenant*)

5. Multiplication

— *Matt. 28:18-20; 2 Tim. 2:1-2*

Part of Christian maturity is the ability to help others grow spiritually. The hope is that all group members will eventually feel equipped to do this. We often grow more when helping others grow.

¹ **John 1:43** The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me."

Ephesians 4:12-16 ...to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, and become mature, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children... Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ...

Col. 1:28 Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

² **2Tim. 2:2** And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.