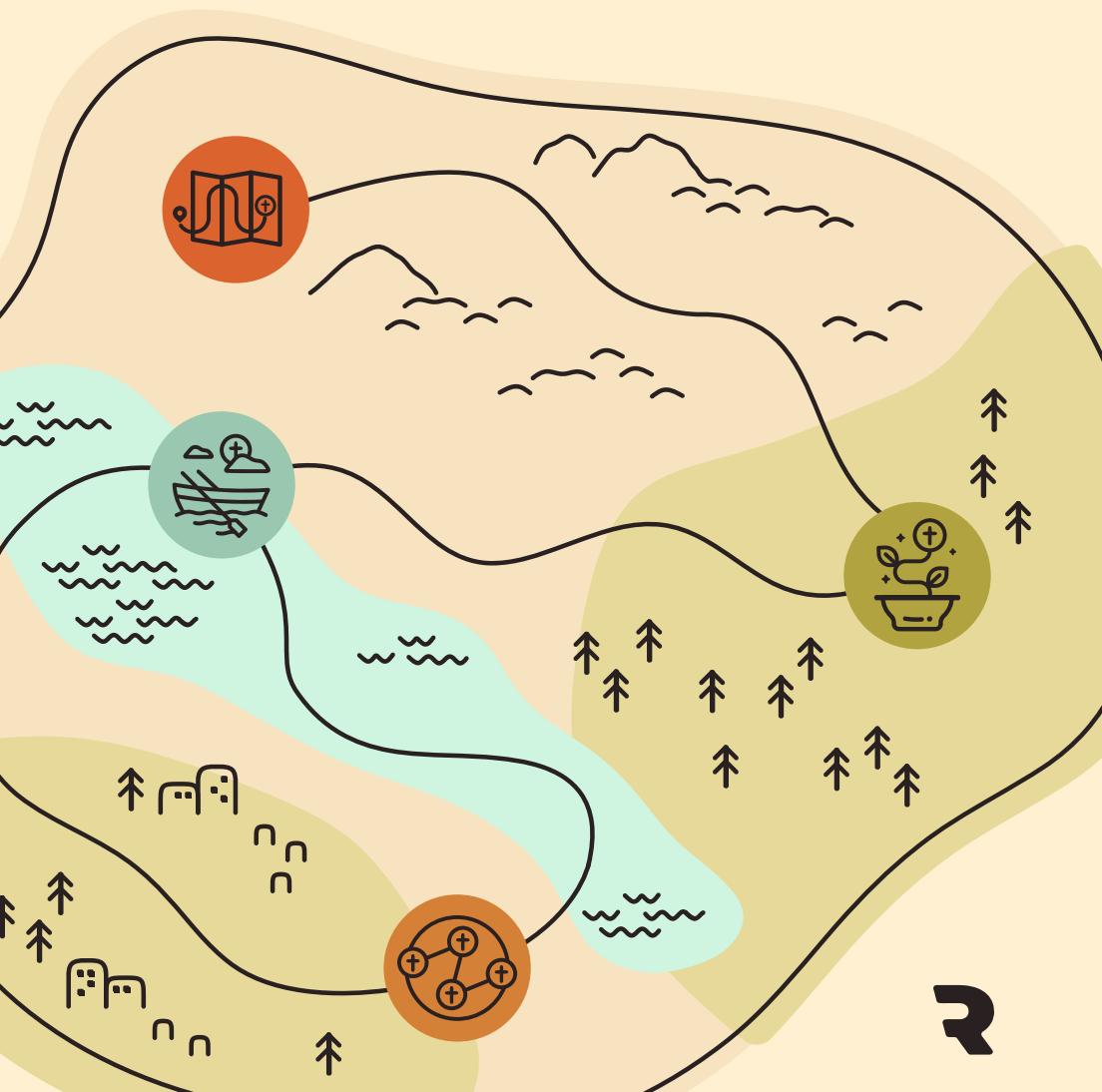




# DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY





# DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY



**DISCOVER** | Exploring faith & beginning the journey.



**DEVELOP** | Growing in faith, friendships, & purpose.



**DEEPEN** | All of life is being shaped by & for Jesus.



**DISCIPLE MAKER** | Multiplying disciples & living on mission.

**THIS GUIDEBOOK BELONGS TO:**



# DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY



## DISCOVER

EXPLORING FAITH &  
BEGINNING THE JOURNEY.



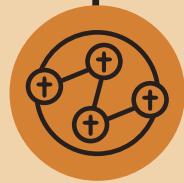
## DEVELOP

GROWING IN FAITH,  
FRIENDSHIPS & PURPOSE.



## DEEPEN

ALL OF LIFE IS BEING  
SHAPED BY & FOR JESUS.



## DISCIPLE MAKER

MULTIPLYING DISCIPLES  
& LIVING ON MISSION.

JESUS

PEOPLE

PURPOSE



MEET  
JESUS

EXPLORE  
WITH  
PEOPLE

EXPLORE  
GOD'S  
PURPOSE

SAVED &  
BAPTIZED

FOLLOW  
JESUS

FIND  
YOUR  
PEOPLE

DEVELOP  
YOUR  
PURPOSE

BE SHAPED  
BY JESUS

DO LIFE  
WITH  
PEOPLE

LIVE  
YOUR  
PURPOSE



JOIN  
JESUS

INVEST IN  
PEOPLE

MULTIPLY  
YOUR  
PURPOSE

▼



# THE MOST IMPORTANT JOURNEY YOU WILL EVER TAKE IS THE JOURNEY OF FOLLOWING JESUS.

When Jesus walked the earth, He wasn't looking to convert people to a religion—**He was calling people to discipleship**. Follow Him. Walk in His ways. Become like Him. That same call is still echoing today. It's the heartbeat of the Christian life: believing in Jesus, becoming like Him, and joining Him on His kingdom mission.

At Rise, we believe that discipleship to Jesus is an offer to everyone. No matter your background, your doubts, or your past, Jesus is inviting you to take your next step. Our greatest desire is that every person who walks through our doors would be able to say, “I know where I am in my discipleship to Jesus, and I know what my next step is.”

As Dallas Willard said, “**DISCIPLESHIP IS THE PROCESS OF BECOMING WHO JESUS WOULD BE IF HE WERE YOU.**”

That's what this pathway is all about. We're not after perfection—we're after progress. We're not trying to squeeze everyone into the same mold—we're trying to help each person become the Christlike version of themselves that God intended.

That's why we've created this Discipleship Pathway: to give language, direction, and encouragement to your growth. We've identified four key stages that many people experience in their walk with Jesus.

## DISCOVER. DEVELOP. DEEPEN. DISCIPLE-MAKER.

So as we journey together, we'll walk through these stages of discipleship—each one designed to help you grow in your relationship with Jesus and step into the call He has for your life.

This pathway is not a checklist.

It's an **invitation**. A **call**. A **vision** for your life.

To follow **Jesus** with everything you are.

To grow in **community**.

To live for the **Kingdom**.

And to become, day-by-day, more like Him.

**God made you for something eternally significant. You were made to be known and loved deeply by Him. You were made to reflect and radiate His goodness and glory. You were made to join Him on His Kingdom mission.**



# HOW TO USE THIS GUIDEBOOK

This isn't a novel to read once and shelve, nor a self-help book to skim for tips. **This is a guidebook for the journey of following Jesus.** It's something to return to often as you take stock of where you are, get clarity about your next step, and take action.

Biblical wisdom isn't just knowledge acquired, it's **knowledge applied**. This guidebook is intended to guide you in whole-life transformation, more and more into the likeness of Jesus.

## THE BEST WAY TO ENGAGE:

### 1. ORIENT YOURSELF

This pathway is built around four **Stages of Discipleship**, three **Dimensions of Life**, and a series of **Pivotal Steps** for each.

**STAGES:** Think of the Stages of Discipleship as **the chapters of our story**—helping you recognize your current place in your journey with each one building on the last as our story progresses. Notice the colors of each stage help you orient yourself throughout the guidebook.



**DIMENSIONS:** Think of the dimensions as **the landscapes of our journey**—the environments where discipleship takes shape. No matter the stage, growth always happens across three inseparable dimensions:

**JESUS** | Your relationship with Him is the center and the goal.

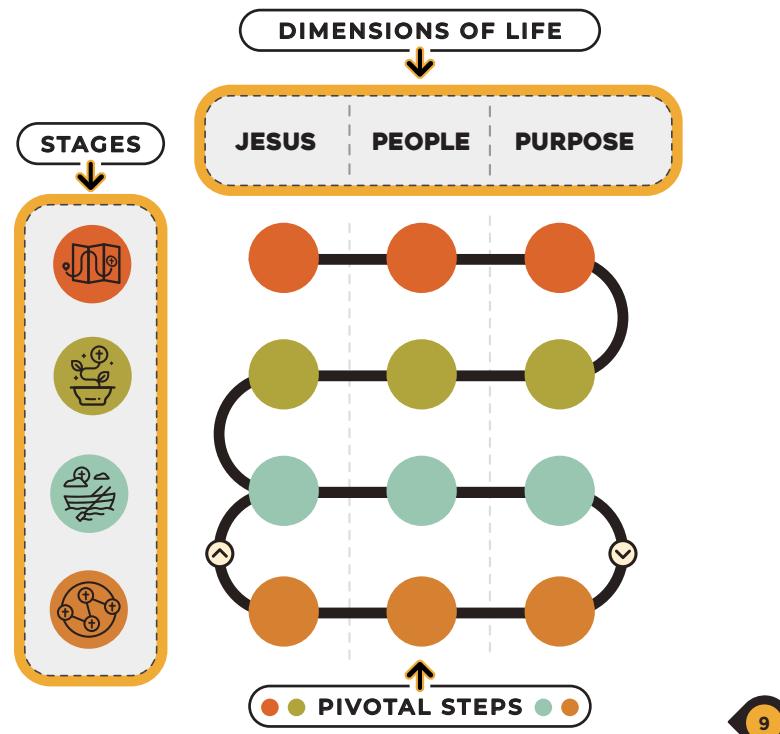
**PEOPLE** | You are formed both in and for community.

