

## A Story of Discipleship in a Community

Nine guys gather into a small living room at 5:30 a.m. They have just listened to the story of the prodigal son (see Luke 15) and are discussing this story. Ben, the leader, asks, “Who are you in this story?”

Cliff shares that he feels like one of the servants who informed the older brother that the celebration was not for him. Dave, a new Christian, says he still feels like one of the party friends back in town. Everybody chuckles, but they get the point.

Tom is unusually quiet. He leans back in his chair and tries to disengage from the group. The story has cut deep into his heart, and he doesn’t want to speak because he knows he will cry. The letter he had just received from his son is still stinging. *Wow, he thinks to himself, I wasn’t at all like the father waiting for his son. I was so clueless that I ignored his rebellion and tried to pretend everything was all right. In the letter, Tom’s son had told him how he wasn’t there when he needed him and how angry he was at him.*

Ben notices Tom’s body language and directs the question his way but is met with the response of “I don’t know.” He probes deeper: “Tom, is that all, or is there more? Are you all right?” At that, Tom breaks. He tells the whole story to the group and confesses that today’s discussion was too close to home. They pause and pray.

The next few minutes are spent with several guys offering encouragement and suggestions for what Tom could do to rebuild his relationship with his son. The group ends with handshakes and hugs. Ben knows that God is at work using this Bible story to change a disciple.

- Jim Putman et al., *Real-Life Discipleship Training Manual: Equipping Disciples Who Make Disciples* (Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2010), 90–91.

## Growing the Hearts And Habits of a Discipleship Community

I. What is God's Blueprint for Our Discipleship?

II. What Are the Goals of Discipleship?

The 4Cs of Discipleship

- Level 1: Foundation
- Level 2: Transformation
  - Four Chambers of the Heart
- Level 3: Multiplication

III. How to Build a Disciple-Making Community?

1. Responding Reverentially
2. Responding Corporately
3. Responding Personally

IV. Concluding Remarks

I. What is God's Blueprint for Our Discipleship?

## The Great Commission

- Mat 28:18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
- Mat 28:19 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,
- Mat 28:20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

## God’s Grand Cosmic Vision

- Eph 1:4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love
- Eph 1:10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.
- Eph 1:22 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church,
- Eph 1:23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

## We are Partakers of God's Cosmic Plan

- Eph 3:6 This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.
- Eph 3:10 so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.
- Eph 3:11 This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord,

## How the Great Commission is to be accomplished by Christ's Body—the Church

- Eph 4:10 He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)
- Eph 4:11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,
- Eph 4:12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,
- Eph 4:13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

## What Does This Fullness Look Like?

- Eph 4:14 so **that we may no longer be children**, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.
- Eph 4:15 Rather, **speaking the truth in love**, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,
- Eph 4:16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when **each part is working properly, makes the body grow** so that it **builds itself up in love**.

## To Be Filled with His Love through His Community

- I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through the Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, **together with all the saints**, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and **to know this love** that surpasses knowledge — **that you may be filled** to the measure of all the fullness of God. (Eph. 3:16 – 19,

## The Strategy in God's Blueprint

- God's Word is for Life in a Broken World;
- Flowing from Pastoral Leadership to God's People;
- From Pulpit to the Personal Ministry of the Word;
- Producing One-Another Ministry;
- Building a Discipleship Community of the Church

## Our purpose is lived out in a community that embraces Christ's Command.

- **Joh 13:33** Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.'
- Joh 13:34 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.
- Joh 13:35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

## God is at work in all things towards this great end

- Rom 8:28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.
- Rom 8:29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

## Remain Connected to the Head through the Body

- Joh 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.
- Joh 8:31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,
- Joh 8:32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

## The Context for Discipleship Is Community

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

- Hebrews 10:24 – 25.

## II. What Are the Goals of Discipleship



## Goals of Christ-Centred Discipleship Community

### Level 1. Commune with Christ (foundation)

Marked by spiritual discipline as individual and community

--discipleship is done through congregation worship, small group, personal discipling and practice of spiritual disciplines.

### Level 2. Conform to Christ (transformation)

relationally, rationally, volitionally, emotionally

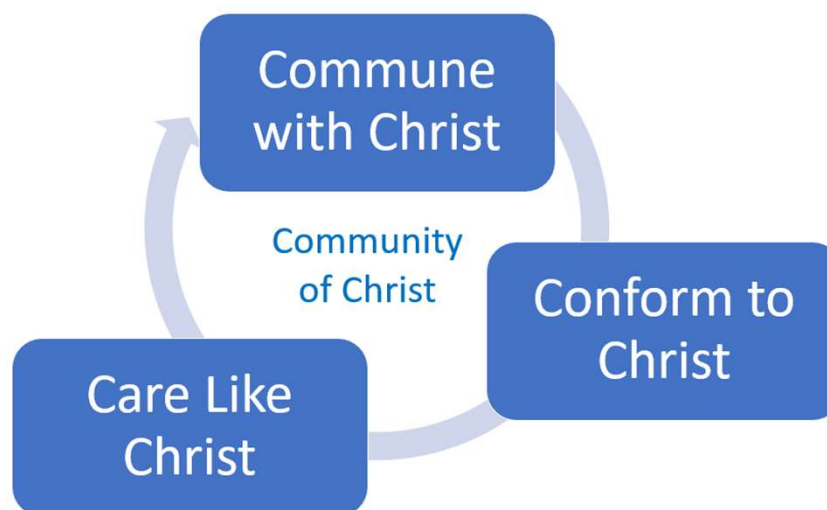
–it involves discipleship training, embracing a biblical worldview, identity in Christ, Spiritual warfare, teaching, mentoring.

