



THE PATH OF A DISCIPLE

5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. 8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins. 2 Peter 1:5-9

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OUR VISION

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS THAT BUILD DISCIPLES

SMALL GROUP GROUND RULES

Small Group ground rules give boundaries for people to operate within to encourage discussion-based learning and relationship building. They help group members value one another so that everyone grows more comfortable sharing deep, meaningful things.

- **Priority:** Be here. What we are doing matters.
- **Confidentiality:** What is said here stays here.
- **Respect and Honor:** Give everyone room to share and grow
- **Welcoming:** We will pray for and invite others to join our group and fill the empty chair.

**We strive to create an environment
where everyone can be real, open, and honest**

WHAT WE DO IN GROUPS

Our groups do four things together:

Connect people to God and to each other.

Recommend gender-based groups (men with men and ladies with ladies) for the last meeting of the month.

Grow spiritually by loving God and loving people. Sermon based small group studies and 30 essential Bible stories

Serve others to share the love and message of Jesus

Make a difference by serving together two times a year and by inviting people to join your group.

Worship Jesus Through Living Faithfully and Generous Giving

Hold one another accountable. Encourage each other to take the next step. Sit together at church.

**A DISCIPLE IS ONE WHO BELIEVES IN JESUS FOR ETERNAL LIFE
AND IS FOLLOWING JESUS WITH ALL OF THEIR LIFE.**

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS THAT BUILD DISCIPLES

THE REASON BEHIND OUR RELATIONSHIPS

GET TALKING

When did you first visit Parkway? Why did you come? Why did you stay?

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19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19-20

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19 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. **Romans 12:1-2**

DISCUSS AND APPLY

How would you describe a current day "disciple"?

What does Jesus tell the church to do in Matthew 28:19-20? How does each of these work to build disciples?

According to Pastor Mike, what is the difference between a disciple and a believer?

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 5

Big Idea: The reason behind our relationships is discipleship. Everything that happens in our church and in small group encourages people to take their next step.

NEXT LEVEL QUESTIONS

Use these questions to customize or deepen the discussion.

In Matthew 28:17, why do you think that the disciples worshiped Jesus, but some doubted Him?

Jesus begins the Great Commission with the statement in Matthew 28:18: Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.” What gives Jesus the authority to commission the disciples and how does this commission apply to you?

When and how did you first believe in Jesus for life?

What does 1 John 5:11-13 say about knowing that you now have eternal life?

Read Romans 12:1-2.

According to Romans 12:1, what is the job of a disciple?

What does it mean to offer your body as a living sacrifice to God? How can this be done on a daily basis?

According to Romans 12:2, what steps should a believer take to continue to grow as a disciple?

What is the difference between conforming to the world and being transformed by the renewing of your mind?

As you think about where you are right now, what do you need to focus on to be a disciple who follows Jesus with all of your life?

Do you know how to invite and encourage someone to believe in Jesus for eternal life?

What are some ways that you can invite and encourage others to believe in Jesus for life?

What is the greatest challenge you have to tell others about Jesus?

PRAY AND ENCOURAGE

THE PATH OF A DISCIPLE

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO GOD AND TO EACH OTHER

GET TALKING

Are you good with directions or are you direction-ally challenged?

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43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. **Acts 2:43-47**

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DISCUSS AND APPLY

Are relationships required to be a disciple of Jesus? If so, what are the essential relationships and what do they look like?

Read Acts 2:43-47. What stands out to you about their relationships - first with God and then with each other?

What were the believers devoted to? Why is each of these essential to grow as a disciple?

When the people witnessed God's work, how did they respond?

When you see God working, what's your first response?

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 12

Big Idea: Everything we do is about relationships: Your relationship with God and your relationship with others. We want every man, woman, and child to believe in Jesus and to be connected to a loving church family.

NEXT LEVEL QUESTIONS

Use these questions to customize or deepen the discussion.

What are some ways that we come together and share with one another as disciples today?

How and where do you learn God's Word?

Read Matthew 7:7-8. What is prayer? What is the difference in public and private prayer according to Matthew 6:5-8?

Read Ephesians 4:15-16. Why do you think that Christian fellowship is important for personal spiritual growth?

What are some ways that disciples can grow spiritually by meeting together with other disciples?

What did the believers do to continue to do life together?

What would it look like to live this way today? What would you do on a daily/weekly basis? How would it feel to be a part of a community like this?

As their relationships with each other and their relationship with God grew, how did the church grow?

As you think about where you are right now, what do you need to do to strengthen your connection to God and to each other?

PRAY AND ENCOURAGE

THE PATH OF A DISCIPLE

GROWING SPIRITUALLY BY LOVING GOD AND LOVING PEOPLE

GET TALKING

How has your love for God and people grown or changed in the last year?

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37 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself." 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Matthew 22:37-40

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Believing → Discovering → Obeying → Following

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2 Peter 1:5-9

DISCUSS AND APPLY

Read Matthew 22:37-40. What does Jesus say is the greatest goal for our lives?

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 19

Big Idea: Growing spiritually is a life-long pursuit for every believer in Jesus.

NEXT LEVEL QUESTIONS

Use these questions to customize or deepen the discussion.

