

DISCIPLESHIP

Vision of Discipleship

To foster the spiritual growth of every disciple at Fellowship so that they become more Christ-like in every way possible.

(Ephesians 5:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 1: 2-8; 1 Corinthians 4:15--17)

What is the *WIN* of Discipleship?

Spiritual Maturity.

Our *how* is to see generations of spiritually mature disciples making other spiritually mature disciples.

Definition of Terms:

- **Disciple:** a disciple is someone who knows and follows Christ, is being changed by Christ, and is committed to the mission of Christ.
(Matthew 4:19)
- **Disciple-maker:** a mature follower of Christ who helps a younger disciple grow toward spiritual maturity.
(Colossians 1:28-29)
- **Disciple-making:** the relational and intentional process by which a disciple develops from a state of spiritual immaturity into a state of spiritual maturity.
(Colossians 2:6-7; Ephesians: 4:11-16)
- **Discipleship:** a lifetime journey of obedience to Jesus resulting in knowing Him deeply, reflecting Him authentically, and sharing Him intentionally.
(2 Timothy 4:6-8; Hebrews 11:39-12:1)
- **Spiritual maturity:** the point in time where a person is able to reproduce the disciple-making process in the life of another individual.
(John 20:21; 1 Thessalonians 3:1-2)

Principles and Practices

Discipleship Lived Out

Principle #1: Relational – One life impacting another in an environment of grace and truth.

(Mark 3:13-15; John 17:6-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12)

- **Practice:** Build healthy relationships based on authenticity, transparency, vulnerability, and accountability, while engaged in an environment that is accepting, caring, safe, and challenging.

Principle #2: Transformational – There is an expectancy of continuing life change.

(Roman 8:29; 2 Corinthians 3:17-18)

- **Practice:** Create learning and practical experiences that promote life change which emulates Christ-likeness in thoughts and words, and in character and conduct.

Principle #3: Missional & Generational – Disciples make disciples, reproducing multi-generations of Christ followers.

(Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Timothy 2:2)

- **Practice:** Teach and model the importance of spiritual multiplication as God's means of expanding His kingdom.

Principle #4: Biblical – A reasoned understanding of the truth of scripture and living it out daily and practicing discernment.

(John 14: 15, 23; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Timothy 2:15)

- **Practice:** There is always an open Bible between the disciple-maker and his or her disciple.

Principle #5: Gospel-Centered – Disciples are made and matured by the Gospel.

(Ephesians 2:8:10; Philippians 1:3)

- **Practice:** Enable and encourage a disciple to never stop learning, relating to, and communicating the gospel.

Discipleship Expectations

What to Expect Each Time You Meet

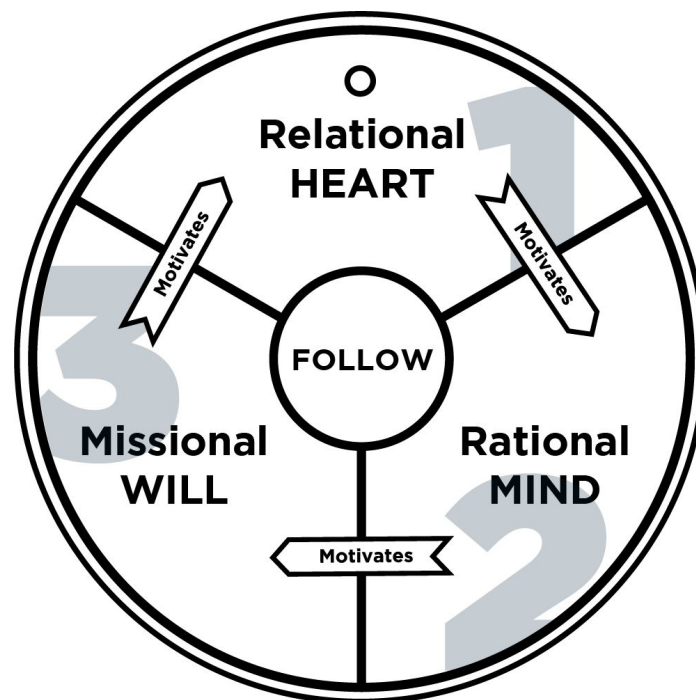
Every Meeting:

- **Text:** We start with the Word of God.
- **Theology:** We develop our understanding of theology through biblical resources.
- **Life:** We do life together in humility and honesty.

Disciple is an identity; everything else is a role. Our roles are temporary but our identity will last forever. **Roles are what we do. Identity is who we are.**

The difference between believing and following is **movement**.