### Level 3. Care like Christ, (multiplication)

sustain, heal, reconcile, and guide

–competent in serving and applying God's truth to self and others in love, and witnessing for Christ.

## 4C's of Discipleship within the Community of Christ



## Level 1: Communion with Christ

### Communion with Christ happens through

- **Personal spiritual disciplines:** Bible study, meditating on the Word, prayer, fasting, solitude, silence, confession, Sabbath rest, and journaling.
- **Corporate spiritual disciplines :** worship, preaching, teaching, reading, praying, service to others, giving, evangelism, fellowship, celebrating Lord's Supper & Baptism, small group.

## Level 2: Conforming to Christ

Eph 4:17 Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds.

Eph 4:18 They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.

Eph 4:19 They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.

Ephesians 4:17 – 19,

## Sin Has Corrupted All 4 Chambers of Our Heart

- **Rationally** we're darkened in our understanding due to the futility of our thinking,
- **Relationally** we're separated from the life of God,
- **Volitionally** our hearts are hardened and practice all kinds of impurity
- **emotionally** we've lost all feelings and given ourselves over to sensuality.

Kellemen, Robert W.. *Gospel-Centered Counseling* (p. 167). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.

## Conforming to Christ in the 4 Chambers of the heart

- From **relational sin** (idols of the heart/false lovers of the soul) to **relational purity** (returning to my first love)
- From **rational sin** (foolish beliefs) to **rational sanity** (returning to God's eternal perspective)
- From **volitional sin** (self-centered choices) to **volitional vitality** (returning to other-centered purposes)
- From **emotional sin** (selfish ungoverned emotions) to **emotional integrity** (returning to managing our moods with a ministry focus)

• Kellemen, Robert W.. *Equipping Counselors for Your Church: The 4E Ministry Training Strategy* . P&R Publishing. Kindle Edition.

## i. Relational Transformation.

“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?”

And he said to him, “**You shall love the Lord your God** with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

This is the great and first commandment.

And a second is like it: You shall **love your neighbor** as yourself.

On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

(Matt 22:36-40)

**God created us as relational beings in 3 dimensions**

- 1. We relate to Him (spiritual beings),**
- 2. to one another (social beings),**
- 3. and to ourselves (self-aware beings).**

Kellemen, Robert W.. *Equipping Counselors for Your Church*. Kindle Ed.

## ii. Rationally- thinking like Christ-value what God values

“let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus”

(Phil. 2:5)

“Do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewal of your mind**, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. ”

(Rom 12:2)

### iii. Volitionally, choosing like Christ.

“Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:43–45).

“I have been crucified with Christ. **It is no longer I who live**, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” (Gal 2:20)

### iv. Emotionally

Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, **slow to anger**; for the **anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God**.

- James 1:19-20

And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, **patiently enduring evil**, **correcting his opponents with gentleness**. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth,

- 2 Tim 2:24-25

As for you, **always be sober-minded**, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, **fulfill your ministry**.

- 2Ti 4:5

## Level 3: Care like Christ

- “See to it brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another **daily**, as long as it is called **Today**, so that none of you may **be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness**” (Heb. 3:12–13).

## Care like Christ thru the Holy Spirit and His Word

Edification and care to address the effects of sin and suffering on the whole person through :

- **Sustaining** (listening, empathy, consolation, support, and comfort),
  - **Healing** (encouragement and enlightenment through our hope in Christ).
  - **Reconciling/Restoring** (correction and spiritual direction for victory over sin through discipline, confession, and forgiveness) and
  - **Guiding** (biblical direction and counsel of God’s word).
  - And **Praying** together
  - **Bringing about Communion with Christ and Conformity to Christ**
- Adapted from Kellemen, Robert W.. Gospel Conversations (Equipping Biblical Counselors) (p. 104). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.

## The Safety Net of the Community's Faith Brings Shalom (James 5:7-20)

- Jas 5:7 Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains.
- Jas 5:8 You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.
- Jas 5:13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise.
- Jas 5:16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.
- Jas 5:19 My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back,

## One Another Ministries in the Care and Safety of God's Family

- In Romans 12:9–21, Be devoted to one another. Honor one another. Share with one another. Practice hospitality with one another. Rejoice and weep with one another.
- In Romans 13:9-10 "Love your neighbor as yourself."
- Romans 14:1–15:13. Don't judge one another; edify each other. Bear with one another. Please one another. Build up one another. Be united with one another. Encourage one another. Accept one another. Worship with one another.
- Romans 15:14. Instruct one another.
- Romans 16:16 Greet one another, and all the saints who are gathered together.

