



DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE 1.0

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How to use this Discipleship Guide

The goal of this material is to have reproducible guide where disciples can learn foundational concepts of following Christ. They should learn basic skills and spiritual disciplines to begin growing in Jesus without having to be spoon-fed. Similarly, a pre-Christian who is interested in learning more should find a lot of essential steps of growth to decide for themselves if they want to follow Jesus.

- **Join the greater movement:** Whenever you are starting a new group, email us at disciple@parkway.church to let us know who you plan to disciple so that we can celebrate all that God is doing and track how God is moving more broadly.
- **Keep it simple:** Depend on the Word of God, the Holy Spirit, and your own walk with the Lord. You know more than you think. And therefore, you need less than you think. No need to over-work or over-structure what is simply an ongoing relational investment.
- **Customize appropriately:** Foundational disciples are coming from a variety of faith and church backgrounds. Many don't know what they do and don't know, and there is plenty of room for confusion. You can customize this guide and experience to be able to truly meet your people where they are.
- **Treat the timeline with flexibility:** Even though the guide is written with a laid-out timeline with one week each session, if your group is struggling with a concept and needs more time, please repeat these sessions as needed. The goal is not to complete this in "6 easy weeks" like a one-size-fits-all program. The written sessions are a baseline, but your group's timeline should customize to the pace you need.
- **Help your disciples with their next steps.** When they complete this entire course, some may be ready for our next tier of Discipleship 2.0. Others may not be. Please help direct them appropriately if they need to spend more time in these concepts, or if it would be appropriate for them to move into the next phase.
- **Disciple in community:** The dynamic of 3-4 people interacting reduces the likelihood of perpetuating dependence. What you are trying to produce is an interdependent disciple maker who knows how to handle the Word as a self-feeder.

Guidelines for Discipleship with Students

- When discipling students, it's essential to communicate to the parents of students the time and location of your meeting plans.
- Parents are the primary disciple-makers of their children, and they want and deserve to know what their child is learning. With this in mind, please attempt to communicate the content of discipleship lessons with parents. You can simply overview the main ideas and concepts of each lesson.
- Particularly for students in the disciple-maker role, check in regularly (e.g. monthly) with anyone who disciplined you or is providing ongoing coaching to talk through challenges or celebrations.
- Stay curious. When we lead others to Jesus, it's easy to feel in charge and like we have all the answers someone else needs. Great disciple-makers remember to stay curious by asking lots of questions to better understand those they are leading, to get what they are uniquely going through.



How to use this Discipleship Guide

What is Discipleship at Parkway?

We launch gender-specific, closed groups of 3-5 followers of Christ or individual 1:1 meetings that gather on a regular basis for intentional spiritual transformation. After deep diving through our Mission Measure questions, disciples are ready and encouraged to provide the same experience for others, multiplying a lifestyle of following Jesus. 1.0 is perfect for newer believers or those exploring the faith, hungry for foundational basics about Christianity. 2.0 dives even deeper in a more extended experience of spiritual transformation for those growing in Christ. And 3.0 is a limited offering for high-level leaders who have experienced multiplication and are ready for the deepest challenges of discipleship.

Discipleship

1.0

Discipleship

2.0

Discipleship

3.0

- 01 Are you in the Word?**
- 02 Are you in the Family?**
- 03 Are you in the Trenches?**
- 04 Are you in the Field?**

Disciple-Making & Multiplying



First Gathering

Overview & Purpose:

1. To give an overview of what to expect from this group,
2. To tell & listen to the spiritual journeys of the participants,
3. To present a quick overview of the Bible itself, and
4. To introduce the practice of reading God's Word daily.

Opening Prayer

Welcome & Introductions

Long Range Overview:

- **Secure in Christ** - how do I truly know if I'm a Christian?
- **New Life in Christ** - what does it mean that I'm saved?
- **Victorious through Christ** - how do I resist temptation ongoing?
- **Forgiven in Christ** - what happens when I sin?
- **Growing in Truth in Christ** - what else do I need to know & practice to grow?

Participant Expectations:

- No question is dumb.
- There is confidentiality in this group.
- If you can't prepare your advance work, come anyway...but you'll get more out of this group if you do it.
- Materials for future weeks: physical Bible, place for taking notes (e.g. a journal).

Your Spiritual Journey

"What has been your journey in life up to this point, particularly in spiritual things?"