**PURPOSE** | God has called you to live for something greater.

You never move beyond these dimensions—you only grow deeper in them. Every stage of discipleship will draw you closer to Jesus, deeper into relationship with people, and further into your God-given purpose. You'll learn more about how we progress through these dimensions of discipleship on pages 13–19

**PIVOTAL STEPS:** In each stage of discipleship, you'll encounter Pivotal Steps that propel your growth forward. These Pivotal Steps are like **the quests of your journey**—your crucial actions that drive your story forward and keep you moving in your discipleship to Jesus.

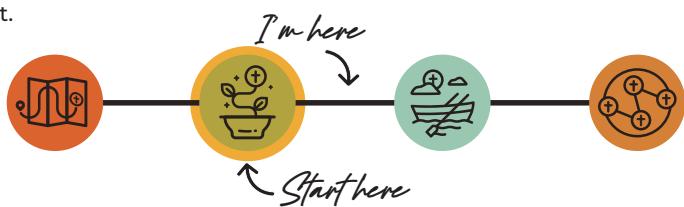
Each step is anchored in Jesus, People, or Purpose for the Stage of Discipleship you're in. For example: during Discover, your pivotal step for the Jesus area of your life is to **Meet Jesus in the Bible**.



## 2. LOCATE WHERE YOU ARE

Once you've oriented yourself to the pathway, the next step is to **identify which stage best reflects your current journey**. Start by reading through the stages of discipleship (page 21), paying attention to the "You might be in this stage if..." statements. Highlight the ones that resonate most with your life right now. You can also use the self-assessment tool on page 26 we've provided to gain further clarity.

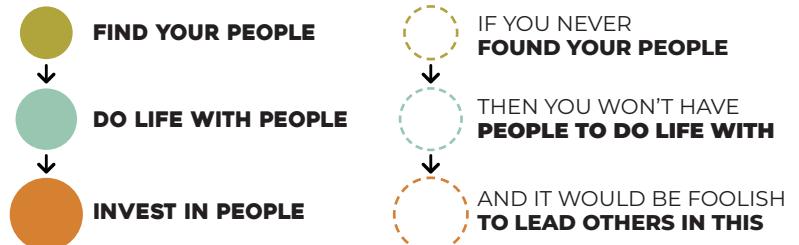
If you feel torn between stages, begin with the earlier one. One stage isn't better than another—they're simply chapters in your discipleship story. And just like skipping a chapter in a book leaves gaps in the plot, rushing ahead may cause you to miss key growth God intends for you in this moment.



## 3. REVIEW YOUR PIVOTAL STEPS MAP

With **Pivotal steps** being the actions that drive your story forward and keep you moving in your discipleship to Jesus—it's important to identify where you've been and where you're headed. The **Pivotal Steps Map** (page 30) can be used to mark which ones you've completed. If you notice you've skipped an earlier step, don't rush ahead—go back and strengthen the foundation first. For example: It's difficult to do life with people if you've never actually found your people.

Discipleship is like construction: **when a foundational block is missing, the whole structure is limited**. By returning to complete what's behind you, you create stability and progress for everything God's building in your life.



## 4. TAKE YOUR NEXT FAITHFUL STEP

Once you've identified where you are and reviewed what's behind you, **turn to the section of this guidebook that corresponds with your stage**. Read through the overview and the Pivotal Step for that stage. Then ask yourself: Which step feels most compelling right now? Where is the Spirit prompting me? Start there.

Taking a step doesn't mean instant change. Some steps take time to bear fruit. Joining a group may take months to grow into deep relationships. Building a daily rhythm of devotion may feel hard before it becomes natural. That's okay. Growth is slow by design—the Spirit uses both struggle and consistency to shape us. **Our role is faithfulness; God's role is fruitfulness**.





# JESUS. PEOPLE. PURPOSE.



## KEY DIMENSIONS OF LIFE

Along this path, there are three key dimensions where God continually shapes us: **Jesus**, **People**, and **Purpose**. These are dimensions of life in God's Kingdom that you grow deeper into over time. Whether you're just beginning to explore faith or actively leading others, these three categories remain central and inseparable. You never move beyond them—you just move further in.

The heart of discipleship is following **Jesus**. Everything starts and ends with Him. We begin by meeting Jesus, then we follow Him, are shaped by Him, and ultimately join Him in His mission. He is both the destination and the way. As we grow, our relationship with Jesus deepens—from curiosity to commitment to communion. He transforms our identity, renews our minds, and leads us into life that is truly life.

But discipleship was never meant to be a solo journey. We are formed in community, which is why **People** matter so much. We need others to encourage, challenge, and walk with us as we grow. We learn to explore life with people, find our spiritual family, and invest in others just as Jesus invested in us.

And through it all, we discover and develop our **Purpose**—God's unique calling for each of us to live for something greater. As we grow, we move from exploring our purpose to living it out and multiplying it in the lives of others. These three categories—Jesus, People, Purpose—form a complete picture of what it means to be a disciple: someone who knows Jesus, loves people, and lives on mission.

# JESUS.

## DISCIPLESHIP BEGINS AND ENDS WITH JESUS.

Everything about following Jesus flows from your relationship with Him. He is not just the starting point—**He's the whole path.** In every phase of your discipleship journey, Jesus is inviting you to know Him more intimately, trust Him more deeply, and reflect Him more clearly. The goal is not to mature beyond your need for Jesus—but rather allow Him to transform every area of your life.



### DISCOVER MEET JESUS

In the Discover stage, you're awaking to the possibility that Jesus is real, present, and personal. You may not know everything about Him yet, but something in your heart is stirring. Jesus' invitation in this phase is simple but profound: "Come and see." You're exploring who He is, what He taught, and what it might mean to trust Him. The goal isn't certainty—it's encounter. Meeting Jesus is the doorway into new life.



### DEVELOP FOLLOW JESUS

Once you've encountered Jesus, the next step is to follow Him. Faith becomes personal as you begin to build habits like prayer and reading Scripture. You're starting to notice how God's wisdom contrasts with the world's—and you're learning to trust His voice among all the noise. Doubts still come, but you're learning to bring them to Jesus instead of hiding from them. Jesus says, "Come, follow me," and that's exactly what you're learning to do, one day at a time.



### DEEPEN BE SHAPED BY JESUS

As you follow, Jesus begins to reshape your character, values, and identity. You find yourself longing to be closer to Him, trusting Him more deeply. What once seemed essential—status, comfort, control—begins to lose its grip. This is the long, beautiful process of transformation. You start to look more like Him—in how you love, forgive, serve, and live. It's not always easy. It requires surrender, pruning, and persistence. But this is where maturity grows. In this phase, Jesus moves from being your Rabbi to becoming the Lord of every area of your life.



### DISCIPLE-MAKER JOIN JESUS ON HIS KINGDOM MISSION

Eventually, you realize Jesus hasn't just saved you—He's sending you. The same invitation He gave His disciples is now yours: "As the Father sent me, so I am sending you."—John 20:21. You begin to live your life with deeper kingdom purpose—not in your own power, but in partnership with Jesus. Your relationship with Him is the foundation for everything—you depend on His presence, trust His voice, and follow where He leads. You use your gifts, your story, your time, and your presence to help others meet and follow Him too. You're not just following Jesus anymore—you're joining Him in His redemptive work in the world.



# PEOPLE.

## DISCIPLESHIP HAPPENS IN RELATIONSHIPS. ALWAYS.

God never intended for you to follow Jesus alone. From the beginning, He placed people in families, in communities, and ultimately in the Church—a spiritual family shaped by love, truth, and grace. Discipleship is not just vertical (between you and God); it's horizontal (between you and others). You grow when you walk with others, serve others, confess to others, and are sharpened by others. In every season of the discipleship journey, people are not optional—they're essential.



### DISCOVER EXPLORE FAITH WITH PEOPLE

When you're just beginning to explore faith, one of the most powerful things God uses is the presence of people who reflect His love. Maybe it's a friend who invited you to church, a mentor who's willing to answer your questions, or a small group that welcomed you. In this stage, you're not walking alone—you're learning to explore spiritual life with others. You see glimpses of Jesus in community, and it gives you courage to keep going.



### DEVELOP FIND YOUR PEOPLE

As you begin to follow Jesus, you realize you need others around you who are pursuing the same path. Faith isn't just personal—it's communal. In this phase, you begin to form spiritual friendships and discover that God has placed you in a family. These relationships don't just help you grow—they remind you that you belong.



### DEEPEN DO LIFE WITH PEOPLE

Spiritual depth requires relational depth. As you mature, you begin to do more than attend—you invest. You walk closely with others through life's ups and downs. You confess sin, share burdens, speak truth, and extend grace. You become deeply known—and still loved. In this phase, your relationships are no longer just friendly; they're formational. You sharpen one another and walk with others as they deepen their faith too.



### DISCIPLE-MAKER INVEST IN PEOPLE

Eventually, you become the one others look to. You're no longer just being discipled—you're actively discipling others. You mentor, coach, encourage, and walk with others through their spiritual growth. You use your story and your presence to invest in people the way Jesus invested in you. In this stage, you understand that the best thing you can give people is not your advice, your resources, or your opinion—it's your life. And through you, others begin to grow.



# PURPOSE.

## YOU WERE CREATED ON PURPOSE, FOR A PURPOSE.

God didn't just save you **from** something—He saved you **for** something. **Every disciple has been uniquely gifted, called, and positioned to play a role in God's redemptive story.** Understanding your purpose isn't about a specific job title or chasing a dream—it's about joining God in what He's already doing in the world. And that happens as we learn to faithfully steward all that He's entrusted to us – our time, our talents, and our treasure—for His kingdom. Whether you're new to faith or a seasoned disciple, purpose is something you grow into.



### DISCOVER EXPLORE GOD'S PURPOSE

At first, purpose feels like a question. Why am I here? Does my life matter? What is God doing in the world, and could I somehow be a part of it? In this stage, you're awakening to the idea that God has a greater story, and you're beginning to explore what your role in it might be. You don't have all the answers, but the spark is there. You sense that your life has meaning beyond just survival or success.



### DEVELOP DEVELOP YOUR PURPOSE

As you follow Jesus, He starts to clarify your calling. You begin to see how your gifts, passions, and story aren't random—they're intentional. You start serving, giving, showing up, and experimenting with how you can make a difference. This is a season of discovery and development—and the key is taking faithful steps. You may not have the full picture yet, but you're learning to steward what God has placed in your hands. You begin to realize: you are the plan.



