

fellowship bible church

# Grassroots

DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY



# WHY DISCIPLESHIP?

The mission of Fellowship:

*Fellowship Bible Church exists to equip and release spiritual leaders to influence Southwest Missouri and the world for Christ.*

This mission is anchored to the great commission that Jesus gave to the disciples:

Matthew 28:18-20, ESV

*18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

## Why do we need a map for discipleship?

We need experiences that transform people, not materials that inform.

We can't settle for spiritual addition in our church. We need to multiply.

Without a clear discipleship journey we won't be able to gather, train and align our leaders onto a common mission.

We need to know how to identify and raise up future

We need a process that is reproducible.

# What is a disciple of Jesus?

When someone heads out on a journey it is important to know exactly where they are headed. We would expect the person to know the names of the towns, cities, important places to visit and sites to see. Just as a person needs to know where they are going, we need to know what a “spiritual leader” is so we can know what kind of person we are trying to produce. **At the core of spiritual leadership is being a disciple of Jesus.**

In **Matthew 4:19**, Jesus gives his disciples, two ordinary men, an invitation to discipleship. We see that the invitation to be a disciple is the definition of a disciple. *“Come follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”* A disciple is someone who follows Christ (follow me), is being changed by Christ (I will make you) and is committed to the mission of Christ (fishers of men).

We have outlined a basic process that most people walk through on their path towards maturity. This is the spiritual growth process. Then we have fit our journey to move men and women along in their journey towards spiritual maturity.

## **Profile of a Mature New Testament Disciple:**

A disciple is a committed follower of Christ who is developing the convictions and skills for a lifetime pursuit of knowing Christ deeply, reflecting Christ authentically, and sharing Christ intentionally. A fully mature disciple of Christ is one who exhibits the following qualities:

1. Identifies with Christ; whose life is being transformed to share his character, values, purposes and destiny. Their whole life is being integrated to reflect Christ. (Luke 6:40)
2. Consistently submits to the authority and leadership of Christ, making God’s kingdom their highest priority. (Luke 14:26)
3. Makes the Scripture the final authority for all of life, seeking to know God’s truth, obey His commands, and live by a biblical worldview. (John 8:31-32)
4. Has an increasing love for others expressed in humility, community, and acts of service. (John 13:34-35)
5. Lives as Christ’s ambassador, resulting in new generations of spiritual children who know God as their Father. (John 15:8)
6. Surrenders his life to Christ; relinquishing control over his life and submitting his will to the will of God. (Luke 9:23-24)

There are key values that we must embrace if we are going to develop a culture at Fellowship that makes disciples. These values are:

**Relational** – one life impacting another

**Transformational** – it creates the expectancy of whole life change

**Missional** - The Great Commission is not an option

**Generational** – every person becomes a spiritual parent

# SPIRITUAL GROWTH PROCESS

## Stage 1 explore

A person at this stage does not know Christ, but they are curious. They are in the process of discovering, investigating, and evaluating the person of Jesus; his claims, his life and his works. They are seeking to understand the purpose of Jesus' ministry and mission. During the process of gathering information the person only has a small commitment to continue to pursue Christ. The positive results of this stage leads to a personal faith commitment and spiritual birth into God's family.

## Stage 2 establish

A person at this stage is getting established or rooted in the fundamentals of the faith. They are building their relationship with Christ, getting to know Him and His ways. Their time and attention is devoted to the priorities of the truth of Scripture, the importance of prayer, and the need for community. They are gaining knowledge and understanding about the nature and character of God through the Word and prayer. They are beginning to develop the skills to walk with and have a personal relationship with Christ. The individual is also establishing relationships with other believers and learning to live in a community of grace and faith.

## Stage 3 strengthen

A person at this stage of spiritual growth is deepening their relationship with Jesus and is becoming more like him in every way possible. The individual is experiencing transformation or life change in major areas of their life. They are engaging in spiritual disciplines that impact character, behavior, attitudes, relationships and decision-making. The individual's love for Christ deepens resulting in the relinquishing of control over their life. The spirit of Christ governs the individual's thoughts, will, and actions. A relationship with Christ based on faith and obedience is a hallmark of this stage of spiritual development.

## Stage 4 equip

A person at this stage is acquiring the tools and know-how to be equipped for service and find a place of ministry. They are discovering his unique spiritual gifting and identifying their specific passion for ministry. Serving others in humility, grace and truth is a motivational factor that drives his life. An individual at this stage of development is being equipped to and involved in expanding God's kingdom through witnessing and mentoring.

## Stage 5 send

A person at this stage is abiding in Christ, and his life and ministry is empowered by the Holy Spirit. The person is fruitful reproducing the next generation of lifelong followers of Christ. They rest and abide in the Word experiencing the joy, contentment, and peace that only Christ can provide. A person at this stage is a "person of influence" making spiritual investments in their family, in the lives of others, and in the community. The individual uniquely contributes as a faithful steward of all that God has entrusted to them.

The sequential and cyclical nature of the spiritual maturity process is depicted on the following page. The sequential nature reflects a progressive growth pattern with each stage building on the previous one. The cyclical nature reflects a recurring pattern of growth activity suggestive of the reproductive process. Each pattern of growth is found in the spiritual experience of a mature follower of Christ.

GROWTH JOURNEY

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## 1 Explore

stage

NEEDS: Share the gospel

KEY RELATIONSHIP: An evangelist

TOOLS: Spiritual Laws / Bridge to God / Exploring Christianity / Romans Road

## Establish 2

stage

NEEDS: Share new truth about God and self / Protection / Share new habits

KEY RELATIONSHIP: A spiritual parent / mentor / intentional leader

TOOLS: Design for Discipleship

## 3 Strengthen

stage

NEEDS: Deeper Connection to God / Learning to self-feed / Connection to small group / Connect to

KEY RELATIONSHIP: Peer

TOOLS: HighQuest

## Equip 4

stage

NEEDS: Knows personal gifting / Tries on ministry / Released to ministry

KEY RELATIONSHIP: Peer relationships / Beginning to serve others instead of being

TOOLS: SHAPE / Real-Life Discipleship Training Manual / HighQuest / The Ways of the Alongsider

## 5 Send

stage

NEEDS: Understands how to make disciples / Is making disciples

KEY RELATIONSHIP: Peer relationships with co-laborers / Spiritual

TOOLS: Continual Training