## The Joy of Fellowship with One Another & God

- 1Jn 1:3 that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.
- 1Jn 1:4 And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

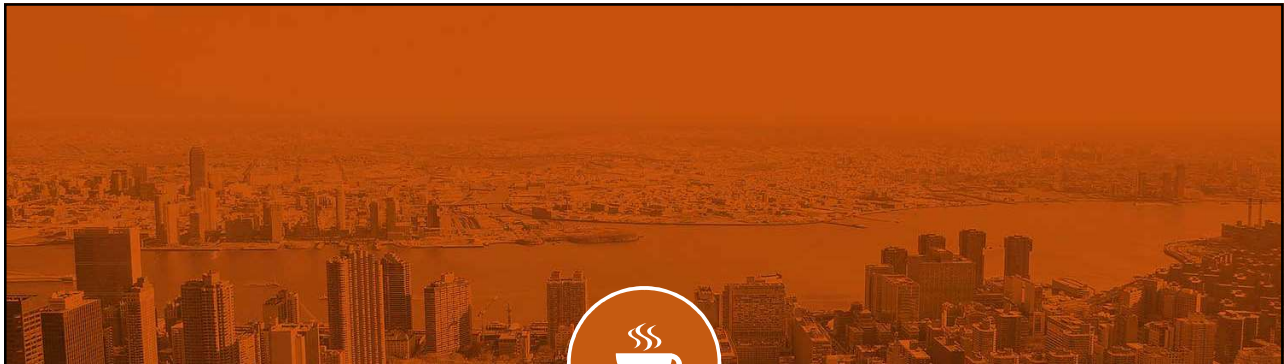
## How God is Made Manifest Among Us

- 1Jn 4:10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.
  - 1Jn 4:11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.
- 1Jn 4:12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.



## Loving One Another As Christ Has Loved Us

- *Willing, sacrificial, doesn't require reciprocation, for the good of another.*
- *Not drawing our identity, meaning and purpose out of others' response to us*
- *Forgiving, recognising we are flawed, living with flawed people*
- *Refuse to do wrong even when wronged*
- *Speaking kindly and gently in disagreement, seeking to encourage than criticize and judge or react with impatience and anger.*
- *Unwilling to falter, deceive, manipulate to get another to do what you want*
- *More committed to unity and love than accusing, winning, and being right*
- *Treating another with appreciation, respect, and grace, even when the other seems undeserving or won't reciprocate*



### Section Break

5 Mins

### III. How to Build a Christ-Centred Discipleship Community?

1. RESPOND REVERENTLY:  
to Christ's LORDSHIP

## Many Will Not Respond to Christ's Call

- 16 But he said to him, "A certain man was giving a large banquet and invited many. 17 And he sent his slave at the hour of the banquet to say to those who have been invited, 'Come, because now it is ready!' 18 And they all [alike] began to excuse themselves. The first said to him, 'I have purchased a field, . . . ' 19 And another said, 'I have purchased five yoke of oxen, . . . 20 And another said, 'I have married a wife, . . . 21 . . . Then the master of the house became angry and\* said to his slave, 'Go out . . . and bring in here the poor and crippled and blind and lame!' . . . 24 For I say to you that none of those persons who were invited will taste my banquet!' "
- Lk 14:16–24.

## Faith VS Fear

"Numbers 13 describes the Children of Israel at Kadeshbarnea about to enter the Promised Land when the twelve scouts return, bringing back a "bad report." The cost of entering the Promised Land is far too high; for alas, giants live there, the sons of Anak (see Num. 13:32–33). In a moment of terror, the people decide to turn back, with the excuse that the giants would kill their wives and children.

God never promised there would be no giants. He simply promised that He would assume responsibility for their safe arrival in the Promised Land. But in their panic, the Hebrews hid behind their wives and children. . . .

To be a disciple of Jesus Christ, I must follow Him and do His bidding even when it appears that it will cost me . . . ."

- Walter A. Henrichsen and Howard G. Hendricks, *Disciples Are Made Not Born: Helping Others Grow to Maturity in Christ* (Colorado Springs, CO: David C Cook, 2011).

## The Cost of Discipleship

- 26 “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, and furthermore, even his own life, [he cannot be] my disciple.  
27 **Whoever does not carry his own cross and [follow] me [cannot be] my disciple.** 28 For which of you, wanting to build a tower, does not first sit down and **calculate the cost** to see if he has enough [to complete it]?
- Lk 14:26–28.

## The Divine Lord Who Calls and Empowers

Now it happened that while the crowd was pressing around him . . . and he saw two boats there beside the lake, . . . And he got into one of the boats, . . . And he sat down and began to teach the crowds from the boat.

And when he stopped speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.”

And Simon answered and said, “**Master, although we worked hard through the whole night, we caught nothing. But at your word I will let down the nets.**” And when they did this, they caught a very large number of fish, and their nets began to tear. . . . and filled both the boats so that they began to sink.

And when he saw it, Simon Peter fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Depart from me, Lord, because I am [a sinful man]!” . . .

And Jesus said to Simon, “**Do not be afraid! From now on you will be catching people!**” And after they brought their boats to the land, **they left everything and followed him.**

- Lk 5:1–11.

## Discipleship says **Jesus Is Lord**

Paul makes it clear that the really spiritual are those who say by the power of the Holy Spirit, 'Jesus is Lord' (1 Cor 12:3b).

- Anyabwile, Thabiti. The Life of God in the Soul of the Church The Root and Fruit of Spiritual Fellowship . Christian Focus Publications. Kindle Edition.