### DEEPEN LIVE YOUR PURPOSE

In this stage, living with kingdom purpose becomes a lifestyle. Kingdom purpose is more than what you do—it's how you live. You've discovered the intersection of your gifts and God's mission, and now you offer them back to Him with clarity and conviction. **Stewardship means recognizing that your time, talents, and treasure are entrusted to you by Jesus, and you're responsible to use them for His glory.** Whether you're a teacher, parent, barista, business leader, or student—you carry kingdom purpose into every space you enter, bringing heaven to earth in ordinary places.



### DISCIPLE-MAKER MULTIPLY YOUR PURPOSE

Now, it's not just about your purpose—it's about helping others discover and walk in theirs. You're pouring into others, equipping them, raising up leaders, and modeling a life of surrendered stewardship. You're not building your own kingdom—you're investing in God's. You've learned your true purpose isn't about climbing higher—it's about lifting others. In this stage, your impact multiplies as you help others discover, develop, and live out their God-given calling.



“THE GREATEST ISSUE FACING THE WORLD TODAY, WITH ALL ITS HEARTBREAKING NEEDS, IS WHETHER THOSE WHO, BY PROFESSION OR CULTURE, ARE IDENTIFIED AS ‘CHRISTIANS’ WILL BECOME DISCIPLES - STUDENTS, APPRENTICES, PRACTITIONERS - OF JESUS CHRIST, STEADILY LEARNING FROM HIM HOW TO LIVE THE LIFE OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN INTO EVERY CORNER OF HUMAN EXISTENCE.”

*Dallas Willard*



## THE FOUR STAGES OF DISCIPLESHIP.





# DISCOVER

## YOU MIGHT BE IN THE DISCOVER STAGE IF...

- + You feel a longing for **purpose, peace, or something beyond** what this world offers.
- + You're wondering if **real friendships, deep meaning, and lasting change** are actually possible.
- + You're **asking questions** about God, faith, or the Bible.
- + You **sense there's a higher power at work**, but you're not convinced it's the God of the Bible.
- + You've started **coming to church, reading the Bible, or talking about spiritual things** for the first time in a while (or ever).

## YOU'RE EXPLORING. YOU'RE CURIOUS. YOU'VE GOT QUESTIONS.

Discover is where the journey of following Jesus begins. You may be exploring faith for the first time, returning after a long time away, or simply curious about who Jesus is. This stage is about encountering the truth, grace, and love of Jesus and taking your first steps toward Him.

But it's also about discovering the kind of community your soul longs for and realizing your life was made for something greater. Jesus is inviting you to come and see: who He is, how His people live, and what your life could become in His Kingdom.



# DEVELOP

## YOU MIGHT BE IN THE DEVELOP STAGE IF...

- + You've **recently committed or recommitted** your life to Christ.
- + You believe in Jesus, but you're **still learning to trust Him**—and doubts sometimes creep in.
- + You feel pulled between your **old patterns** and the **new life** Jesus is calling you to.
- + You **want to grow in your faith** but don't always know how.
- + You're **beginning** to read the Bible and pray, and looking to find **community and purpose**.

## YOU SAID YES TO JESUS. NOW YOU'RE LEARNING TO FOLLOW HIM.

Maybe it was a quiet decision in your heart or a public declaration through baptism. Either way, you've crossed the line of faith. Now you're learning what that means—how to grow spiritually, how to develop meaningful relationships, and how to align your life with God's greater calling.

This stage is both exciting and unfamiliar. You're discovering how the gospel reshapes your identity, how real community helps you grow, and how God's purpose gives meaning to your everyday life. It's not always easy—there are questions, struggles, and setbacks. But there's also joy, new rhythms, and the unshakable love of God anchoring you.



# DEEPEN

## YOU MIGHT BE IN THE DEEPEN STAGE IF...

- + You're **inviting Jesus** into hidden or **resistant areas** of your life—and choosing to obey, even when it's hard.
- + You're **reading scripture** and **praying** consistently and purposefully.
- + You're growing in **character, humility**, and **Christlikeness**.
- + You **trust God more deeply** and **sense His presence** with you, even in hard things.
- + You're not just finding your place in community—**you have people who are deeply shaping** your life and character.

## YOU'RE SURRENDERING MORE OF YOUR LIFE TO JESUS AND BECOMING MORE LIKE HIM.

Faith has moved from belief to transformation. You're no longer just trying to add Jesus to your life—you're giving Him your life. You're surrendering your time, habits, relationships, resources, and purpose to Him. You're becoming a person of depth, conviction, and integrity.

You're embracing rhythms of prayer, Scripture, community, rest, generosity, and service—not out of obligation, but because you know they shape your soul. You're no longer content with surface faith. You want to grow roots, bear fruit, and help others do the same—for the good of God's people and the sake of the world.



# DISCIPLE-MAKER

## YOU MIGHT BE IN THE DISCIPLE-MAKER STAGE IF...

- + You view your life—your work, your home, your city—as a **mission field**.
- + You're **mentoring, discipling, or spiritually guiding others** in faith.
- + You're **leading** or **serving** with a sense of calling and purpose.
- + You're using your gifts to **build others up** in their faith.
- + You lead with **love, listen well, and create space** for others to grow.

## YOU'RE LIVING ON MISSION—INVESTING IN OTHERS, MULTIPLYING YOUR FAITH, AND WALKING IN PURPOSE.

You never outgrow Deepen. But as a Disciple-Maker, your growth expands outward. You've been shaped by grace, formed in community, and awakened to your calling. Now you're pouring out what God has poured into you.

You lead a group or mentor others. You serve with consistency and help people discover who Jesus is and what He's calling them into. Your life reflects His priorities: building His church, loving His people, and advancing His Kingdom. And while you're still growing, still learning, and still being shaped, your posture has shifted—from being built up, to building others up. Because discipleship doesn't stop. It multiplies.

# SELF-ASSESSMENT

## WHERE AM I ON MY DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY?

Having read through the previous descriptions, you might be able to identify right away where you are in your journey. If so, great! Skip ahead to the Pivotal Steps Map on page 30.

If you still don't know, go ahead and answer the questions on the following pages.

**This isn't a test of spiritual achievement—the purpose is clarity.** Every response reflects part of a healthy, growing life of faith. Be honest—not about who you want to be, but where you really are right now. Fill in all circles that feel true.

### 01. WHAT BEST DESCRIBES YOUR CURRENT RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS?

- O I'm curious about Jesus and exploring who He is.
- O I've **decided** to follow Jesus & am learning what it looks like to follow Him.
- O I trust Jesus and am **actively surrendering** areas of my life to Him.
- O I'm **helping others** follow Jesus while continuing to grow myself.

### 02. HOW DO YOU ENGAGE WITH SCRIPTURE?

- O I'm **not sure where to start** or how to make sense of the Bible.
- O I'm **learning to read** the Bible and apply it to my life.
- O I **regularly engage Scripture** and let it shape my decisions and beliefs.
- O I **help others learn how to study** and live out the truth of God's Word.

### 03. HOW DO YOU CONNECT WITH GOD THROUGH PRAYER?

- O I'm **exploring what it means to talk to God** and whether He's listening.
- O I'm building a **rhythm of prayer** and learning to be more honest with God.
- O Prayer is an **ongoing conversation** with God that sustains my life and faith.
- O I **pray for and with others**, and help them grow in prayer too.

### 04. WHAT ROLE DOES CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY PLAY IN YOUR LIFE?

- O I'm attending but **not deeply connected** yet.
- O I've joined a group or team and am **beginning to feel more connected**.
- O I have **trusted relationships** that challenge and support my growth.
- O I **invest in others** and help create spaces for growth and connection

### 05. HOW ARE YOU BEING SHAPED BY SPIRITUAL PRACTICES?

- O I **don't really have any consistent** spiritual practices yet.
- O I'm **trying to build habits** like Bible reading, prayer, and worship.
- O I **regularly practice spiritual practices** and they are forming me.
- O I **model and guide others** in forming spiritual rhythms of their own.

### 06. HOW DO YOU EXPERIENCE GOD IN HARD OR UNCERTAIN SEASONS?

- O I'm **wrestling** with where God is in the struggle.
- O I'm **learning to trust God** even when life feels messy or confusing.
- O I **turn to God** for peace and strength in the middle of difficulty
- O I **help others navigate suffering** and point them to God's hope.

### 07. HOW ARE YOU DISCOVERING & LIVING OUT YOUR PURPOSE?

- O I'm **curious about** what God's purpose is for my life.
- O I'm **beginning to see** how my gifts and story can make a difference.
- O I'm **aligning** my time, talent, & treasure with God's purpose.
- O I **equip** and **encourage** others to step into their purpose in Christ.

### 08. WHAT DOES SHARING YOUR FAITH OR STORY LOOK LIKE?

- O I **don't feel ready** or equipped to talk about my faith.
- O I've **started sharing** in small, simple ways.
- O I look for natural opportunities to **let my faith show up** in conversation.
- O I **intentionally invest** in others and help them know and follow Jesus.

#### 09. HOW DO YOU VIEW YOUR ROLE AS PART OF THE CHURCH?

- I'm mostly **observing or attending**.
- I'm beginning to **serve or join a team**.
- I **serve regularly** and look for ways to build others up.
- I **lead, equip, or raise up** others to serve and lead.

#### 10. WHERE ARE YOU AT IN GIVING FINANCIALLY TO GOD?

- I am **not yet ready to give** and unsure of what God asks of me.
- I'm beginning to **give** and learning to trust God with my resources.
- I **give consistently** and look for ways to bless others beyond myself.
- I **tithe consistently** and want to help others grow in their stewardship.

Starting to see a pattern? Take a look at where you checked the most bubbles—that's likely where you are in your discipleship journey. This isn't about comparison or performance. It's not a test to pass or a stage to rush through. **This is for you.** To give you clarity. To help you see where God has you right now—and invite you to **take your next faithful step**.