Read John 14:21. What does it mean to love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength?

Read 1 John 4:19-21. How has your love for God changed how you see, relate to and interact with people?

What does it mean in 2 Peter 1:5 "make every effort to add to your faith...?"

Read 2 Peter 1:3-4 and Philippians 2:12-13. What part does God have in our personal spiritual growth?

Discuss the logical progression in 2 Peter 1:5-7 for personal spiritual growth. The eight steps listed are: faith, goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, mutual affection (brotherly love), love (agape). Where are you in this process of growth?

Why are loving God and loving people linked?

What is the goal of our spiritual growth according to Ephesians 4:15-16?

How do we show our love for God and people?

What can we do to grow to love God and people?

God uses many things to help disciples grow such as life, hardships, people, church, a retreat or camp. What are some things that God has used in your life to grow you to be more like Jesus?

Read 2 Peter 1:5-9. What does Peter tell the church to do to keep growing in their faith?

Why does Peter tell believers to keep taking their next step?

What is the warning if we don't don't?

If a disciple is one who has believed in Jesus for eternal life and is following Jesus with all of their life, what's your next step to love both God and people?

PRAY AND ENCOURAGE

THE PATH OF A DISCIPLE

SERVING OTHERS TO SHARE THE LOVE AND MESSAGE OF JESUS

GET TALKING

Tell us about the best trip of your life. What made it special?

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35 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Matthew 9:35-38

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9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. **Galatians 6:9-10**

DISCUSS AND APPLY

When Jesus went through the villages, what did He do?

How did He respond to what He saw?

What did He challenge His disciples to do?

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 26

Big Idea: Jesus calls and equips His church to serve others and to tell them about Him.

NEXT LEVEL QUESTIONS

Use these questions to customize or deepen the discussion.

People are saved by faith alone in Jesus Christ alone (Ephesians 2:8-9). What does Ephesians 2:10 say about why God saved us?

What does Ephesians 4:11-12 say about gifted church leaders helping the church serve? Where do you see yourself in Ephesians 4:11-12?

Read 1 Peter 4:10-11. Verse 11 mentions 2 broad gifts: 1. "if anyone speaks" 2. "if anyone serves..." Are you gifted to speak or to serve? Where are you using your gifts right now in Parkway Church? Where are you using your gifts in our community?

Read 1 Peter 3:15. What are some ways that you could begin a conversation with a friend about God and Jesus?

Why is serving others a key step of growing as a disciple?

How does serving others share the love of Jesus?

How comfortable are you serving others and telling them about Jesus?

What are you currently doing to serve others and tell them about Him?

Read Galatians 6:9-10. What does Paul teach about doing good for others?

Why are we tempted to grow weary and stop serving others?

Where and how can we find our place to serve others to share the love and message of Jesus?

What is your next step in serving others? Find your place? Keep serving? Grow bolder?

What method(s) and verses do you use to tell someone about how to get right with God?

Here is a simple way to tell someone about Jesus:

God loves you and sent Jesus (God in bodily form) to die for your sins. John 3:16

All people (including me) are sinners. Romans 3:23

All sinners deserve death.

Romans 6:23

God promises eternal life to anyone who believes in Jesus for that life. John 6:47

Then ask the person, "Do you believe in Jesus for eternal life?"

Who are some people that you know need to hear about Jesus and God's love for them?

PRAY AND ENCOURAGE

THE PATH OF A DISCIPLE

WORSHIPING JESUS THROUGH FAITHFUL LIVING AND GENEROUS LIVING

GET TALKING

How has God used this group to help you live as a disciple?

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15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. 16 Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. 17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. **Colossians 3:15-17**

DISCUSS AND APPLY

Read Colossians 3:15. How does a disciple of Christ let the peace of Christ rule their heart?

How does faithful living show that Christ rules your heart?

When we struggle to be faithful to God's will and word, what should we do to let Christ be in control of this area of our lives?

WEEK OF OCTOBER 3

Big Idea: Worship is more than attending church. Worship is how you live. The ultimate expression of worship is faithful living marked by obedience to and dependence upon God.

NEXT LEVEL QUESTIONS

Use these questions to customize or deepen the discussion.

Read Colossians 3:15-17. What are some ways that Christians can worship God? Where is it best to worship God?

What does it mean to worship God "in Spirit and in truth" from John 4:23-24?

3. How is prayer and lifting up holy hands involved in worshipping God?

2 Corinthians 9:6-11 teaches us to give generously, sacrificially and cheerfully. What matters most in your giving? How do disciples decide how much to give?

Read Colossians 3:16. What role does worship play in the life of a disciple? What does worshipping God in my life look like?

Why is worshipping God so important? How does worship change our lives?

What do you discover by learning to worship God through generous giving?

How does this group worship God together?

Read Colossians 3:17. What does Paul tell believers to do? How does this verse impact how we live, work, play, and interact with others?

What changes when you think of your work as worship?

What is your next step when it comes to faithful living and generous giving? How can this group help?

What does 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 teach about generous giving as a disciple?

How did the church at Philippi help the Apostle Paul according to Philippians 4:15-18?

What is the promise that Paul gives the Philippians for their generosity in Philippians 4:19-20?

PRAY AND ENCOURAGE