## Matt 4:19: Christ's Call to Discipleship

And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." (Mat 4:19)

Jesus' Invitation (Matthew 4:19)	A Disciple Is One Who ...
Follow me	(1) Knows and follows Christ Commune with Christ
I will make you	(2) Is being changed by Christ Conform to Christ
fishers of men	(3) Is committed to the mission of Christ Care like Christ

Adapted from Jim Putman

## Definition of a Disciple from Matt 4:19

- (1) A disciple **knows and follows Christ**;
- (2) a disciple is being **changed by Christ**; and
- (3) a disciple is **committed to the mission of Christ**.

Jim Putman et al., [\*Real-Life Discipleship Training Manual: Equipping Disciples Who Make Disciples\*](#) (Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2010), 26.

## Fully Devoted to Jesus as Lord

23 And he said to them all, “If anyone wants to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross every day and follow me. 24 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life on account of me, this person will save it. 25 For what is a person benefited if he gains the whole world but loses or forfeits himself?

- Lk 9:23–25.

What Jesus Is Calling Them to Leave	What Jesus Is Telling Them to Pick Up
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## Foundation

- If anyone serves me, he must **follow me**, and where I am, there my servant will be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.
- Jn 12:26.



Discipleship involves a head-level change:  
**A disciple knows who Christ is and makes a decision to follow Him.**

• Diagrams by Jim Putman

## Transformation

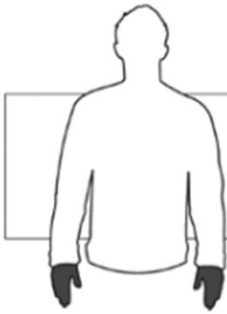


Diagrams by Jim Putman

Discipleship involves a heart-level change:  
**A disciple is being changed by Christ.**

Act 4:13 Now when **they saw the boldness** of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that **they had been with Jesus.**

## Multiplication



Diagrams by Jim Putman

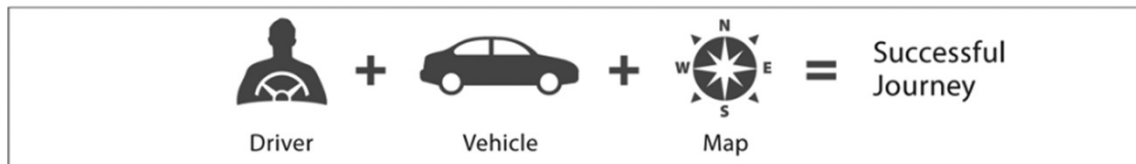
Discipleship involves a hands-level change:  
**A disciple is committed to the mission of Christ.**

Acts 1:8 . . . And **you will be my witnesses** in  
Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to  
the end of the earth

**2. RESPOND CORPORATELY:  
Build A Gospel-Shaped  
Discipleship Community**



## Build a Community with 3 Characteristics



- A. Intentionality
- B. Gospel Community
- C. Reproducibility

Diagram by Jim Putman

## A. Intentionality

- We must have a burden for the lost
  - Pray for and be alert to open doors to share the Gospel. (Eph 6:19-20)
  - Be a good host to newcomers to the church.
- We must know Discipleship is Spiritual Warfare. (Eph 6:10-12)
- We must Shepherd People through Biblical Lenses ([Session 1](#)).
  - From where they are by our listening presence ([session 3](#)).
  - Knowing and helping them in their growth stage ([session 2](#)).
  - Sustain, heal, reconcile and guide them amidst their struggles in sin and sufferings to help them find their fit in God's plan ([session 4](#)).

## B. Gospel Community

A relational environment is characterized by Gospel Humility through

- authenticity.
- mutual accountability.
- safe relational environment.
- prayerful God dependency
- shepherding one another through Gospel Lenses

James 3-5, 5:16, and Galatians 6:1-2.

Adapted from Jim Putman et al., [97](#).

## Gospel Community Created by Shepherding the Flock with the Gospel Lenses

The weak you have not strengthened, the sick you have not healed, the injured you have not bound up, the strayed you have not brought back, the lost you have not sought, and with force and harshness you have ruled them. they were scattered, because there was no shepherd, and they became food for all the wild beasts. My sheep were scattered;

(Ezk 34:4-5)

Shepherding means:

Strengthen the weak, heal the sick, bind up the injured, bring back the strays, search for the lost, lead with gentleness and grace.

## Gospel Lenses → Reading Our Small Stories in God's Big Story

### 8 Existential Questions

1. Where do we find wisdom for life in a broken world?
2. What comes to our mind when we think about God? (Is it Satan's or Christ's view?)
3. Whose are we? (Whose story have we embraced? Who am I?)
4. What is the root of our troubles?
5. How did Christ change our situation?
6. How does our future in Christ empower our present?
7. Where can we find a place to belong and become?
8. Why did God put us here?

Adapted from Bob Kellemen

## Gospel Community Created by Shepherding One Another with Gospel Lenses

- i. Meeting Physical Needs
- ii. Caring for One another
- iii. Meeting Spiritual Needs

- NB. We will focus on what this means in Sessions 3 and 4.

## Marks of an NT Discipleship Community

- 42 And they were . . . 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding every day to the total of those who were being saved.
- Ac 2:42–47.

Distant	Caring	Sharing	Isolated
Giving	Meeting Needs	Surface	Lonely
Together	Unified	Grace-Filled	Judgmental

## A Pastor's Story—Caring for One Another

One of our church members was admitted to the hospital, and Jim Putman went to visit her. In the waiting room, he was greeted by several small-group members who had arrived ahead of him. When he got up to the room, people were already there, praying, encouraging, and meeting the family's needs during this crisis.