PHASE OF DISCIPLESHP I'M IN RIGHT NOW:

DATE:



**DISCOVER** | Exploring faith & beginning the journey.



**DEVELOP** | Growing in faith, friendships, & purpose.



**DEEPEN** | All of life is being shaped by & for Jesus.



**DISCIPLE MAKER** | Multiplying disciples & living on mission.

**"DISCIPLESHP IS NOT ABOUT  
PERFECTION OR PERFORMANCE.  
WHAT MAKES AUTHENTIC DISCIPLES  
IS NOT BIBLICAL MASTERY OR  
SPECTACULAR SUCCESS IN MINISTRY,  
BUT A CAPACITY FOR FAITHFULNESS.  
FAITHFULNESS MEANS WE KEEP  
SHOWING UP, EVEN WHEN WE FEEL  
WEAK, EVEN WHEN WE FALL. THE  
ORIGINAL DISCIPLES WERE NOT  
PERFECT PEOPLE. BUT THEY KEPT  
COMING BACK TO JESUS. AND THAT IS  
WHAT MAKES A DISCIPLE."**

*Brennan Manning*

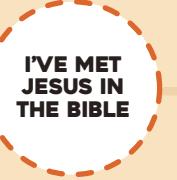


# YOUR PATHWAY

Use this tool to prayerfully reflect on where you've been, celebrate what God has done, and discern what step He might be inviting you to take next. Place a sticker or fill in the steps you've already taken.



PG 34-71



I'VE MET JESUS IN THE BIBLE

I've read the Gospels & portions of scripture.

PG 38-53



I'VE EXPLORED FAITH WITH OTHER PEOPLE

Could be Alpha, Youth Group, or even family.

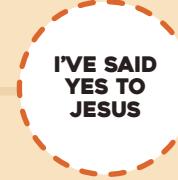
PG 54-57



I COME TO CHURCH REGULARLY

I've developed this rhythm in my life.

PG 58-63



I'VE SAID YES TO JESUS

I've accepted Jesus as Lord of my life.

PG 64-67



I'VE GOTTEN BAPTIZED

I've declared my faith publicly through baptism.

PG 68-69



PG 72-109



I SPEND TIME WITH JESUS DAILY

I spend time daily in devotions with Jesus.

PG 76-87



I'VE FOUND MY PEOPLE

I'm in a City Group or something like it.

PG 88-93



I'VE JOINED THE TEAM BY SERVING

I regularly serve on a team at Rise.

PG 94-99



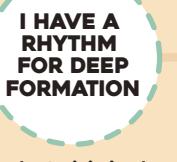
I'VE BEGUN TO GIVE TO MY CHURCH

I'm consistently giving to God's work.

PG 100-108



PG 112-177



I HAVE A RHYTHM FOR DEEP FORMATION

The Holy Spirit is deeply shaping my life.

PG 116-141



I HAVE A GROUP I DO LIFE WITH

I have people who know me and shape my faith.

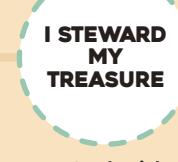
PG 142-151



I STEWARD MY TIME & TALENT

I'm investing my time and talent for The Kingdom.

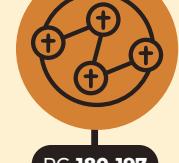
PG 152-165



I STEWARD MY TREASURE

I trust God with my finances by tithing.

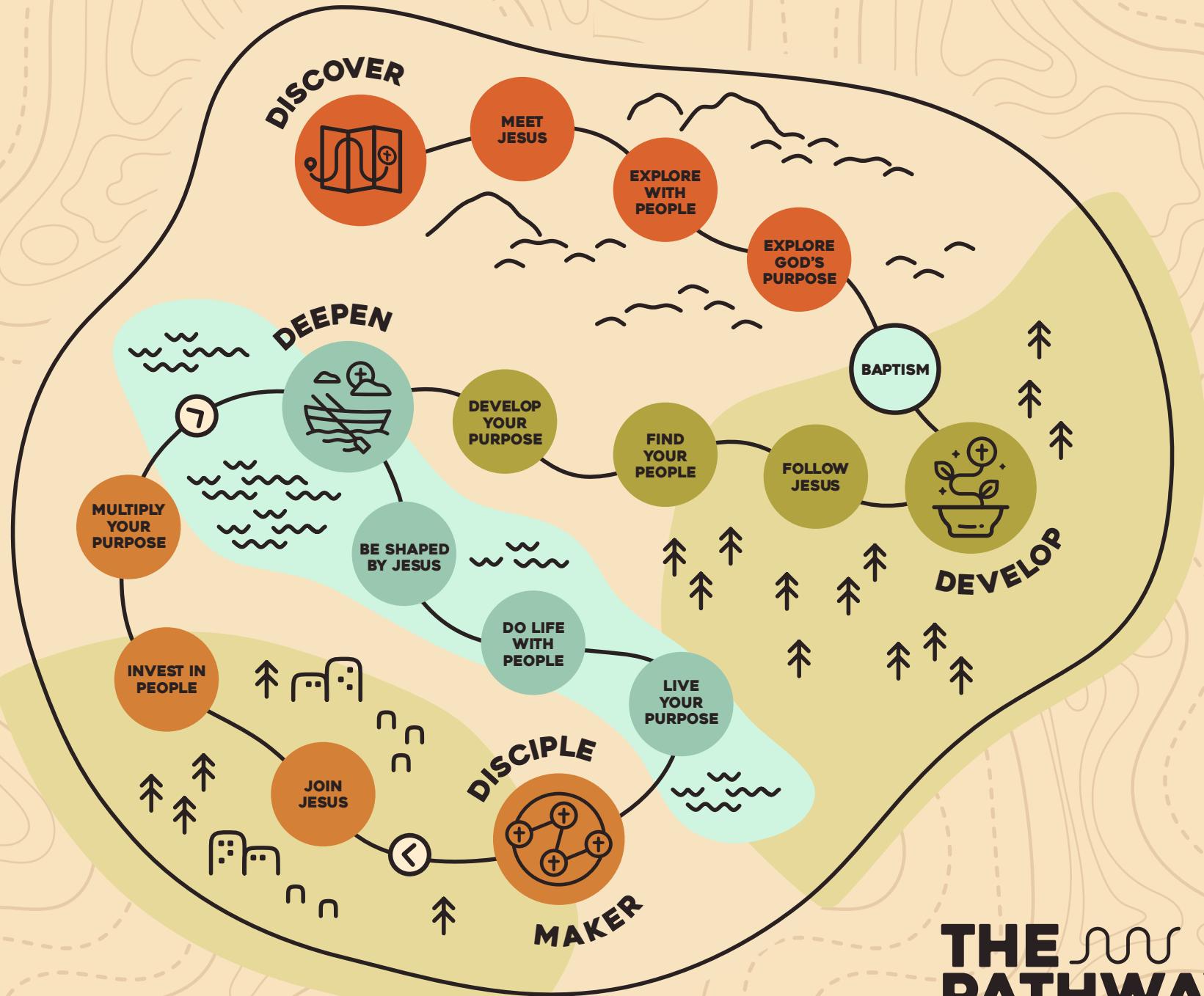
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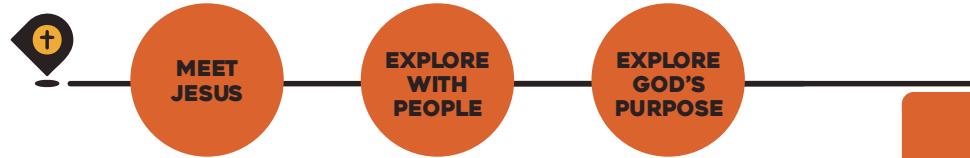
I AM MULTIPLYING THE KINGDOM BY MAKING DISCIPLES

My life is built around raising up others and investing in the Kingdom.





# DISCOVER



## EXPLORING FAITH & BEGINNING THE JOURNEY.

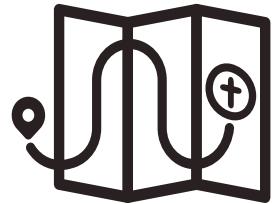
The Discover stage is where spiritual curiosity awakens. Something is stirring inside you—a desire to understand who Jesus is, what Jesus taught, and what it means to have faith. This is a season of investigation, questions, and awakening.

Spiritually, you may be moving from indifference toward openness. You're curious about the Bible, have started to attend church, or talk with others about faith. You're becoming more aware of your need for something more—something beyond yourself.

**The goal of this stage is encounter.** It's about seeing Jesus clearly, understanding the truth of the gospel, and recognizing your need for a Savior. This stage creates space to explore before committing, while God draws your heart through the invitation: "Come and see."

Faith doesn't begin with certainty—it begins with a willingness to seek. Jesus welcomes questions, doubts, and honest searching. The Discover stage gives you space to **investigate the claims of Christ, experience the warmth of Christian community, and begin to explore deeper purpose in your life.**

This stage lays the groundwork for everything that comes next. You can't follow someone you don't first encounter—and **discovering Jesus is the invitation into life that's truly life.**



# YOUR DISCOVER JOURNEY



## MEET JESUS IN THE BIBLE

Open the Word to hear His voice, see His life, & discover His heart.



## EXPLORE FAITH THROUGH ALPHA

Walk with others asking questions and discovering who Jesus is.



## COME TO CHURCH REGULARLY

Gather with God's people to grow in faith and purpose.