- Boundaries: set a goal time length, based on size of group
- Particularly lead stories into spiritual things:
 - Who was God to you growing up?
 - Has there been a point where you've felt God moving in your heart / life?
 - What brought you to a place of truly reckoning your faith with Jesus
- Some may need extra coaxing or questions to draw more out. Others will need more guardrails to stay within relevant sharing
- In some cases, the leader models this on this first meeting, and others follow suit in following meetings. In other cases, you may want to take the entirety of this first meeting to each take turns sharing.

First Gathering

Overview of the Bible: Explain these concepts as you understand them.

- Old Testament / New Testament / Gospels
- Original languages in Hebrew / Greek / Aramaic
- 40 different authors, all inspired by the Holy Spirit (2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:20-21)
- Layout of the writing: books, passages, chapters, paragraphs, verses
- Tools: basic English dictionary, Blue letter Bible, concordance

Addressing the following:

- What is the Bible in general?
- How do I navigate my way around it?
- How is it arranged?
- Discuss Bible overview chart (see appendix)

Discipline of the Faith: Valuing God's Word

- Why did God give us the Bible?
- Review 2 Timothy 3:16 - Look it up, define the terms (using literal word definitions)
- What does a regular pattern of reading Scripture look like?

REVIEW

God deserves praise for the various ways He has brought us to this exact spot in life, and together as a group.

Why can we believe and trust what the Bible says?

What are your next steps as a believer?

Assignments for next time:

- Memorize names of 1st five books of the New Testament (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts).
- Look up 2 Timothy 3:16 on your own, look up any words/terms you think are important or not crystal clear.
- Rewrite the verse in your own words.
- Get a physical Bible if you don't have one. We tend to use the ESV translation at Parkway.

Close in Prayer

LESSON 1 - *Secure in Christ*

Overview & Purpose:

1. To share a gospel presentation to crystallize what brings us to salvation,
2. To reinforce the concept of Assurance of Salvation,
3. To introduce spiritual disciplines on the level of “spiritual milk”.

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Review Participant Expectations:

- No question is dumb.
- There is confidentiality in this group.
- If you can't prepare your advance work, come anyway...but you'll get more out of this group if you do it.
- Materials to have on hand: physical Bible, place for taking notes (e.g. a journal).

Review assignments from last time:

- Read 2 Timothy 3:16 & rewrite it in your own words.
- Say the first 5 books of the NT - Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts

Gospel Presentation

- **Purpose:** a) to assure disciples that they believe, b) to model for them so they can share the same gospel at a later time
- **Choose amongst:**
 - The Bridge illustration
 - The Three Circles Gospel (<https://www.namb.net/evangelism/3circles>)
 - The Romans Road

What happened when I believed that Jesus died for my sins?

- 1 John 1:9 - ALL our sins are forgiven, even future ones, covered in the future
- John 14:1-3 - Forever home in heaven with God for eternity
- Hebrews 13:5b-6 - Never will He leave us
- 1 Thessalonians 1:4 - God chose us
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 - We are made into a new creation

FORGIVEN

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 Jn 1:9



LESSON 1 - *Secure in Christ*

Assurance of Salvation

- We are sealed with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13-14) - the image of a king/queen and a wax sealed letter: an intact seal = secure
- Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ (Romans 8:35-39)

Participants should understand the following:

- I don't have to question (or feel anxiety/stress) if I'm truly saved.
- Being saved is simple: by God's grace, through simple faith.
- There's nothing I can do to earn my salvation.
- There's nothing I can do to jeopardize my salvation.

A Growing Believer

- Study together the story of Nicodemus and Jesus - John 3:1-21.
- Emphasize Nicodemus as a Pharisee / authority, returning to spiritual infancy.
- Reference 1 Peter 2:2 - like a newborn baby, craving God's Word & growing in Him
- Humbling ourselves and committing to growth is a beautiful thing!

Discipline of the Faith: Reading God's Word

- Read God's Word daily!
 - Not relying on podcasts, devotional guides, etc. - these are supplemental and secondary.
 - Begin with just you and your Bible, reading and listening to God.
 - Stop when a word/term jumps out at you. Ponder the words & apply them to your life.
 - Start with one verse at a time. Look up words in the dictionary to get more understanding.
 - Ask: what does it say? What does it mean? What is God saying to me?
- A good starting place is the book of John. Perhaps you can all read the same selection

REVIEW

What happened to you when you believed in Jesus?

What promises have you been given now that you are saved?

What are your next steps as a believer?

Assignments for next time:

- Memorize names of New Testament books through Colossians.
- Go back through the verses we read today about security in Christ & assurance of salvation. Choose one verse to read daily.

