

## DISCIPLESHIP IS NOT A PROGRAM

In the gospel, *you are* a disciple; you're *surrounded* by other disciples. It's our shared identity & shared lifestyle: God calls us to disciple each other. To speak the gospel & truth to one another. To experience brokenness & grace together. To be uncomfortably honest with our struggles. To know & love God; to know & fight sin; to know & pursue others together, everyday. This doesn't happen best in a program or class; it happens best in close, honest, gritty friendships.

Other than preaching, most of Jesus' teaching & discipleship happened as he & his followers did everyday tasks, traveled from one city to another, ate meals together, & simply lived life together. This is the kind of discipleship we pursue in The City Church. It's simple; it's self-started. It's been called "life-on-life discipleship," or "discipleship as you go."

The biblical role of church leadership is to "equip the saints for the work of ministry," while the biblical role of the "saints" - the church - is to actually *do* "the work of ministry": to "build up the body of Christ"; to "speak the truth in love"; to "grow up in every way into...Christ" (Eph 4:12-16).

This means that The City Church's pastor-elders equip you for discipleship: they resource & help you; they give you ideas & materials. And it means that it's time for you to carry out "the work of the ministry":

In addition to discussing your shared reading (Bible/book), ask questions like these, to go deep in each others' lives & sin. Discuss your answers fully, honestly, & vulnerably. Speak truth in love, & build each other up in Christ-likeness, by the grace of God the Father & the power of God the Spirit.

### GOSPEL QUESTIONS

- > What are you desiring more than anything else?
- > Where lies are you subtly believing, that distract you from the truth of God, grace, & the gospel?
- > Where have you made much of yourself & little of God?
- > Have your words & actions this week been a testimony of the grace, love, joy, & full life you have in Jesus?
- > What do I need to ask, about things you tend to lie/hide?

### DISCIPLE IDENTITY QUESTIONS

- > What fills your thoughts/daydreams when you're alone?
- > What specific things have you found yourself doing that rob you of your pursuit of Jesus (even "neutral" things)?
- > What will you fill your time with this week, which stir your desire for Jesus?
- > What specifics do you need to confess, where you've lost the battle with sin, temptation, &/or addiction this week? Did you actually battle, or just give in?

to disciple each other, in simple, everyday ways. There's no "group name"; there's no single structured weekly time or place where it happens. It's simply meeting up with folks, to encourage, exhort, rebuke, push, & pull each other more toward Jesus, in all of life. It's up to you to fulfill your biblical call; it's up to you to minister to each other & be ministered to by others. It's up to you to live as a gospel-centered, God-pursuing disciple. So step up & do it!

### HOW DO I DO THIS?

- 1. GRAB YOUR FRIENDS:** Discipleship happens in relationship, so pick a couple same-gender folks you already do life with, or you want to get to know better. Pick people you trust, & establish confidentiality. Commit to discipling each other.
- 2. KEEP IT SMALL:** 3-4 people is the ideal size for you to get the most benefit in discipling each other. Digging deep into life & fighting sin happens best in close relationships. Too many people dilutes the effectiveness of discipleship, & allows your conversation to be "surface-level."
- 3. COMMIT & BEGIN:** There's no "set leader"; discipleship is a mutual commitment to pursue Jesus together, fight sin together, & speak truth in love together. Bring calendars to your 1st meeting, plan about an hour a week, & schedule the next 3 months (if you don't, you'll never stick with it). Then simply dive right in.

### FAMILY IDENTITY QUESTIONS

- > How are you treating others? Who aren't you considered "more significant than yourself" (Phil 2:3)?
- > In light of God's love toward you, is there anyone you need to reconcile with? Any grudges you're holding?
- > Has your stewardship of time, money, space, etc. reflected generosity or entitlement?
- > What isolates you from important relationships? (Work, school, technology, friends, etc)

### MISSIONARY IDENTITY QUESTIONS

- > Write the names of 1-2 people in each of your lives, for whom you're praying that God to work his salvation:  
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- > What have you actively done to pursue them & invite them into your life?
- > Pray for them together: that God will draw them away from sin & to himself through Jesus; that they hear & believe God's word; that God will prevent Satan from blinding them to the truth; and that God will give you opportunities, words, & courage to see their salvation, for the glory of God.

### EVERY TIME YOU MEET, HERE'S WHAT TO DO:

- 1. READ:** Commit together, to read a set number of chapters in the Bible between each meeting: 8-10 chapters per week is a manageable start, without "info overload": read Galatians twice, or the first half of Romans. Sometimes you might choose a non-Bible book about an area where you all want to grow - find suggestions under "Recommended Reading" at [fwcitychurch.org/resources](http://fwcitychurch.org/resources). Rotate who chooses the next book as you finish each one. Each week, discuss what you read, & if even one person doesn't finish the reading, everyone re-reads the same stuff the following week, trusting that God has more for you in it.
- 2. TALK:** The back page has samples of questions that get deep into each other's lives - your goal is to focus on the heart, not the behavior. Be bold. Be loving. Don't be afraid to encourage or rebuke each other, but do so with love & grace. Be honest. Be real. Confess sin, struggles, & places where you're not believing & applying the gospel to your life. Allow others to speak truth into your life.
- 3. PRAY:** Discipling each other includes a focus on making disciples. Every week, pray for each other, but also pray together for 1 or 2 friends each, who don't yet know Jesus. Using the guide on the back, talk about how you're inviting these friends into your life & carrying out your mission.

KEEP THIS CARD IN YOUR BIBLE OR WHEREVER YOU'RE READING TOGETHER

KNOW & LOVE GOD. KNOW & FIGHT SIN. KNOW & PURSUE OTHERS.

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