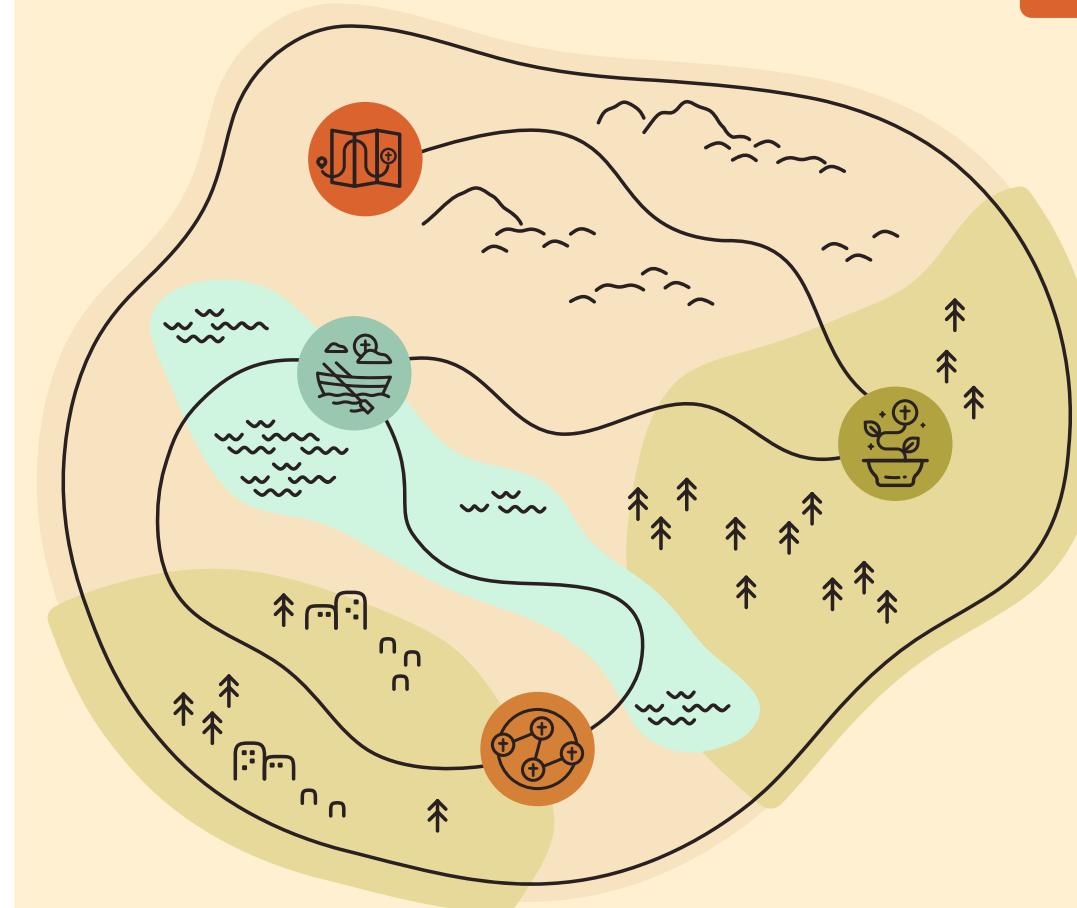
## SAY YES TO JESUS

The heart of discovery is surrendering to Him as Savior and Lord.



## GET BAPTIZED

Declare your faith publicly and step deeper into life with Jesus.





# MEET JESUS

The center of Christianity isn't a set of rules, rituals, or even beliefs—it's a person: Jesus Christ. He is the one who brings clarity to our confusion, purpose to our wandering, and hope to our brokenness. Your first step isn't to behave better or believe harder—it's to **meet Jesus as He really is**. And when you do, you'll see that He's more gracious, powerful, and life-giving than you ever imagined.

Your journey begins with an invitation to encounter Jesus through the written Word of God. To open the Scriptures, read His words, and examine His life. To see how He loved the outcast, welcomed the skeptic, confronted injustice, revealed the Kingdom, and laid down His life to rescue ours.

Meeting Jesus doesn't just add something to your life.  
**IT REDEFINES IT.**

**"IN THE BIBLE GOD TELLS US ABOUT HIMSELF, AND ESPECIALLY ABOUT JESUS CHRIST, THE INCARNATION OF GOD. THE BIBLE UNFOLDS THE LAW OF GOD TO US AND SHOWS US HOW WE'VE ALL BROKEN IT.**

**THERE WE LEARN HOW CHRIST DIED AS A SINLESS, WILLING SUBSTITUTE FOR BREAKERS OF GOD'S LAW AND HOW WE MUST REPENT AND BELIEVE IN HIM TO BE RIGHT WITH GOD.**

**IN THE BIBLE WE LEARN THE WAYS AND WILL OF THE LORD. WE FIND IN SCRIPTURE HOW GOD WANTS US TO LIVE, AND WHAT BRINGS THE MOST JOY AND SATISFACTION IN LIFE. NONE OF THIS ETERNALLY ESSENTIAL INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ANYWHERE ELSE EXCEPT THE BIBLE.**

**THEREFORE IF WE WOULD KNOW GOD AND BE GODLY, WE MUST KNOW THE WORD OF GOD—INTIMATELY."**

*Donald S. Whitney*

## PIVOTAL STEP #1

# MEET JESUS IN THE BIBLE

The Bible is not just a book—it's **God's chosen way of revealing Himself** to the world. Through it, He speaks. Through it, He invites us to know His heart, understand His plan, and see the beauty of His Son, Jesus. That's why the critical step in this phase is simple but powerful: **start reading the Bible—maybe for the first time.**

### MEET JESUS. UNDERSTAND THE GOSPEL. BEGIN THE JOURNEY.

We've chosen **two books from the New Testament aimed at helping you discover who Jesus is**, what He's all about, and what it means to follow Him. We'll begin with **the Gospel of John**, a front-row seat to Jesus' life, love, and mission. Then we'll turn to **Colossians**, a short letter that reveals the **power, identity, and fullness of Jesus**—and how life changes when He becomes the center.

We've also provided a **guide that focuses on how Scripture speaks to the real-life needs we all face**—things like anxiety, loneliness, anger, purpose, and doubt. We've grouped selected passages topically so you can discover how God's Word meets you right where you are. Wherever life finds you, Jesus wants to meet you there.

These Scriptures are more than good advice—they point you back to the One who is your true hope, strength, and provider. Keep coming back to Him in these verses, at your own pace, in every season. As you do, you'll find that He is faithful to guide, encourage, and grow you.

As you read, start taking notes of what you're learning and what stands out to you in a journal or on the note pages provided on pages 50-53.

## WHAT TRANSLATION SHOULD I USE?

**GRAB AN NIV OR NLT BIBLE TRANSLATION.** If you're reading the Bible for the first time, we recommend starting with either the NIV (New International Version) or the NLT (New Living Translation). Both use clear, modern language—making them accessible to understand without losing meaning. Either one will help you focus on what matters most: meeting Jesus through His Word.

## HOW DO I FIND A REFERENCE IN MY BIBLE?

Every Bible has a Table of Contents near the beginning. Look up the book name, turn to that page, then find the chapter and verse. Bible references are like GPS coordinates—they help you find exactly where a passage is located. The Bible isn't one long book; it's a library of 66 books written by multiple authors over centuries. So, to make it easier to navigate, each book is divided into chapters and verses. A reference like **John 3:16** breaks down like this:

**BOOK** – The name of the book (e.g., John)

**CHAPTER** – The big number (e.g., 3)

**VERSE** – The small number within the chapter (e.g., 16)

You'll find that this system makes it easy to locate any verse, study specific topics, and follow along in sermons or devotionals.

## I WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BIBLE

The Bible Project has made a series of videos explaining what the Bible is and how to read it. If you're a visual learner, it might be helpful for you to spend some time watching videos from that series. **Scan the QR Code to go to the link of videos.**



# THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

## JESUS IS GOD'S SON & HE CAME TO GIVE YOU LIFE

If you want to get to know Jesus, this is the place to start. John helps us see who Jesus truly is: God in the flesh, full of love, grace, and truth. His gospel is written so “**that you may believe and have life in His name**” (John 20:31). As you read, watch how Jesus treats people. Notice how He reveals the heart of God. And pay attention to how He invites ordinary people—people like you and me—to believe and follow Him.



### READ

- John 1 Jesus is the Word who became flesh
- John 2 Jesus brings joy and new beginnings
- John 3 Jesus came to give eternal life
- John 4 Jesus meets us in our thirst
- John 5 Jesus heals and brings life
- John 6 Jesus is the Bread of Life
- John 7 People wrestle with who Jesus is
- John 8 Jesus is the Light of the World
- John 9 Jesus gives sight to the blind
- John 10 Jesus is the Good Shepherd
- John 11 Jesus has power over death
- John 12 Jesus is the servant King
- John 13 Jesus leads through love and service
- John 14 Jesus is the way, the truth, the life
- John 15 Stay connected to Jesus to bear fruit
- John 16 Jesus prepares us for trouble and hope
- John 17 Jesus prays for His followers
- John 18 Jesus willingly faces injustice
- John 19 Jesus dies to save the world
- John 20 Jesus rises in victory over death
- John 21 Jesus restores and sends His disciples

### THEME TO LOOK FOR

# THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS

## JESUS IS GREATER THAN ANYTHING THIS WORLD OFFERS AND HE'S ALL YOU NEED.

Once you've met Jesus, you begin to realize He's not just a good teacher—He's everything. Colossians gives us a big-picture view of who Jesus is: the Creator of all things, the center of all things, and the one who holds everything together (Colossians 1:15–20).

And here's the amazing part: this powerful Jesus loves you. You don't need anything else to be right with God—Jesus is enough.

### READ

- Colossians 1 Jesus is supreme over all creation
- Colossians 2 Stay rooted in Jesus, not religion
- Colossians 3 Let the new life in Christ shape you
- Colossians 4 Live wisely and speak graciously

### THEME TO LOOK FOR

## REAL-LIFE NEEDS

### GOD'S WORD MEETS US WHERE WE ARE

Another way to read the scriptures when you're just starting out, is to search for how it speaks to this current moment and season in your life. What you'll find is that the Bible is God's living Word, and it speaks directly to the real struggles, questions, and desires we experience every day.

So we've put together a helpful guide for where to go to seek God's truth for some of the questions you may have or challenges you may be facing. Wherever you are, God's Word has something to say.

## PEACE FOR YOUR MIND & HEART

Life can weigh heavy on our minds and hearts. Worry, sadness, anger, and doubt often creep in, leaving us restless and unsettled. Yet God promises a peace that the world cannot give—a peace that guards our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. As we turn to His Word, we discover that peace is not found in changing circumstances but in drawing near to the One who never changes.



### ANXIETY & WORRY

God invites you to release our burdens and trust in His faithful care.

#### READ

- Matthew 6:25–34 Trust God's provision instead of chasing worry
- Psalm 46 God is our refuge in chaos and fear
- Philippians 4:4–9 Pray, give thanks, and receive God's peace
- 1 Peter 5:6–11 Cast your cares on Him—He cares for you

#### THEME TO LOOK FOR

### DEPRESSION & SADNESS

Even in the darkest valleys, God is near and His love never fails.

#### READ

- Psalm 42–43 Hope in God when the soul feels downcast
- Lamentations 3 God's mercies are new every morning
- 1 Kings 19:1–18 God strengthens the weary and discouraged
- 2 Corinthians 1:3–11 God comforts us so we can comfort others

#### THEME TO LOOK FOR

### DOUBT & QUESTIONING FAITH

God meets you in your doubts and draws you into deeper trust.