Close in Prayer



LESSON 2 - *New Life in Christ*

Overview & Purpose:

1. To help disciples understand the concept of day-to-day new life in Jesus,
2. To introduce the discipline of prayer,
3. To understand various models and practices of prayer

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Continual Participant Expectations:

- No question is dumb.
- There is confidentiality in this group.
- If you can't prepare your advance work, come anyway.

Review assignments from last time:

- How again do I know if I'm saved, and am I secure in that salvation?
- Recall the books of the NT through Colossians.
- How did your daily readings of verses impact your week?

Review - *What's Changed in Me? (be ready to look up any terms to help enhance meaning)*

- All my sins have been forgiven (1 John 1:9).
- I have a forever home in heaven (John 14:1-3).
- He will never leave me (Hebrews 13:5-6).
- I have been chosen (Ephesians 1:4, 1 Thessalonians 1:4).
- I am a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17).

► *New additions: I have new life with Jesus*

- God's Holy Spirit is with me, guiding and helping me (John 16:7-15).
- My old life is crucified with Christ, now Christ lives in me (Galatians 2:20).

A Life Change Story

- Study together the story of Saul on the road to Damascus - start with Acts 7:54-8:3.
- Continue with Acts 9:1-2, discussing Saul's life before Jesus.
- Now read of his encounter with the risen Jesus in Acts 9:3-9.
- Finish with what happened afterwards, in Acts 9:10-31 as Saul got onto his feet after being changed by Jesus.

MADE NEW

"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; the new has come." 2 Cor 5:17

LESSON 2 - *New Life in Christ*

Discipline of the Faith: Prayer

- What is prayer? Simply talking to God. A personal, two-way conversation.
- We address God as our Father, pray in the name of Jesus, and do it in the power of the Holy Spirit
- Prayer is NOT: trying to look good in front of others, impress with fancy language, etc.
- It is a privilege - the Creator of the Universe makes Himself perpetually available to us at all times and invites us to “pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
- We can pray literally anytime, when we have time for an extended prayer, or when we only have a millisecond to fire a thought up to God.
- Why pray? It changes our hearts & attitudes, it aligns our hearts with God’s heart, and He truly does listen to our prayer.
- Where & how? Anywhere, in any form. Silently in our heads/hearts, privately in a place of devotional worship, together with others, etc.

Put it into practice:

- Read the Lord’s Prayer together (Matthew 6:7-13) as a pattern to follow.
- Practice going around the group and thanking God for one simple thing.

P.R.A.Y. Model

- P** = Praise God for who He is (Psalm 100:1-2)
- R** = Repent, giving God the opportunity to convict your heart of sin (1 John 1:9)
- A** = Ask your requests of the Lord (Philippians 4:6)
- Y** = Yield your will to God’s, acknowledge His plans as higher and greater than yours (Luke 22:42)

A.C.T.S. Model

- A** = Adoration, praising God for who He is
- C** = Confession, owning our sin before God
- T** = Thanksgiving, showing gratitude to the Giver
- S** = Supplication, asking God for the things on your heart

REVIEW

What is new in your life now that you are walking with Jesus?

How does walking with Jesus change your outlook / perspective on life?

What are your next steps as a believer?

Assignments for next time:

- Memorize names of New Testament books through Philemon.
- Practice one of the prayer methods this week, and be ready to tell us what worked for you and what was challenging.
- Study further on the Lord’s Prayer, either Matthew 6:5-15 or Luke 11:1-4.

Close in Prayer



LESSON 3 - *Victorious Through Christ*

Overview & Purpose:

1. To help disciples know what we're up against: the world, the flesh, and the devil,
2. To know how to combat temptation through prayer & Scripture memory,
3. To discuss how to follow Jesus even in the difficulty of hard times.

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Continual Participant Expectations:

- No question is dumb.
- There is confidentiality in this group.
- If you can't prepare your advance work, come anyway.

Review assignments from last time:

- How did prayer go for you? How regularly were you able to connect with God?
- Recall the books of the NT through Philemon.
- Did you come away with any deeper insights from the Lord's Prayer?

Review - Prayer *(be ready to look up any terms to help enhance meaning)*

- **Read Isaiah 6:1-5.** Describe Isaiah's response to God. Why do you think he responded like this?
- **Read Philippians 4:6-7.** What are the commands in this verse? What are the promised benefits?
- **Read Luke 18:9-11.** Discuss the irony of the Pharisee's prayer. What is a true heart of prayer?

Talk it out conversationally:

P - What are you praising God for?

R - Do you need to repent of anything?

A - What are you asking from God?

Y - How is it yielding to God's will?

A - What does God deserve adoration for?

C - Have you confessed to God lately?

