



“Real Life Discipleship”

Introduction

I. Why Spend A Summer Thinking About Discipleship?

1. Let's define our terms first.

What is a “disciple”?

What is “discipleship”?

“A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.” – Jesus, in Luke 6:40

2. It will bring into focus much that the Lord has been teaching us in 2022, and help us to establish a specific discipleship process for Bridgeway.

Review the three discipleship charts we have compiled along the way this year so far (at the end of this handout.) Why would you say each is important?

3 Targets For Spiritual Maturity:

3 Ages And Stages Of Growth:

Our Discipleship Pathway:

3. It will help us understand our Mission Statement better and carry it out.

What is our Mission Statement?

How will being trained in discipleship help us live out this statement?

II. What about you? How can focusing on this theme for the next three months help you in your relationship with Christ? Help your family? Help our church? Help our community? Help our world?

Let's do the "Mike Rowe Pencil Exercise" and stretch our thinking.

III. Let's do Week 1 – Day 1 Together to jumpstart this journey.

IV. Our Schedule This Summer:

Each week, complete the devotionals that we will discuss on the next Wednesday. For example, between now and June 15th, complete Week 1's devotions. We'll discuss them on the 15th.

June 15: Week 1 – A Heart To Make Disciples

June 22: Week 2 – What Is A Disciple?

June 29: Week 3 – How Disciples Grow

July 6: Week 4 – Three Keys To Making Disciples

July 13: Week 5 – How To Be An Intentional Leader

July 20: Week 6 – A Closer Look At A Relational Environment

July 27: Week 7 – A Closer Look At The Reproducible Process

August 3: Week 8 – Share: Being Intentional With The Spiritual Dead
And Spiritual Infants

August 10: Week 9 – Connect: Helping Spiritual Children Grow

August 17: Week 10 – Minister: Helping Young Adults Help Others

August 24: Week 11 – Disciple: Being Intentional With Spiritual
Parents

August 31: Week 12 – One Necessary Tool: A Small Group
Curriculum

V. Tip For Making This Summer Bangarang

- Try and carve out the same 15-20” block of time each day to complete your devotionals.
- We would encourage you to consider finding or forming a Triad or Quad of same-sex friends who can take the journey with you. We would suggest that you only meet once or twice a month, to keep the summer relaxing. When you meet, keep it simple. In a 75-90-minute get-together, use 30 minutes for get-to-know-you time. Another 30 minutes to go over some of the devotions in the manual which you find interesting or challenging. Using the “3 Targets Of Spiritual Growth” chart can also inspire some deep-level sharing (maybe pick only one section to talk about.) Then use the remainder of the time to pray for one another. Be honest and real in your sharing.
- If you fall behind, don’t panic. And DO NOT, we repeat, DO NOT punish yourself by not coming to the training session. Even if you have not completed the work to your satisfaction, you will always come away on Wednesday nights encouraged. We never waste a Sunday at Bridgeway. And for the next three months, we’ll never waste a Wednesday.
- Keep your focus on the Lord as you do this work. Remember in your “quiet times” or “devotionals” you’re spending time with your Lord. You’re right there in his presence. As we hope you do with in all your devotional times, be sure to spend some time at the end praying, and sharing your heart with him.

Does anyone else have any encouragement to offer as we start this journey together?

3 TARGETS FOR SPIRITUAL MATURITY

"We have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may...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

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| <p>What areas of my heart is the Lord working on? Where am I struggling? Where am I being stretched? What victories have I enjoyed? What sins ought I confess?</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">CHRISTLIKENESS</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another." – John 13:34</i></p> |
| <p>How is the Lord using me to make a difference for good? Where am I serving (or would like to serve?) How am I nurturing my calling & dreams?</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">FRUITFULNESS</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide." – John 15:16</i></p> |
| <p>What is the Lord teaching me? What Bible book or theme am I reading in my quiet times? What book am I reading in my personal study?</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">KNOWLEDGE</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." – 2 Peter 3:18</i></p> |

3 AGES & STAGES OF GROWTH

"I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake. I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one." ~ 1 John 2:12-13

