



# DISCIPLESHIP IS NOT “ONE OF THE THINGS” THE CHURCH IS SUPPOSED TO DO, IT IS “THE” THING THE CHURCH IS COMMANDED TO DO.

## DISCIPLESHIP STRATEGY

Discipleship is not “a” ministry of the church – it is the core of everything that the church is to called to accomplish. Therefore, everything that the church does should fit into its discipleship strategy. The mission is that EVERYONE who comes into the church, and is willing, be discipled – understanding that people are at very different stages and take different amounts of time in their journey. But, there is an end goal in mind for each person.

**THE END GOAL:** That each person grows to a point of spiritual maturity and competency, where they assume responsibility for their own spiritual growth and the spiritual growth and development of other individuals, and the church as a whole.

It is essential to understand that programs and bible studies DO NOT disciple people. **People disciple people.** Therefore, discipleship is only effective to the degree that you have **individuals who will intentionally and strategically focus on other individuals** to help them mature and, in turn, become disciple-makers.

Therefore, the church needs to create structures that ensures individuals are always being noticed, guided, and equipped for greater spiritual maturity and impact. No one person (except Jesus) is able to disciple a person in every area of life. Effective discipleship requires a community with diverse giftings and environments for growth.

## ESSENTIAL DISCIPLESHIP ELEMENTS

There are four different aspects to the discipleship process. We have historically tended to focus primarily on “teaching”, but this is only one component. These elements do not happen consecutively – but concurrently. For example: a non-believer who is starting the process of exploring Jesus may start serving in a church in some capacity, may start talking to others about God regarding what they are learning, may start reading the Bible regularly, etc. The elements are simply areas we need to give serious focus as we strategize how best to disciple others.

Knowledge to Gain	Spiritual Disciplines to Embed	Ministry Skills in order to Serve	Missions Experiences to Engage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Theological and biblical truths with practical application</li> <li>Ministry/Mission Philosophy</li> <li>Spiritual Life and maturity</li> <li>Understanding of spiritual disciplines</li> <li>Know how to study the Bible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bible devotional reading</li> <li>Bible study</li> <li>Prayer - personal &amp; group</li> <li>Tithing /Offerings</li> <li>Accountability/ Confession</li> <li>Consistent attendance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify areas of ministry effectiveness and service</li> <li>Develop areas of strength/gifting</li> <li>Be apprenticed for greater responsibility</li> <li>Assume leadership responsibilities</li> <li>Mentor others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outreach in personal spheres of influence: Salt, Ambassador, Image, Light</li> <li>Outreach as part of a small group</li> <li>Outreach as part of the collective church</li> <li>Strategize local &amp; global missions</li> </ul>



## DISCIPLESHIP PROCESS

We have broken the discipleship process into phases. Below is merely a guide for progression. Each person progresses at their own pace.

<b>Phase 1</b>	<b>Phase 2</b>	<b>Phase 3</b>	<b>Phase 4</b>
<b>Belief &amp; Baptism</b>	<b>Serving &amp; Church Partnership</b>	<b>Leading a ministry</b>	<b>Mentoring others</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Start discipleship curriculum</li><li>• Sense of belonging</li><li>• Declare Jesus as Lord</li><li>• Baptism</li><li>• Helping out around the church</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discover giftings – serving in a specific ministry role</li><li>• Small Group participation</li><li>• Partner/Member Commitment</li><li>• Missional engagement</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Apprenticeship and increased responsibility</li><li>• Receive ministry support and accountability</li><li>• Missional engagement</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Church ministry leadership team</li><li>• Coaching and being coached</li><li>• Missional engagement</li></ul>