T - What is one thing you're thankful for?

S - What are you asking from God?

LESSON 3 - *Victorious Through Christ*

Our Opposition - What we're up against

- Trusting Christ and following Jesus doesn't guarantee that life is perfect and easy from that day forward: life is still tough, even for believers. And it goes beyond the physical realm we live in...we are at war with a real enemy on the spiritual side. So much, we call it "spiritual warfare," and unless we pay attention to it, we might remain oblivious and ignorant to efforts directed AGAINST us spiritually.
- Three sources of opposition around us: the world, the flesh, and the devil
 - **The World** - a fallen world affected and tainted by sin ever since Genesis 3, the earth under the Curse (Romans 8:18-23). The Biblical solution is to not love the world.
 - **The Flesh** - the part of ourselves that is affected and tainted by sin, drawn to rebellion against God, capable of error and evil. The Biblical solution is to flee the works of the flesh (2 Timothy 2:22, Galatians 5:16-21).
 - **The Devil, aka the Enemy** - the one who from the beginning has opposed the work of God and still exists in temporary authority in this fallen world (the prince of the power of the air, Ephesians 2:2), who aims to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10). The Biblical solution is to resist the devil (1 Peter 5:8-9).
- Even though the opposition may appear or feel daunting, we have the infinitely greater power of God in our corner and at work within us. Read 1 Corinthians 10:13 and 1 Corinthians 15:54-56 and meditate on the encouragement that God gives us. There is no cause for fear! We are on the winning side! There is victory in Jesus.

A Story of Temptation

- Study together the story of Jesus in the wilderness - Read Matthew 4:1-11.
- Do you know what was Jesus' history or relationship with Satan before this? Discuss Jesus in heaven before Satan, seeing him and the demons cast out (Isaiah 14:12-14, Ezekiel 28:12-18).
- Notice precisely when Satan came after Jesus in vv. 1-2. How is this relevant to us?
- How does Jesus combat against Satan's temptations? With Scripture. And how can we respond to temptation with Scripture unless we familiarize ourselves with it first?
- Notice at the end of the story (v. 11), angels came to minister to Jesus - so we're never alone in our temptation...God's support is with us in care, even when it's tough.

Discipline of the Faith: Scripture Memory

- If we hope to utilize the power of God's Word in the daily ups and downs we face, keeping it at hand for whatever the situation calls for, it's necessary that His Word is available in our minds and in our hearts.
- Psalm 119 speaks at length about the power of God's Word, and selections like vv. 9-16 (especially v. 11) emphasize how we can treasure and value knowing Scripture.
- With the accessibility of the Bible using apps and simply Google searching, the discipline of Scripture memorization has taken a back seat. Yet it is still incredibly powerful in the moment in any situation where our emotions become activated, or our minds are racing.

LESSON 3 - *Victorious Through Christ*

Put it into practice:

- Start small and simple - what is an achievable goal for you?
- Examples: start with verses we've already studied that have been impactful to you. Or memorize the Romans Road verses.

REVIEW

How have you felt spiritual warfare in your life, particularly as you've been walking with Jesus?

How can we combat various aspects of spiritual warfare as representatives of the winning side of the battle?

What are your next steps as a believer?

Assignments for next time:

- Memorize names of New Testament books through 1 & 2 Peter.
- Pick a verse from our suggestions or what we've studied and commit it to memory over this week. Find someone in your life you can recite it to for practice.
- Study further on spiritual warfare by reading Ephesians 6:10-13, as usual looking up any terms that you might unpack for deeper meaning.

Close in Prayer

LESSON 4 - *Forgiven In Christ*

Overview & Purpose:

1. To help disciples know how to approach sin moving forward,
2. To appreciate and know the advocate we have in Jesus presently,
3. To explore the power of participation in corporate worship.

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Continual Participant Expectations:

- No question is dumb.
- There is confidentiality in this group.
- If you can't prepare your advance work, come anyway.

Review assignments from last time:

- Were you able to memorize some Scripture this week? Can we hear it? Did it help you?
- Recall the books of the NT through 1 & 2 Peter.
- Did you come away with any deeper insights from Ephesians 6?

Review - Spiritual Warfare (*be ready to look up any terms to help enhance meaning*)

- **Do not love the world** - 1 John 2:15-17 - What happens over time if we love the things of the world vs. loving Jesus more?
- **Flee the works of the flesh** - 2 Timothy 2:22 - When we walk by the Spirit instead, how does it affect our hearts and souls?
- **Resist the devil** - 1 Peter 5:8-9 - Why is the operative verb here to "resist" instead of to fight back to slay him...or to flee him in fear?