Out in the hallway, the nurse in charge was surprised and mildly flustered. Jim asked if there was something he could do. She responded, "Who are all these people? They can't all be family."

"Well," Jim responded, "they are and they aren't. You see, these are people from your patient's small group at our church. They think they *are family*."

1. How would you feel if you were in the hospital and your small group did this for you?
2. What would you think about the relationships in that small group if you were the nurse?

- Jim Putman et al., p. 106.

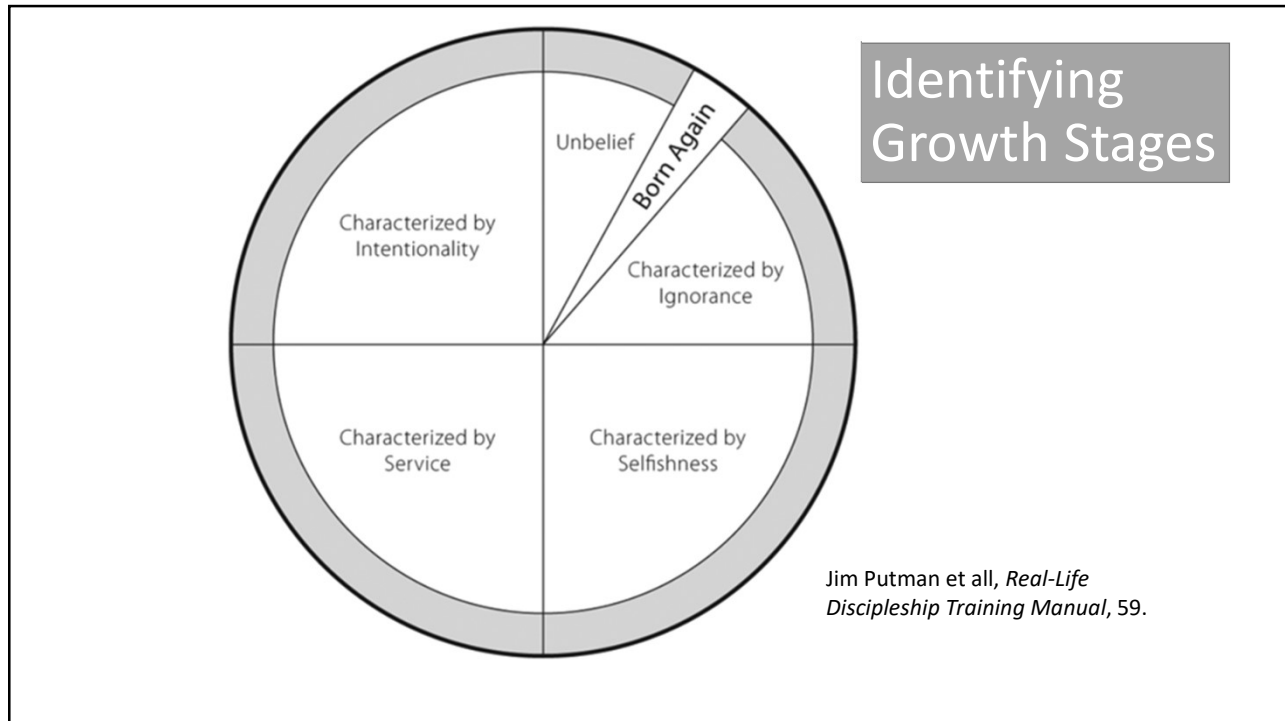
## A Member's Story—Meeting Physical Needs

When Janet moved, her neighbor asked her where she had found so much help. Janet is a widow in our community, and her family lives in another state. On moving day, twenty people with trucks and smiles converged on her house and stayed until every last possession had been transported to her new home. Most of them were people from her small group. Her neighbors were impressed. They had assumed that Janet's circle of close friends was small, but it was not.

- Jim Putman et al., p.107.