#### READ

- John 20:24–31 Jesus meets doubters with grace and truth
- Mark 9:14–29 Faith grows as we cry, "Help my unbelief!"
- Psalm 73 God is our strength when doubts overwhelm
- Jude 1:17–25 God keeps us from stumbling in faith

#### THEME TO LOOK FOR

### PEACE & REST

When you're weary and overwhelmed, God offers rest for your soul.

#### READ

- Matthew 11:25–30 Jesus gives rest to the weary
- Psalm 23 God leads us into green pastures of peace
- Isaiah 26:1–9 Perfect peace for those who trust God
- Mark 4:35–41 Jesus calms the storms within and without

#### THEME TO LOOK FOR

### ANGER & FRUSTRATION

God shapes your emotions and teaches you to respond with grace & wisdom.

#### READ

- Ephesians 4:25–32 Put away bitterness; forgive as Christ forgave
- Psalm 37:1–11 Don't be provoked; trust God's justice
- James 1:19–27 Be quick to listen, slow to anger
- Jonah 4 God's mercy challenges our anger

#### THEME TO LOOK FOR



## HEALING FOR THE SOUL & RELATIONSHIPS

We were created for connection—with God and with others. Yet in a broken world, we often carry wounds of loneliness, conflict, shame, and rejection. These struggles can leave us questioning our worth or straining to find peace in relationships. But God promises healing for our souls and restoration in our relationships through the power of His love and grace.

### FORGIVENESS

God freely forgives—and calls you to extend that same grace to others.

#### READ

- Matthew 18:21–35
- Psalm 32
- Ephesians 4:25–32
- Luke 7:36–50

#### THEME TO LOOK FOR

- Forgive as you've been forgiven
- The joy of confessed sin and forgiven guilt
- Put away bitterness; walk in forgiveness
- Forgiven much, we love much

### RELATIONSHIPS & CONFLICT

God shows how to pursue peace, reconciliation, and love in our relationships.

#### READ

- Romans 12:9–21
- Matthew 5:21–48
- Colossians 3:12–17
- James 3:13–18; 4:1–10

#### THEME TO LOOK FOR

- Overcome evil with good; live peaceably
- Be reconciled; love even your enemies
- Clothe yourself with love and patience
- Humility overcomes quarrels and pride

### IDENTITY & SELF-WORTH

Your value isn't based on what you do but who you are in Christ.

#### READ

- Psalm 139
- Ephesians 1:3–14
- 1 Peter 2:9–12
- Romans 8:14–17

#### THEME TO LOOK FOR

- You are wonderfully made and known by God
- Chosen, adopted, redeemed in Christ
- You are God's people, set apart to proclaim Him
- You are children of God, heirs with Christ

### GOD'S LOVE & ACCEPTANCE

God's love is deeper than your shame and stronger than your sin.

#### READ

- Romans 8:31–39
- Luke 15:1–32
- Ephesians 3:14–21
- Zephaniah 3:14–17

#### THEME TO LOOK FOR

- Nothing can separate us from God's love
- The Father runs to welcome His lost children
- God's love surpasses knowledge
- God delights in you with singing

### LONELINESS

You are not alone—God is with you and invites you into His family.

#### READ

- Psalm 139
- John 14:15–27
- 2 Timothy 4:9–18
- Isaiah 41:8–13

#### THEME TO LOOK FOR

- God knows you fully and is always near
- The Spirit is our constant Comforter
- The Lord stands by us when others leave
- God upholds us with His righteous hand



## PURPOSE FOR THE JOURNEY AHEAD

God never calls us to simply drift through life. He created us with intention, placing us in this time and place to live for His glory and the good of others. Yet it's easy to lose sight of that calling—whether through distraction, discouragement, or doubt. Scripture reminds us that our lives have meaning because they are anchored in Christ, who gives us both direction and strength for the journey ahead.

### HOPE & ENCOURAGEMENT

Even when life is hard, God offers real and lasting hope.

#### READ

- Romans 8:18–39 Future glory far outweighs present suffering
- Isaiah 40:27–31 God renews the strength of the weary
- 2 Corinthians 4:7–18 Our troubles are temporary, His glory eternal
- Psalm 27 The Lord is our light and stronghold

#### THEME TO LOOK FOR

### TRUSTING GOD IN UNCERTAINTY

When the future feels unclear, God invites us to trust His plans.

#### READ

- Proverbs 3:1–12 Trust in the Lord, He will guide your paths
- Genesis 22:1–19 God provides when faith is tested
- Exodus 14 God makes a way when there seems to be none
- Matthew 6:25–34 Seek God's kingdom and let go of worry

#### THEME TO LOOK FOR

### PURPOSE & DIRECTION

Your life has meaning—God has called you for a reason.

#### READ

- Jeremiah 29:4–14 God's plans are for hope and a future
- Proverbs 3:1–12 Wisdom and trust lead to straight paths
- Ephesians 2:1–10 Created in Christ for good works
- Acts 20:17–24 Live to finish the mission God has given

#### THEME TO LOOK FOR

### FINANCIAL STRESS & PROVISION

God sees your needs and provides with wisdom and generosity.

#### READ

- Matthew 6:19–34 Store treasure in heaven; God will provide
- Philippians 4:10–20 Contentment and confidence in God's supply
- 2 Corinthians 9:6–15 God blesses generosity with abundance
- Psalm 37:1–26 Trust in the Lord's provision and timing

#### THEME TO LOOK FOR

### PERSEVERANCE

God strengthens us to endure and grow through trials.

#### READ

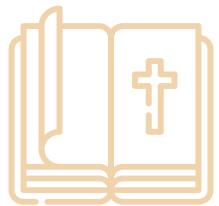
- Hebrews 12:1–13 Run with endurance, fixing your eyes on Jesus
- James 1:2–12 Trials produce maturity and crown of life
- Romans 5:1–11 Suffering builds hope through God's love
- Galatians 6:7–10 Don't grow weary—harvest comes in due time

# Bible Reading Notes

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# Bible Reading Notes

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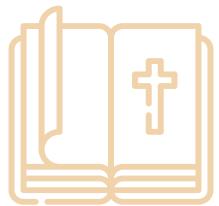


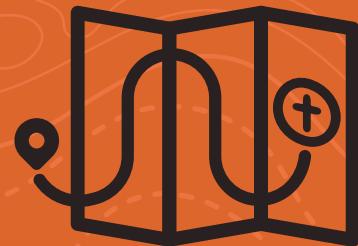
# Bible Reading Notes

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# Bible Reading Notes

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# DISCOVER TOGETHER

## EXPLORE FAITH WITH OTHER PEOPLE.

### BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT MEANT TO WALK THIS JOURNEY ALONE.

Faith was never meant to be a solo journey. From the very beginning, Jesus called people into a community of discovery—a place where questions could be asked, stories could be shared, and lives could be changed together.

When we explore faith alongside others, we not only learn more about God, but we also learn more about ourselves. We see perspectives we've never considered. We realize we're not alone in our doubts or hopes. We discover the beauty of belonging before we've figured everything out.

At Rise, we believe that real growth happens in relationships. That's why, in this early stage of your journey, we invite you to not only meet Jesus through Scripture—but to explore what that means with other people who are asking the same kinds of questions.

Questions about God.

Questions about purpose.

Questions about life and what it's all for.

Before the disciples knew Jesus as their Lord, they began by following Him together with others along the same discipleship journey. What that means is something radical: **You can belong before you believe.**

**PIVOTAL STEP #2**

## **JOIN US FOR ALPHA**

**"THIS IS ONE OF MY FAVORITE THINGS I'VE EVER DONE—IT'S FUN, RELAXED, AND TOTALLY NO-PRESSURE." —AIMEE**

Alpha is a welcoming, low-pressure space to explore life's biggest questions. It's designed specifically for people who are new to faith or just curious about it. For a couple months, we meet weekly to **share a meal, watch a short talk, and discuss what we're learning** in small groups where no question is off limits.

We cover questions like:

**Who is Jesus?**

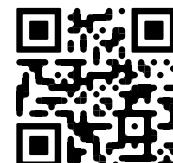
**Why did He die?**

**How do I pray or read the Bible?**

**What's the purpose of life?**

Whether you're brand new to faith or still solidifying what you believe—**Alpha is for you.** You don't need to have the right words or the right answers. You just need a willingness to show up and be part of the conversation.

**SCAN TO LEARN MORE AND JOIN US FOR AN UPCOMING ALPHA SESSION.**



# **CURIOS ABOUT FAITH?**

→ **RISE.CC/ALPHA**

**JOIN A SERIES OF GROUP CONVERSATIONS  
THAT FREELY EXPLORE THE CHRISTIAN FAITH  
IN AN OPEN, FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT.**



# DISCOVER GOD'S PURPOSE

## DISCOVERING GOD'S PURPOSE STARTS BY REGULARLY GATHERING WITH HIS PEOPLE.

By seeing the Church in action, you begin to glimpse the bigger story—and how your life fits into it.

Something in you is stirring. Maybe it's a longing for peace in a chaotic world. A craving for meaning. Or just a quiet curiosity that won't go away. That's not random. That's God at work, inviting you into something deeper.

If you're sensing that invitation—even just a flicker of interest—don't ignore it. God's call to "come and see" isn't passive. It's an invitation to act. And one of the most meaningful steps you can take right now is simply to start showing up.

### PIVOTAL STEP #3

## START COMING TO CHURCH REGULARLY

Not out of obligation—but out of curiosity. Showing up at church is one of the clearest ways to explore who Jesus is and what He's about. Each week, you'll hear parts of God's story—His design for creation, His love for people, a hope that only He can offer—and start to see how your story fits into His.

And as you come, something begins to shift. You'll start to see that Jesus is not only trustworthy—but good. And the Church? It's not a place for perfect people. It's a community of grace, where real people walk through real life together.

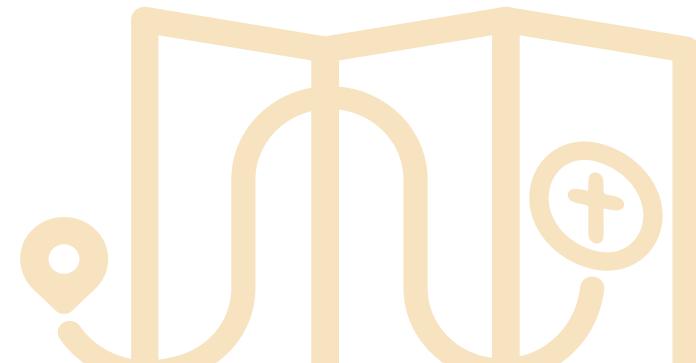
**IN THIS SPACE—IN GOD'S PRESENCE, AMONG HIS PEOPLE—YOU'LL EXPERIENCE A PEACE THE WORLD CAN'T OFFER, A HOPE THAT DOESN'T DEPEND ON CIRCUMSTANCES, AND A SENSE OF PURPOSE THAT BEGINS TO MAKE SENSE OF EVERYTHING ELSE.**

Because purpose doesn't start with striving.