RIGHTEOUS

"...the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe." Romans 3:22



LESSON 4 - *Forgiven In Christ*

What do we do when we still struggle with sin?

- While it is true that in Christ we are a new creation, the old has gone and the new has come, we still often struggle with going back to the same sinful behaviors, actions, and lifestyles that we know with familiarity.
- Remember 1 John 1:9 - this goes beyond just your initial trusting in Jesus - it still applies daily in the present when we act against God in sin. Read the verse together again.
- Confession of sin is so vital and so healthy for us - this is confession before God + confession before other trusted men/women in your life.
- And yet we have reason and incentive to put sin behind us and walk in obedience to God. Read Romans 6:1-14. What does it look like for you to be dead to sin?

Truths you can claim with respect to sin

- God forgives you thoroughly and completely, and He considers your sin fully pardoned and removed from you (Micah 7:18-19, Psalm 103:12).
- No matter what you've done, and no matter if you truly clean up your life or not, trusting in Christ by faith secures you in Jesus (Luke 23:39-43).
- Jesus is in heaven right now, advocating on your behalf, having taken care of your sin "once and for all" (Hebrews 9:24-26).
- Because of the work Jesus did to pay for your sin, you now have full, unlimited access to God with confidence, no need to feel shame in His presence over sin you've done, either long ago or recently (Hebrews 10:19-23).

Discipline of the Faith: WORSHIP

- Personal worship - a huge variety of expressions: reading and loving God's Word, spending time in nature (God's creation), getting your hands involved serving others and extending mercy, playing worship music and connecting emotionally.
- The importance of corporate worship - God calls His people to come together to worship Him, and there is a long history of God's people doing this. Worship is NOT meant to remain an isolated experience for us.
- What do we do during the singing time on Sunday morning?
 - Reflect on the words/lyrics, agree with them in your heart
 - Joyfully express those words back to God in love
 - Resist the urge to focus on how it sounds, your musical/auditory preferences, the people next to you, how you look or sound, etc.
- Other parts of our worship service are worship too, beyond just the music:
 - The preaching of God's Word in the sermon
 - Prayer together in the service + the prayer team afterwards
 - Giving back financially from what God has given to us

LESSON 4 - *Forgiven In Christ*

REVIEW

How should you respond the next time you've sinned against God?

Where do you see God still working on you and refining your heart?

What are your next steps as a believer?

Assignments for next time:

- Memorize names of New Testament books through Revelation.
- Look at the Sunday worship service with new eyes: how do you see your participation in it as a vital spiritual discipline for your growth in Christ?
- Spend time this week reading Romans 8:31-39, making notes on insights you have.

Close in Prayer

LESSON 5 - *Growing in Truth In Christ*

Overview & Purpose:

1. To help disciples know how to listen for and discern God's voice and leading in their lives,
2. To get a high-level overview of further theological study & how to self-feed in spiritual growth,
3. To explore basic spiritual gifts & serving in the larger body.

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Continual Participant Expectations:

- No question is dumb.
- There is confidentiality in this group.
- If you can't prepare your advance work, come anyway.

Review assignments from last time:

- What insights did you gain from participation in worship? How is this personally helpful to your spiritual growth?
- Recall the books of the NT all the way through!
- Did you come away with any deeper insights from Romans 8?

How to hear & discern God's voice

Purpose: for disciples to continue growing, it's important for them to personally connect with God and follow His leading in their lives. They need to know how to look for and listen to God's voice in their lives

- **Through His Word** - The Bible is literally God's Word written to us, His inspired voice speaking through human authors.
- **Through trusted others & godly counsel** - God can speak through other trustworthy people in your life, especially if they know you and are themselves walking with Jesus.
- **Through impressions from the Holy Spirit** - often discernable in prayer (remember it's a two-way conversation), God can speak softly to our hearts, moving our emotions or settling our minds on something - give 1 Kings 19:1-13 a synopsis, God showing up in the gentle whisper instead of the large attention-grabbers.
- **Through your circumstances** - often credited to "fate," "chance," or "serendipity," God can regularly work in the background of events, opening and shutting doors to direct you to a particular decision or outcome. The question is, do we see Him in this?
- God doesn't need to hit us over the head with a 2x4 to get our attention - His quieter and more subtle ways actually draw us toward Him and increase our attentiveness to His ways.

COMPLETE &
EQUIPPED

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable...
that the man of God may be complete, equipped
for every good work." 2 Tim 3:16-17

LESSON 5 - *Growing in Truth In Christ*

What do I need to know to keep growing in Christ?