## C. Reproducibility—A Process

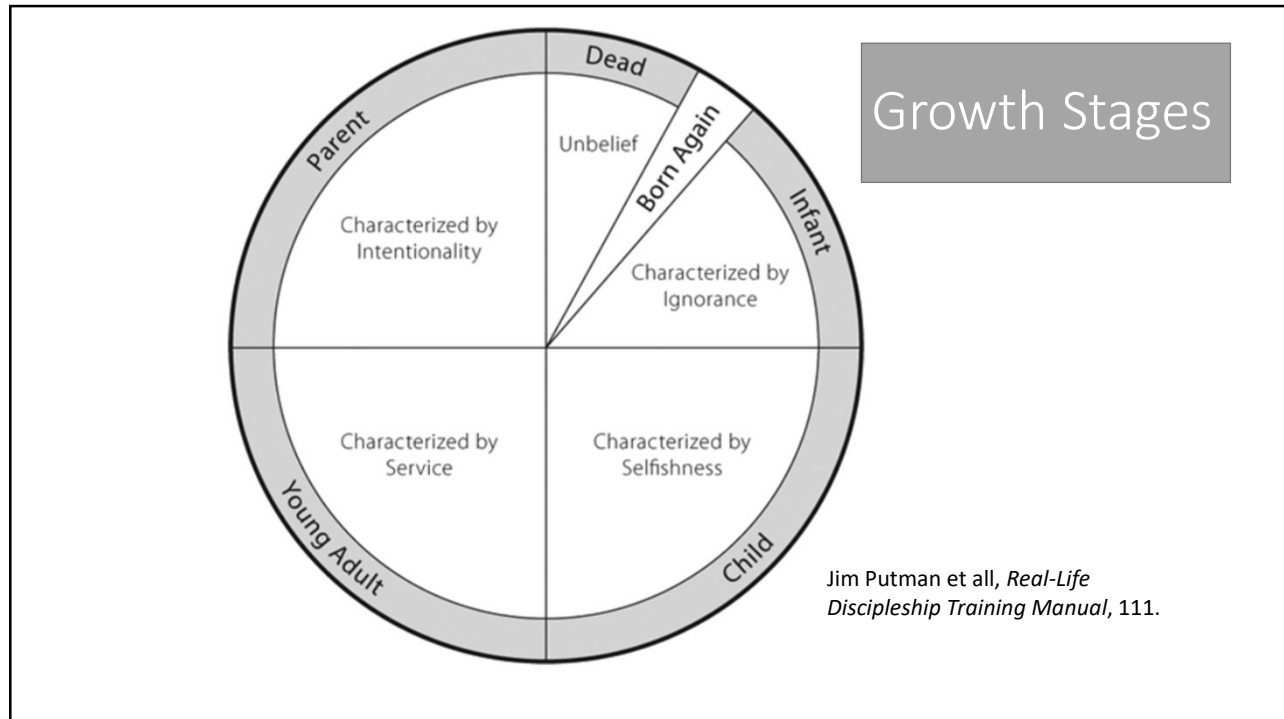




## Example of Paul and Timothy

and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. ( 2Tim 2:2 )

Passage	SCMD	Explanation
Acts 14:20-23	Share	We believe that Paul shared the gospel—or left other disciples who shared—with Timothy.
Acts 16:1-5	Connect	We know that Paul connected with Timothy when he asked him to join his group.
Acts 17:13-14	Minister	Timothy stayed in Berea to continue discipling when Paul was forced to leave.
Acts 18:1-5		In Corinth, Timothy worked to support Paul so he could preach full-time.



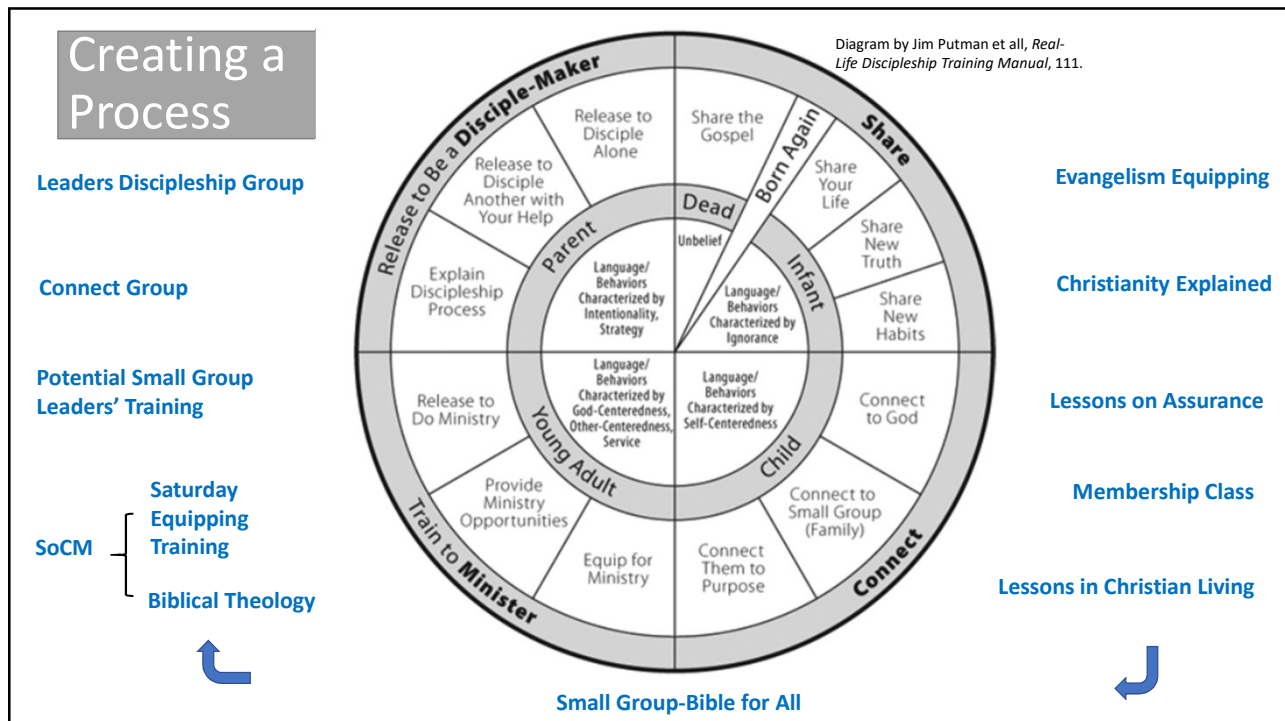
## Identifying Spiritual Needs @ Different Growth Stages