It starts with **seeing**.

With **listening**.

With **showing up** long enough for something eternal to take root.



# HOW TO BUILD A RHYTHM OF REGULAR CHURCH ENGAGEMENT.

One of the best ways to explore faith is to simply start showing up—not just once, but regularly. Repetition builds familiarity, and familiarity builds trust. Over time, patterns begin to form. You start to recognize faces. You hear consistent themes. You begin to notice something deeper at work.

If you're in a season of spiritual curiosity, it's crucial that you give yourself a real chance to experience what faith, hope, and purpose might look like up close. You can think of it as an experiment in presence. Here are a few simple ways to build that rhythm:

**COMMITTING TO SUNDAYS IS ABOUT STAYING CURIOUS AND SHOWING UP LONG ENOUGH TO GIVE IT A REAL CHANCE, AND FOR SOMETHING MEANINGFUL TO TAKE SHAPE.**

## 01. MAKE A PLAN & STACK SOME SUNDAYS

Maybe it's this Sunday. Maybe it's the start of a new series. Whatever it is, choose a day and commit to going. Then see where you can build from there. Try coming for three or four weeks in a row. Maybe try to make it for an entire series.

Sometimes the first week feels unfamiliar, but as you return, things start to settle. You notice how people treat each other. You catch patterns in the teaching. You get a clearer sense of whether this place feels like home.

## 02. LINGER A LITTLE

It can feel intimidating at first to walk into a new space. But if you're up for it, don't rush out the door. Stick around. Say hi. Grab a coffee. You don't have to dive into deep conversation—but sometimes small moments lead to meaningful ones. And over time, these connections help Sunday feel a little less like "going to church" and a little more like belonging.

## 03. PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT YOU'RE NOTICING

You might not feel something big every time you come—but something is being formed. Peace. Clarity. A new question. An unexpected sense of hope. Maybe even an uncomfortable challenge. Write it down. Reflect on it. God often speaks in quiet, cumulative ways.

## 04. HELP YOUR KIDS BUILD THEIR OWN RHYTHM

If you have kids, one of the best gifts you can give them is consistency in church. Children and students thrive on rhythm—seeing familiar faces, learning truth week after week, and growing up surrounded by faith-filled leaders and friends who care about them.

When you make Sunday a regular part of your family's rhythm, it does more than fill an hour—it forms a foundation. Your kids begin to see that faith isn't just something you talk about; it's something you live. Over time, church shifts from being "your thing" to their place of belonging and growth.

Even when it's chaotic getting out the door, remember: every time you show up, you're helping plant seeds of faith that can grow for a lifetime.

# WHAT IF I FEEL OUT OF PLACE?

Trying something new—especially something as personal as church—can stir up a lot of questions. You might feel unsure about how to act, what to believe, or whether you even belong here. That's okay. You're not alone in that. Here are a few honest answers to common thoughts and hesitations people have when they first start coming:

## **"I'M NOT EVEN SURE I BELIEVE IN GOD."**

## **"IS IT WEIRD FOR ME TO BE HERE?"**

Not weird at all. In fact, you're exactly who this space is for. Jesus' invitation has always been "Come and see"—not "Come once you're convinced." Church isn't for people who have it all figured out. It's for the unsure, the curious, the skeptical, and the searching. If you feel like an outsider, know this: you're not. We're honored you're here.

## **"SOME OF THE TEACHING FEELS HARSH OR CONTRADICTS WHAT I BELIEVE."**

At first, some of what you're hearing can feel challenging to how you've always seen the world. But over time, you may begin to see something different: **God's way is not the way of the world.** His perspective often turns things upside down—but in doing so, it begins to make sense of things we couldn't before. What seemed harsh at first started to feel healing. What felt offensive begins to feel freeing.

The Bible is the story of a God who loves us enough to tell us the truth. Not to shame us, but to restore us. His conviction isn't condemnation—it's an invitation to come closer, be known, and be made whole. If something

stirs discomfort, don't run from it. Sit with it. Ask questions. Keep listening. That discomfort might just be the starting point of something deeper.

## **"EVERYONE AROUND ME IS SINGING AND RAISING THEIR HANDS."**

## **"WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?"**

We get it—worship can feel unfamiliar or even uncomfortable at first. Maybe it feels deeply emotional, and you're just not there. Maybe it feels forced, or not like you.

Here's the truth: worship isn't a performance—it's a response. It isn't just about the words we sing, it's an overflow of what we believe. Even if you don't believe yet, you can still observe worship and begin to understand who Jesus is by watching how we respond to Him. Our lives, our posture, our passion—it all points to something real.

You don't have to raise your hands, sing loudly, or do anything that feels untrue to where you're at. You're welcome to simply stand, sit, listen, reflect, or observe. Let it be what it is: a space to breathe, be still, and experience others expressing their love for God. In time, you may find yourself drawn in. This is a safe place to grow at your own pace.

## **"WHAT IF I TRY THIS FOR A WHILE AND STILL DON'T FEEL ANYTHING?"**

That's real. Sometimes it takes time to notice what's changing. What starts slow and quiet often builds into something deep and lasting. Think of this less like a breakthrough moment and more like a slow-growing seed. Your consistency matters more than your feelings. Keep coming. Keep asking questions. Something is taking root.

# PUTTING YOUR FAITH IN JESUS AND GETTING BAPTIZED.

At some point in your journey of discovering faith, the questions start to shift. You're no longer just asking if God is real—you're beginning to sense that He is. You're not just learning about Jesus—you're starting to feel like He's drawing near. Something deeper is stirring.

It might happen in a moment you don't expect. Maybe you showed up to church and heard something that pierced your heart. Maybe it's been building slowly through quiet conversations or late-night reflection. Maybe it's while reading Scripture and suddenly, something clicks—you feel the Spirit of God speaking to you, gently calling you to come home.

That moment of clarity is a gift. The Bible tells the story of a man from Ethiopia who was reading the Scriptures while riding in his chariot (Acts 8). He didn't understand everything, but God sent Philip to walk alongside him and explain the good news of Jesus. Right then and there, the man believed. And when he saw water by the side of the road, he said, "Look! Here is water—what's stopping me from being baptized?" He knew it was time to say yes.

## YOU MAY BE CLOSER THAN YOU REALIZE TO THAT KIND OF MOMENT.

To follow Jesus means surrendering—trusting that Jesus is who He says He is: the Son of God who died for your sins, rose again, and invites you into new life. When you say yes to Him, you receive forgiveness, you're filled with the Holy Spirit, and your heart is made new. You become part of God's family.

When that moment comes, don't wait. Trust that God is already at work in you—and respond. And once you do, the next step is baptism: the way believers in Jesus have publicly declared their faith for over 2,000 years. It's how you show the world that Jesus has saved you and is now your Lord.

If you've sensed that this journey is leading you somewhere, maybe it's leading you to this: a decision. A new beginning. A resurrection story of your own.

All throughout this phase of Discover, we've been pointing toward a moment like this: a decision to move from exploring Jesus to trusting Him. From asking questions to offering your whole life. From observing faith in others to experiencing it for yourself.

You don't have to wait until you understand everything. You don't need to be perfect. You just need to be willing to repent and believe. To surrender. To say yes.

And when you do, something powerful happens: Jesus saves you, the Holy Spirit fills you, and your heart is made new. That's the miracle of grace—and it's available to you right now.

So as you turn the page, we want to help you take that step. Whether you're ready to say yes to Jesus, considering baptism, or just want to understand what that all really means—these next few pages are for you.

Let's walk forward together.



## SAY YES TO JESUS

Saying yes doesn't mean every doubt is resolved or every question is answered. It simply means you've come to **believe that Jesus is who He says He is**—and you're ready to trust Him with your life.

At this point, what you're saying yes to is this:

**That Jesus is the Son of God.**

**You believe He lived, died, and rose again.**

**That you repent of your sins and that through Him, you can be forgiven, made new, and restored to God.**

**And that you want to follow Him as the Lord of your life.**

There's still room to grow. You may not yet understand every part of the Bible. You may still wrestle with big questions about suffering, sexuality, creation, justice, or your past. That's okay.

**Faith starts with trust, not certainty.** You're not promising to never doubt or fail—you're simply choosing to believe that Jesus is worth following, and you're ready to begin.

**"IF YOU OPENLY DECLARE THAT JESUS IS LORD AND BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART THAT GOD RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD, YOU WILL BE SAVED."**

**— ROMANS 10:9**

You may not be ready to say yes yet—and that's okay. But when you are, or if you're wondering what that would even sound like, here's a simple prayer to help you take that step.



## A SIMPLE PRAYER

**"JESUS, I BELIEVE YOU ARE WHO YOU SAY YOU ARE.**

**I BELIEVE YOU DIED FOR ME AND ROSE AGAIN, AND I WANT TO TRUST YOU WITH MY LIFE.**

**FORGIVE ME FOR MY SINS AND FOR GOING MY OWN WAY. HELP ME WALK IN YOURS.**

**TEACH ME TO FOLLOW YOU.  
I WANT YOU TO BE THE LORD OF MY LIFE.**

**SHOW ME WHAT IT MEANS TO LIVE WITH PURPOSE, PEACE, AND HOPE.**

**I SAY YES TO YOU TODAY. AMEN."**

---

If you prayed that prayer today, we'd love to talk with you, encourage you, and help you take your next step.

**LET US KNOW YOU SAID YES  
AT [RISE.cc/JESUS](http://RISE.cc/JESUS)**



## GET BAPTIZED!

When you say yes to Jesus, something changes in you—and baptism is how you share that change with the world. **Baptism is an outward expression of an inward reality: that you've put your trust in Jesus and received new life through Him.**

Throughout the Bible, baptism is the first step people took after placing their faith in Jesus. It's a symbol of dying to your old life and being raised into something new—washed clean, made whole, and welcomed into God's family.