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| <p>LITTLE CHILDREN</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the Bible through in the first 2-3 years of faith, following the 3-Year plan. • Develop basic Bible reading and study skills. (Learn and practice the OIA method, begin journaling, learn basic interpretation skills, and how to use simple study resources.) Begin to immerse yourself in worship music. • Go through the <i>Design For Discipleship</i> studies in the first two years to strengthen the ability to <i>think biblically</i>. • <i>Design For Discipleship</i> serves as your 'secondary study'. But with caution, you can add additional reading, such as the Book of the Quarter or a slow read of <i>Pilgrim's Progress</i> or another resource recommended by your coach. • Participate in a Life Group (2-3 times monthly), Triad (monthly) and coaching (quarterly, or as needed). Fighting sin and learning holy living will be two steps forward and one back. • Begin serving as a FULL Member in church, and begin to observe how God is working locally, regionally and globally. • Evangelism: Learn how to share your Testimony, and begin to develop 30-Second Stories. • Life Call & Dreams: Learn your SHAPE. Begin to think how you can fulfill Psalm 37:3—"<u>Trust in the Lord and do good.</u>" |
| <p>YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In your Bible reading, having done the "flyover", now deepen your reading, learning how to do "word studies", "biography studies", and dig deeper with shorter readings. • Continue growing in your quiet time habit by maturing in prayer, practicing fasting, and learning to discern more clearly the Lord's voice. Deepen in your understanding of worship, as something more than music. • Expand your secondary book reading, by exploring a wide variety of topics. Begin to read doctrinal books that will deepen your ability to <i>think theologically</i>. Fall in love with "apologetics". • In your Life Group participation, start to serve as a host or facilitator. In your Triad work, pay more attention to how our sin is less a matter of outward behavior than of inward hurts and sin. Grow in your knowledge of "emotionally healthy spirituality". • As you serve the church, branch out into different areas of ministry. Find local, <u>regional</u> and global ministries to support with your time, prayer, and money. • Evangelism: Learn how to share the Gospel. Continue to build up your library of 30-Second Stories. • Life Call & Dreams: Place a high priority on strengthening your marriage, family, friendships, and finances. Develop and nurture educational, vocational, personal, and professional goals. Undergirding it all, accept limits, learn how to experience true "sabbath", and to have "joy in the journey". |
| <p>FATHERS AND MOTHERS</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your quiet time habit is as automatic as waking in the morning. When it becomes stale, you and the Lord can course-correct. You've learned that God's Word is truly 'living and active' and that you will never in a hundred lifetimes exhaust its riches. • You automatically <i>think transformationally</i>. You've now 'slain many dragons' in your fight against sin. But you also know that tests and trials are always coming, and so you 'seek the Lord's presence continuously' for 'apart from him, you can do nothing.' Your 'theology of suffering' is intact, yet 'the joy of the Lord is your strength.' • It's second nature to you that you mentor and encourage as you serve. But you never forget that all is of grace. You are transparent about your weaknesses and sins and have given up "wearing masks" to impress others. No assignment is beneath you, as you remember your Lord's example and incarnation. • Evangelism: Your love of Christ is so deep, that sharing your Lord with others comes easily and naturally. You know how to lead people to Christ, and to disciple them when they come in. You practice 2 Timothy 2:2. • Life Call & Dreams: You believe that as long as there's life, there's hope. You believe that the righteous are 'ever full of sap and green' in old age, and that the Lord's Spirit enables even the 'old man to dream <u>dreams</u>'. Yet you also know that our 'fruitfulness is from God', and so you trust him to bring from your life all that he wishes, knowing that eternity will add endless chapters to your story and dreams. |

Our Discipleship Pathway

Communion With Christ

"Abide in me...Apart from me you can do nothing." – John 15:4-5

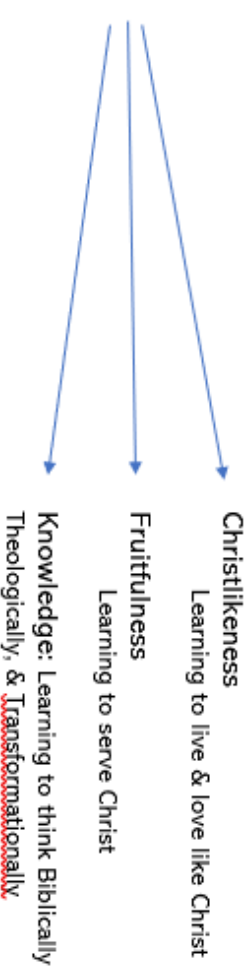
Come



Commitment To Growth

"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ." – 2 Peter 3:18

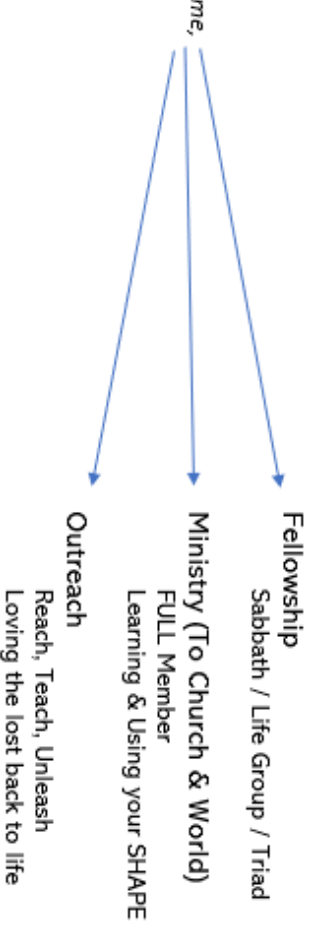
Grow



Connection To Community

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." – Matthew 18:20

Serve & Share



Covenant Of Coaching/Discipling

"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up." – 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Multiply & Train