Spiritual Stage	General Characteristics	Spiritual Needs
Dead	<b>Unbelieving</b> <b>Rebellious</b>	A secure relationship with a mature believer A picture of the real Jesus lived out in front of them Answers, evidences for Christianity An explanation of the gospel message An invitation to receive Christ
Infant	<b>Ignorant</b> <b>Confused</b> <b>Dependent</b>	Individual attention from a spiritual parent Protection An explanation of the truths (new truths) found in the Word of God An explanation and modeling of the habits of a growing believer
Child	<b>Self-centered, self-absorbed</b> <b>Idealistic</b> <b>Prideful</b> <b>Low view of self</b> <b>Interdependent</b>	A spiritual family Help for how to start feeding themselves Teaching about who they are in Christ Teaching about how to have a relationship with Christ Teaching about how to have relationships with other believers Teaching about appropriate expectations concerning other believers

Jim Putman et al., *Real-Life Discipleship Training Manual: Equipping Disciples Who Make Disciples* (Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2010), 214.

Spiritual Stage	General Characteristic	Spiritual Needs
Young Adult	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Action/service-oriented</li> <li>Zealous</li> <li>God-centered</li> <li>Others-centered</li> <li>Mission-minded</li> <li>Independent</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A place to learn to serve</li> <li>A spiritual parent who will debrief them about ministry experiences</li> <li>Ongoing relationships that offer encouragement and accountability</li> <li>Help for establishing boundaries</li> <li>Guidance regarding appropriate expectations of people they will serve</li> <li>Help in identifying their gifts</li> <li>Skills training</li> </ul>
Parent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intentional</li> <li>Strategic</li> <li>Reproduction-minded</li> <li>Self-feeding</li> <li>Mission-minded</li> <li>Team-minded (unity matters)</li> <li>Dependable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An ongoing relationship with co-laborers</li> <li>A church family</li> <li>Encouragement</li> </ul>

Jim Putman et al., Real-Life Discipleship Training Manual: Equipping Disciples Who Make Disciples (Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2010), 214.





### 3. RESPOND PERSONALLY: Create Growth Habits to Support Your Discipleship Journey

#### Godliness Requires Training

- 1Ti 4:7 Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather **train yourself for godliness**;
- 1Ti\_4:8 for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.
- 2Ti\_3:16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and **for training in righteousness**,
- 2Ti 3:17 that the man of God may be complete, **equipped** for every good work.

## Spiritual Fruits Need Habitual Cultivation

“Christian virtue, including the ninefold fruit of the Spirit, is *both the gift of God and the result of the person of faith making conscious decisions to cultivate this way of life and these habits of heart and mind.*”

- N. T. Wright, *After You Believe: Why Christian Character Matters* (New York: HarperCollins, 2010), 197.

## Time Taken to Form Habits

- Habits are hard to start but also hard to end
- The *European Journal of Social Psychology* suggests it can take anywhere from **18 to 254 days** for people to form a new habit, with an average of two months (sixty-six days) for a new behavior to become automatic. The actual time depends on a number of factors, including the behavior, person, and circumstances.
  - Phillippa Lally, Cornelia H. M. van Jaarsveld, Henry W. W. Potts, Jane Wardle, “How Habits Are Formed: Modelling Habit Formation in the Real World,” *European Journal of Social Psychology*, July 16, 2009, <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ejsp.674/abstract>.

## On the Habit of Reading God's word

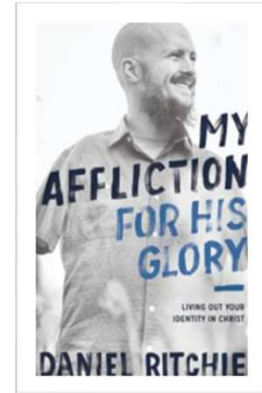
"However, the majority of us do read small bits of information on a daily basis.

We read the status updates of our friends or we watch their stories on Instagram so we can know what is going on in their lives

We have the same opportunity to become familiar with the God who loves us by reading His Word.

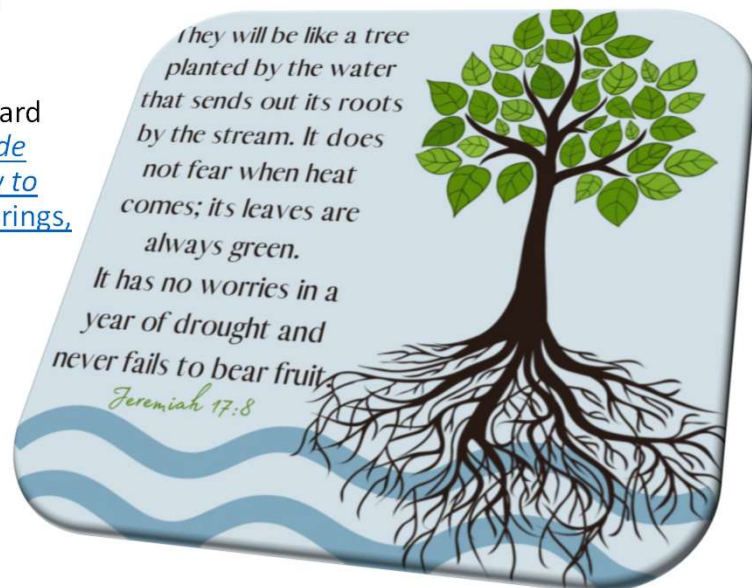
Find ways to read God's Word regularly. Read a chapter or two while you drink coffee in the morning."