- There's no next-level secret tier of "special knowledge" that you need to keep growing in Jesus for the rest of your life (2 Timothy 3:16 - Scripture is sufficient)
- However, many want to learn more about how God and the world around us works, and we call these disciplines of study: "theology," the study of God (and His ways). Theological fields include:
 - All about God Himself & the Trinity: Trinitarianism / Theology proper
 - About the Bible, its origins, its nature, its preservation across time: Bibliology
 - About humanity & sin: Anthropology / Hamartiology (sin)
 - About salvation & how we are saved: Soteriology
 - About how God is working on us as believers: Sanctification
 - About the church, its origins, its purpose: Ecclesiology
 - About future events, what God still has planned: Eschatology
- Like most churches, at Parkway we have collected what we believe into our "doctrines" or belief statements. Find them on our website under "What We Believe." We attempt to succinctly explain our stances on the more important things, including:
 - The Bible, particularly its accuracy and authority
 - The Trinity / God Himself
 - Jesus Christ the Son of God
 - The Holy Spirit, His activities, how He operates in people
 - Other angelic beings (angels & demons)
 - God's creation of the universe and life
 - Mankind, our nature and state
 - Sin & its effect on us

- Salvation: how it is accomplished and how we are saved
- The Church, how it started and its purpose still today
- Dispensations: a unique way of seeing God's pattern of moving at various times
- Future Things: what we believe is still to come as God redeems His creation

Important note: we invite and encourage you to read and process our doctrinal statements, but don't do it in a vacuum. Know that individuals from our pastoral team would love to converse with you over anything in our statements, to help you more fully understand things.

Continued Self-Feeding through Spiritual Disciplines

- We have covered the most fundamental disciplines that can help fuel you to move forward in spiritual growth without needing to be spoon-fed by someone else. You have tools in place to continue growing.
- For the sake of a full view of spiritual disciplines, here's a more thorough list. You may want to look further into some of these to continue growing.
 - Scripture study & meditation
 - Prayer
 - Fasting
 - Simplicity and reduction of materialism
 - Solitude
 - Serving others (we will consider this today)
 - Confession
 - Worship, personal and corporate
 - Spiritual guidance & discipleship

LESSON 5 - *Growing in Truth In Christ*

Discipline of the Faith: Spiritual Gifts & Serving

- God has given us special spiritual gifts (beyond simple skills) for the purpose of serving the broader body of Christ - what is the body of Christ?
- Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-13 - feel free to widen this to more of the entire chapter, it's all good!
- Spiritual gifts are for the body, not to build us up individually or make us look good to others - consider ways God might have wired you and might be calling you into greater service of others
- Spiritual gift inventories out there will ask you questions and report back where you might be particularly oriented - we'll offer you one as a takeaway today
- Scripture discusses spiritual gifts in a memorable sequence: 4-4-12-12 (Ephesians 4, 1 Peter 4, Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12)
- God wants to continue to grow you by calling you to invest into others and serve others - that can be within the church or beyond the walls of the church. But the church would not function without God's people serving to pull off the work of ministry!
- We don't just give back when we serve; we also receive, learn, grow, and get so much personally. You truly should pray about where God may be leading you to serve.

REVIEW

What are some ways you can listen for and discern God's leading in your life?

Where do you think you might imagine giving back and serving others?

What are your next steps as a believer?

Assignments for next time:

- Continue to drill the names of New Testament books through Revelation.
- Practice talking to God and looking & listening for His response in some of how we discussed.
- Spend time this week reading 1 Corinthians 12, making notes on insights you have.



SPIRITUAL GIFTS TEST

Take a spiritual gifts test to determine how God has gifted and equipped you by going to: discoveryour.gifts

Close in Prayer

Looking Forward to Future Meetings

We have finished the main course of topics and major pillars of foundational discipleship. Congrats! You have put in good work!

At Parkway Bible Church, we practice together asking a set of questions of ourselves regularly, for the sake of determining next steps and how to continue to grow. We call them our Mission Measures, and they point us to various places to invest our time, energy, practice, and presence. In other words, they measure how effectively we are living in a way that advances our common mission that God has called us to, both individually and together as the church.



Are you in the Word?



Are you in the Family?



Are you in the Trenches?



Are you in the Field?

1. Are you in the Word?

- What is God saying to you through His Word?
- Are you spending regular time in God's Word?
 - We have a daily Bible reading plan available in the Parkway app!
- Are you regularly in the practice of prayer with Him?
 - We have a prayer team that meets early each Sunday and others that pray together at the end of our Sunday services, come join them!
- Are you joining together with others regularly for corporate worship?
 - Come worship with us on Sundays at 9:15 or 11:00am
- What are you doing about what God is saying to you through His Word?