DISCIPLE MOVEMENT



1) Our **hearts** must be won by the Gospel of Jesus in Christ-centered joy, which motivates **2)** belief in the promises of God’s Word as we learn to know the Gospel more deeply in our hearts and our **minds**, which motivates our natural response: **3)** the **will** to follow Jesus in obedience and repentance for a lifetime in love.

Discipleship Pathway

Stages/Seasons of Spiritual Maturity

Spiritual maturity is a natural flow of discipleship, not certain objectives to be met.

STAGE #1: RELATIONAL / Heart

Our **hearts** must be won by the Gospel of Jesus in Christ-centered joy...

Key Words: New, (Personal) Conviction, Belief, Community, Relationship

During this season of discipleship, we will develop:

- A Confession of Faith/Belief in the Gospel
 - A Foundation of Scripture
 - Relationships with One Another
 - Engagement in Biblical Community
 - First Steps of Sharing Our Story with the Group
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STAGE #2: RATIONAL / Mind

...which motivates belief in the promises of God's Word as we learn to know the Gospel more deeply in our hearts and our **minds**...

Key Words: Character, Transformation

During this season of discipleship, we will develop:

- The Ability to Consistently Meet God in His Word
 - A Better Understanding of Our Story/God's Story - How GOD Meets Us
 - An Intimate Knowledge/Understanding of the Character of God
 - Personal Character - Live and Love the Way Jesus Did
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STAGE #3: MISSIONAL / Will

...which motivates our natural response: the **will** to follow Jesus in obedience and repentance for a lifetime in love.

Key Words: Servant, Gifting/Calling, Leadership

During this season of discipleship, we will develop:

- A Growing Desire to Share Our Story Outside the Group
- Missional Living
 - Servant-Minded
 - Spiritual Multiplication (Making Disciples)
 - Generosity (tithing, etc.)
- Calling / Role in the Body
 - Leadership in Home, Community, and Workplace
 - God's Heart for the World (Revelation 7:9-12)

APPENDIX 1: Discipleship Resources

Recommended Resources

Discipleship is not about resources. It is about *relationships*. Therefore, resources are always secondary to the relationship, and resource choices should be made in light of the individual and his/her needs.

A Default Resource Path

Our default resource path at Fellowship Bible Church provides a common path for those who are being discipled. This default resource path will also take some of the pressure off the discipler by giving him/her ready-made discipleship curricula.

This default resource path is by no means the only set of resources to be used and, in many cases, depending on the individual, other resources should be used. But, if there are no clear pressing needs, these resources should serve as the “go-to” for the discipler.

STAGE #1: RELATIONAL / Heart

- SOLID: Foundations for Following Jesus
- High Quest Track I (His Works / His Ways / His Glory)

STAGE #2: RATIONAL / Mind

- OUR GOD: Knowing and Loving His Character
- High Quest Track II (His Image / His Calling / His Nature)

STAGE #3: MISSIONAL / Will

- EVANGELISM & DISCIPLESHIP: Living Out the Great Commission
- High Quest Track III (His Heart / His Commission / His Story)

A Resource Approval Process

We care deeply for our body and their spiritual formation. We would love to be in open communication with you if you have a resource/book that you are interested in or excited about that is not listed in our approved material.

Approved Books

Systematic Theology:

- *Grudem*, Systematic Theology

Theology Proper (the Character of God):

- *Tozer*, Knowledge of the Holy
- *Packer*, Knowing God

Gospel Theology and Identity:

- *Keller*, Prodigal God
- *Bridges*, Transforming Grace

Overview of the Bible:

- *Roberts*, God's Big Picture
- *Clowney*, The Unfolding Mystery

Apologetics:

- *Keller*, The Reason for God
- *Keller*, Making Sense of God

Discipleship:

- *Coleman*, The Master Plan of Evangelism
- *Dodson*, Gospel-Centered Discipleship

Marriage/Engagement:

- *Eggerich*, Love and Respect
- *Keller*, The Meaning of Marriage
- *Henderson*, Catching Foxes

Money:

- *Alcorn*, The Treasure Principle

Women's Resources:

- *Anderson*, Steps to Freedom, Victory over Darkness, Bondage Breaker
- *Mcgee*, The Search for Significance
- *Yeakley*, The Gentle Art of Discipling Women: Nurturing Authentic Faith in Ourselves and Others
- *Smith*, Seamless – An overview of major biblical events