Daniel Ritchie, [Endure: Building Faith for the Long Run](#) (Bellingham, WA: Kirkdale Press, 2022), 44.



"start small and build in depth"

- Walter A. Henrichsen and Howard G. Hendricks, [Disciples Are Made Not Born: Helping Others Grow to Maturity in Christ](#) (Colorado Springs, CO: David C Cook, 2011).






## Habits to Build

*“If you continue in My word,  
then you are truly disciples of  
Mine” (John 8:31)*

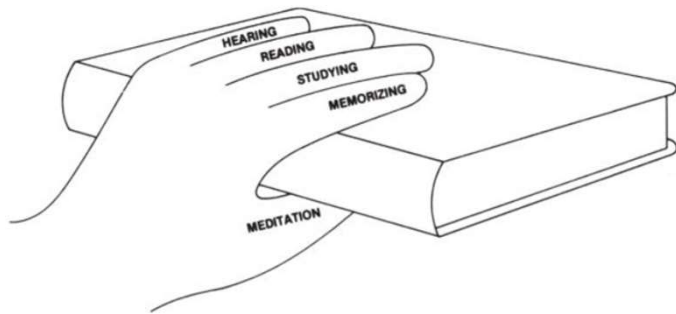


## 4C's of Discipleship within the Community of Christ



	Character 	Knowledge/Convictions 	Practices/Habits/Skills/ 
1. Foundation Commune with Christ	<b>Identity &amp; actions rooted in Christ</b> and His work (Gospel)	Able to read NT and OT in context of the Gospel Know the Big Picture of the Bible and how it relates to life and the rest of scripture	Follow a plan to read through the whole Bible Able to lead others to read and apply the scripture in context of the Gospel
	Weak 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Strong	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
	<b>Devoted to God</b> and His <u>glory</u>	Know the basics doctrines of God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit	<u>Enjoy</u> praying and reading God's word in regular devotional time
2. Transformation Conform to Christ	<b>Fruit of the Spirit</b> shown in love, humility, kindness, and generosity to others	Know the doctrine of Salvation Know how to relate God's word to overcoming sins and life challenges	Live out the roles of a good husband, father, wife, mother, children, brother and sister, worker, church member
	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
	<b>Overflowing with thankfulness</b> to God in all situations	Know God's providence and sovereignty Know the Christian Hope Know the importance of prayer	Pray for others and the needs around Use gifts & resources for God's kingdom n glory
3. Multiplication Care like Christ	<b>Faithful</b> in commitments to God and others	Convicted about the Great Commission Know basic doctrines of the Church and the Sacraments	Available to serve others Share the Gospel with non-believers Contribute to missions Follow-up on new believers Mentor & coach others Raise up apprentice leaders
	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
	<b>Desired Discipleship Outcomes</b> –Being lifelong disciples & disciple-makers engaging God's world through God's word		

## 7 Best Practices to Create New Habits



1. **Start Small**
2. **Shape the environment**
3. **Use Triggers and Rewards** -time, place, event, people, small group
4. **Focus on Making Progress** -stacked small habits together (eg. The Word hand)
5. **Keep Going, even when you fail** -even consistent people are inconsistent
6. **Know yourself** -what works for you
7. **Pay attention to resistance** -examine why, bring fears to God

Darryl Dash and Jared C. Wilson, [How to Grow: Applying the Gospel to All of Your Life \(Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2018\).](#)

## IV. Concluding Remarks

### Discipleship is the Trinity Working in Us

*“Sanctification is an immediate work of the Spirit of God on the souls of believers, purifying and cleansing of their natures from the pollution and uncleanness of sin, renewing in them the image of God, and thereby enabling them, from a spiritual and habitual principle of grace, to yield obedience unto God, according unto the tenor and terms of the new covenant; by virtue of the life and death of Jesus Christ. Or more briefly:—It is the universal renovation of our natures by the Holy Spirit into the image of God, through Jesus Christ.”*

- John Owen, *Pneumatologia*, in *The Works of John Owen*, ed. William H. Goold, 24 vols. (Edinburgh: Johnson & Hunter; 1850–55; repr., London: Banner of Truth, 1965), 3:386.

## The Privilege of Discipleship—Building God’s House

- This church, this house, **this temple of God, is to be built up**, . . .
- “Those who by action, instruction, exhortation, comfort, promote the Christian wisdom of others, and help them to live a correspondent life, are regarded as taking part in the erection of that building [that is, the church, or temple of God, in which the Holy Spirit dwells]; and hence are said to edify, to promote growth in Christian wisdom, affection, grace, virtue, holiness, blessedness.”
- What a glorious work that building, that house of God, that temple, that church will be when finished! And **what a blessed privilege** it is that “every one of us,” as the apostle says, has some gift from Christ to fit him for helping on its completion! Let every one keep fixed in mind the thought, “I am called by the blessed Jesus **to help in building up his glorious house**,” and seek daily grace and help so that he may build wisely and rapidly!
- —Charles Octavius Boothe, [\*Plain Theology for Plain People\*](#)

## The Ultimate Measure of Our Lives

“ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. ”

- 1 Jn 4:11-12