2. Are you in the Family?

- How are you prioritizing authentic relationships?
- Are you making space and time for life-changing relationships where you are able to know others and be known?
 - Are you part of a Life Group yet?
- What risks have you taken recently for others' good and your growth?
 - Can we provide helpful support and accountability through our relationship to help you take bold next steps?

Looking Forward to Future Meetings

3. Are you in the Trenches?

- Where are you finding joy in serving others?
 - At Parkway there are many areas of ministry to serve in that might fit your gifts, wiring, and passions.
 - You could be making an eternal impact by taking part in ministry to others!
- How are you using your gifts for God's glory?
 - Have you taken the time to explore how God has gifted you for ministry?

4. Are you in the Field?

- Who are you currently BLESSing?
 - We practice paying intentional attention to those around us that may be far from God.

- We use the acronym BLESS (Begin with prayer, Listen with care, Eat together, Serve them, Share God's story & your story) to take simple, practical steps to practice God's love for others.
- What are your disciples' current celebrations and challenges?
 - We're wrapping up a cycle of discipleship here and now, but we encourage you to continue walking as a disciple (follower) of Jesus alongside others on a similar journey!
 - When you are ready, we would love to equip you to begin discipling others to follow Jesus as well.
 - Part of making disciples is knowing and supporting them as they follow Jesus daily.

Recommended at this point is a "stairstep down" approach to self-feeding and continual growth, instead of abruptly ending now.

Choose a section of Scripture to begin to study together that will last a few more weeks.

The group is expected to read and study this passage between meetings, bringing learnings and insights, then sharing them together. This also gives the disciples the chance to continue to practice Bible study and learn to do it themselves, with continued oversight and guidance.

A suggested passage is Hebrews 11 - it emphasizes the importance of faith and does so in the context of fantastic stories of Biblical heroes that have gone before us.

Here would be some recommended components of future meeting times:

Check-in, Sharing about life, Prayer together, Accountability (if appropriate)

- Give the group a chance to share about celebrations and challenges in their lives, potentially in the format of highs & lows.
- Pray for one another.
- Don't let this time run away and dominate the entire meeting, but feel free to give guidance and even accountability if it's welcome, helping nudge disciples ahead in growth and modeling after Jesus.

Looking Forward to Future Meetings

Scripture Study

- As discussed earlier, take the time to study Scripture together.
- They are still expected to put in preparation time and study it themselves in advance, bringing insights to share from their time with God's Word.
- Focus on helping them continually practice and learn to do this for themselves - don't spoon-feed truths from Scripture; help them discover it for themselves.

Spiritual disciplines check-in

- We covered multiple foundational spiritual disciplines: time in God's Word, prayer, scripture memory, worship, gifts & serving.
- Keep the conversation going as to how they are leaning into these and exploring them further. Don't let it be a past conversation they leave in the dust.

Pointing disciples toward next steps

- You can help connect them to any helpful next steps through the church, or you can get in touch with staff representatives that can help further.
- Our Discipleship 2.0 could be a very good next steps for these individuals - this course of study has laid a strong foundation to prepare them for it.

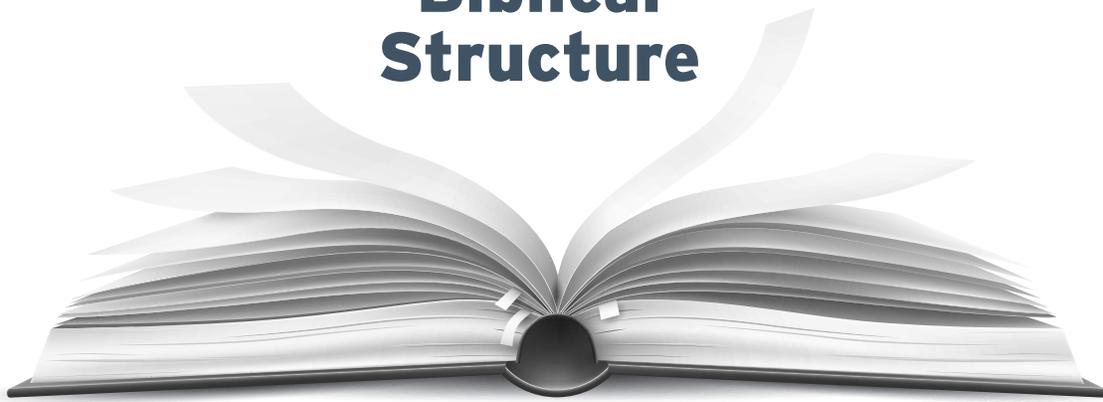
4-Way Breakdown of the Bible

1. Kingdom established (Creation)
2. Kingdom lost (Fall)
3. Kingdom regained (Christ)
4. Kingdom re-established (Revelation)

5-Way Breakdown of the Bible

1. Anticipation (Old Testament)
2. Manifestation (Christ)
3. Proclamation (Gospels, Acts)
4. Explanation (Epistles)
5. Culmination (Revelation)

Biblical Structure



Old Testament

New Testament

Testament = God's promises in writing

66 books total

40 different authors

3 different languages
(Greek, Hebrew, Aramaic)

39 Old Testament Books

17 Historical
(Genesis–Esther)

5 Wisdom Literature
(Job–Song of Solomon)

17 Prophetical
(Isaiah–Malachi)

27 New Testament Books

5 Historical
(Matthew–Acts)

13 Pauline Epistles
(Romans–Philemon)

9 General Epistles
(Hebrews–Revelation)

The 5 Stages of Spiritual Growth

DEFINITIONS, TRAITS & PHRASES

DEAD

TRAITS

They are broken. (aware or unaware)

They are lost and unaware of it.

They are living out their feelings.

PHRASES

THEY MIGHT SAY...

"I believe there are many ways to Heaven."

"I'm a good person."

"I think there may be a higher power."

"I'm too busy for a small group."

SPIRITUALLY DEAD:

People in this stage have not yet accepted Christ as Lord and Savior. They may completely reject God, or they may be seeking God. They may be "spiritual", and they may even claim to know God or be a Christian. In reality, they are their own god.

INFANT

TRAITS

They are the lord of their life.

They are confused about what truth is or they are beginning to learn the truth.

PHRASES

THEY MIGHT SAY...

"Christians are hypocrites."

"I'm a good person, a loving God would never send me to Hell."

"The Church just wants my money."

"I'm too busy for a small group."

SPIRITUAL INFANT:

In this stage, people have accepted Christ, but haven't moved much past that point. They can be new believers, or they might be stagnant, longtime Christians. Life is generally all about them and their needs.

CHILD

TRAITS

They are growing in their relationship with God.

They are building relationships with other believers.

They are developing habits of Bible study and prayer.

They are plugging into relational environments for the purpose of discipleship (small groups)

They are giving of their time and money.

PHRASES

THEY MIGHT SAY...

"I love my church because I feel like I belong."

"My small group is great! They make me feel welcome."

"I'm upset about having to branch our small group. I just started making friends."

SPIRITUAL CHILD:

In this stage, people are growing in their relationship with God, and are also beginning to grow in their relationship with other Christians. They are applying God's Word in their lives and allowing others to walk beside them in their journey following Christ. However, it's still mostly about them - their needs, comfort, etc.

YOUNG ADULT

TRAITS

They are becoming less self-centered and more others-centered.

They are beginning to see themselves as ministers.

They are tithing and giving of their time from a place of thankfulness and love.

They understand the Kingdom purpose of branching their small group.

PHRASES

THEY MIGHT SAY...

"I'm going to visit Bob in the hospital tonight rather than going to the movies."

"I'm serving in the nursery so that parents can attend a service."

"I need to branch my small group, but no one else is ready to lead."

SPIRITUAL YOUNG ADULT:

In this stage, people are making a big shift from being self-centered to more others-centered. They're beginning to understand their role as a giver, rather than a taker. They are ministering to others, putting others first. They are being doers of the Word.

PARENT

TRAITS

They are mature disciples of Jesus, but continually growing and developing in their personal relationship with God and as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

They are skilled at assessing where others are in the discipleship process and getting personally involved to help them grow and develop.

They understand their role as one who needs to intentionally invest in others - making disciples who can make disciples.

They are becoming a coach who develops other players/leaders.

PHRASES

THEY MIGHT SAY...

"I'm taking Steve with me the next time I visit Bob in the hospital to help him learn how to minister to others."

"I have a couple good potential leaders in my home group that I'm going to personally invest in."

"Larry is a fine home group leader, and he has really matured in his faith. I'm going to ask him to pray about becoming a coach."

SPIRITUAL PARENT:

In this stage, the Parent has a solid understanding of God's Word and a deep, abiding relationship with the Father. They are living out God's Word in their lives daily. They are others-centered and God-dependent. They are able to reproduce mature disciples of Christ by inviting others to follow them as they follow Christ.