**"WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? GET UP AND BE BAPTIZED. HAVE YOUR SINS WASHED AWAY BY CALLING ON THE NAME OF THE LORD."**

**— ACTS 22:16**

If you've said yes to Jesus, this is your next step. Participating in baptism is about marking a new beginning with the One who's made you new. And we'd love nothing more than to celebrate that step with you.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT BAPTISM &  
REGISTER FOR AN UPCOMING  
BAPTISM AT [RISE.CC/BAPTISM](http://RISE.CC/BAPTISM)**



## WHAT QUESTIONS ARE ASKED DURING BAPTISM?

During a baptism service at Rise, you'll notice when someone gets in the waters, we have questions we ask them before we baptize them in the water.

**Q1: "DO YOU REPENT OF YOUR SINS AND ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR NEED OF A SAVIOR?"**

In following Jesus, we first must acknowledge our need for Him and that we are repenting of (literally “turning away from”) our sin. Baptism is a symbol of our old self going to the grave with Jesus. Our brokenness, our shame, our sin, our guilt is put in the grave.

**Q2: "DO YOU PUBLICLY DECLARE JESUS AS YOUR LORD AND SAVIOR?"**

It's not enough to turn from sin, it's about turning to Jesus as the only one who can save. Saying we have put our faith in Him means we believe in our hearts and acknowledge with our mouths that Jesus is God in the flesh, that He conquered over death, and that He alone has the power to save. And because of our faith in Jesus, we are raised—just as He was raised—to new life!

**"BECAUSE OF YOUR REPENTANCE OF SIN AND FAITH IN JESUS, TODAY WE ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR OLD SELF IS BURIED WITH CHRIST AND YOU HAVE BEEN RAISED TO NEW LIFE IN JESUS! THEREFORE, I BAPTIZE YOU IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!"**

# CLOSING THOUGHTS

The Discover phase is a season of curiosity, questions, and quiet beginnings. You may not know what you believe yet, or how long this season will last, but don't rush it. This is where a real foundation begins to form.

It's here that you begin to slow down and create space to meet Jesus—through His Word, in honest conversations, and among His people. These small steps are forming something deep and lasting in you. Every Sunday you show up. Every passage you read. Every question you ask.

As Paul reminded the Philippians,

**“GOD, WHO BEGAN THE GOOD WORK  
WITHIN YOU, WILL CONTINUE HIS WORK  
UNTIL IT IS FINALLY FINISHED.”**  
**PHILIPPIANS 1:6**

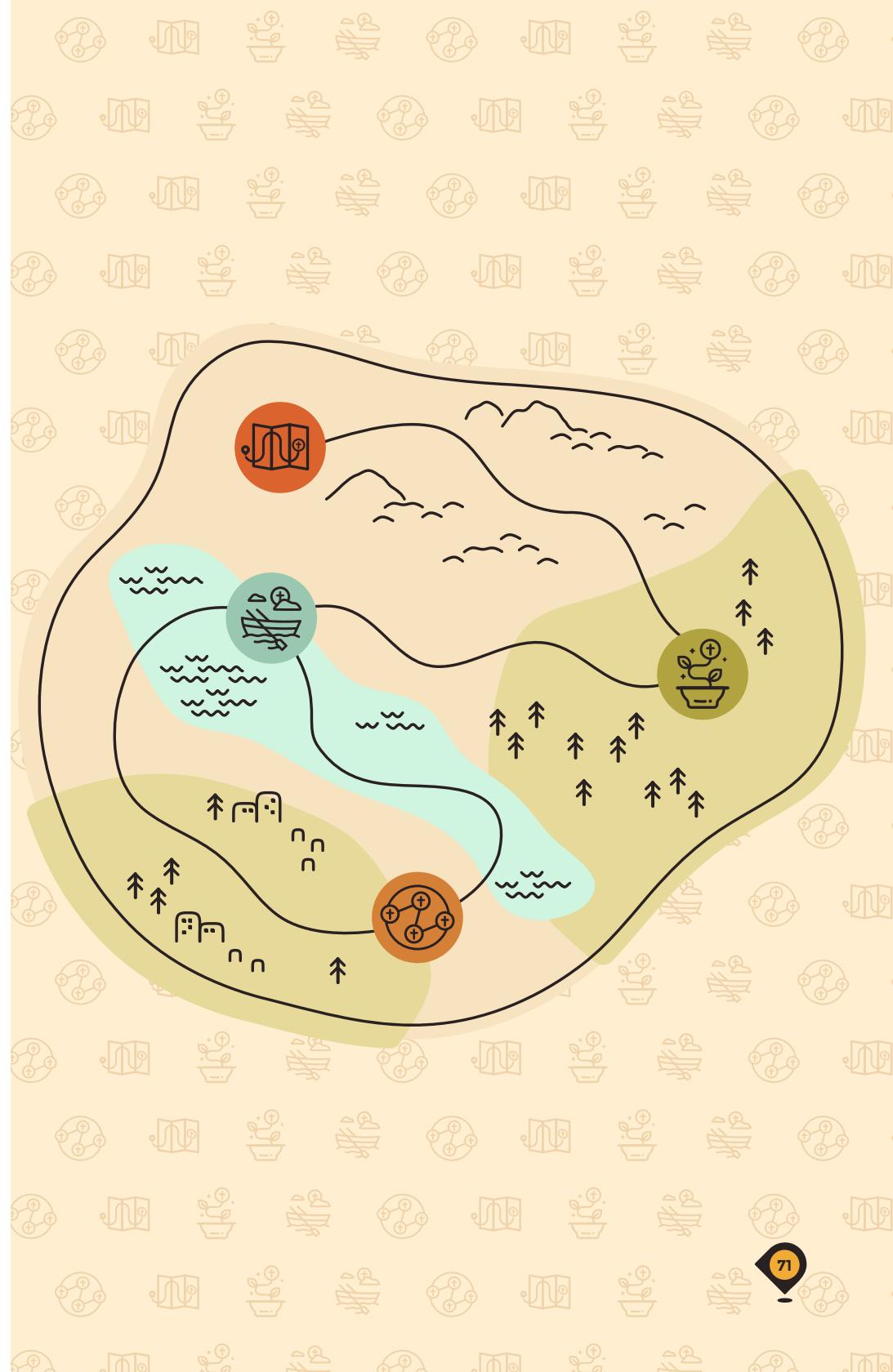
So lean into this season.

Soak in the truth of Scripture.

Ask the hard questions.

Show up with an open heart.

And trust that even when it feels slow or uncertain, **God is at work beneath the surface, shaping you into the person He's called you to be.**





# DEVELOP

**“SO THEN, JUST AS YOU RECEIVED CHRIST JESUS AS LORD, CONTINUE TO LIVE YOUR LIVES IN HIM, ROOTED AND BUILT UP IN HIM, STRENGTHENED IN THE FAITH.”**

**— COLOSSIANS 2:6-7**



## **GROWING IN FAITH, FRIENDSHIPS, & PURPOSE.**

The Develop stage begins after a person has made the decision to follow Jesus. You've come to believe that Jesus is Lord and Savior—and now you want to grow in your relationship with Him. It's a time of foundational growth: learning what it means to walk with Jesus daily, practicing spiritual habits, finding your people, and living with new purpose.

What's happening in this stage is a reorientation of your life around Jesus. You're letting go of old ways of thinking and living, and beginning to build a life rooted in Christ. There's hunger to learn, and also challenges—questions, doubts, and the tension of unlearning the ways of your old self. This is where you begin to grasp who you are in Christ and how to live in response to what He's done for you.

Faith is about developing a lifelong relationship with Jesus. **A long obedience in the same direction.** In this stage, you begin to build that relationship with Jesus. You're learning to trust Him, hear His voice, and follow His lead.

Like any foundation, this season is critical. It sets the trajectory for the life God is building in you. Don't rush it. Be faithful with the small things. Jesus is forming something lasting in you—something beautiful and strong.





# YOUR DEVELOP JOURNEY



## SPEND TIME WITH JESUS DAILY

Develop the practice of daily devotions with Jesus.



## FIND YOUR PEOPLE

Build lasting relationships by walking with others in community.



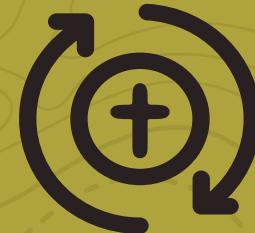
## JOIN THE TEAM BY SERVING

Discover your gifts and make an impact by serving others.



## BEGIN TO GIVE BACK TO GOD

Take a step of faith by giving generously to God's work.



# FOLLOW JESUS DAILY

THE FOUNDATION OF  
EVERY DISCIPLE'S LIFE  
IS TIME WITH JESUS.

## PIVOTAL STEP #1

# FOLLOW JESUS DAILY

### THE FOUNDATION OF EVERY DISCIPLE'S LIFE IS TIME WITH JESUS.

Following Jesus takes us beyond merely believing in Him—to building a relationship with Him. And like any relationship, it grows through intentional, consistent time together. One of the most important steps you can take as a developing disciple is to establish the daily rhythm of meeting with Jesus through **Scripture** and **prayer**.

This daily time is often called a “Daily Devotional”. It’s a space to slow down, open your heart, and connect with the One who loves you most. You bring your questions, your gratitude, your struggles, and your hopes. He brings truth, peace, direction, and grace.

## WHY DAILY DEVOTIONS MATTER

We become like the people we spend time with—and the more we spend time with Jesus, the more we’re shaped by Him. Daily time in God’s Word helps us know His voice and see life through His perspective. Prayer invites us into deeper connection with God. This is how our trust grows, our minds are renewed, and our hearts are aligned with His.

Daily devotions aren’t just a spiritual checklist. They’re for you. For your growth. For your peace. For your discipleship. This time with God is how your roots grow deep and your faith becomes resilient. It’s how you begin to recognize His presence in your ordinary, everyday life—and how you learn to respond with wisdom, courage, and grace.

Some days it will feel easy and refreshing. Other days it might feel like a fight just to slow down and open your Bible. But don’t give up. The struggle is normal. God doesn’t ask you to feel something every time—He invites you to keep showing up. Because He’s already there.

**“Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. For apart from me you can do nothing.” —John 15:4-5**

This is a step of obedience. A rhythm of surrender. And when you commit to it—even in small ways—you’ll be surprised at how God multiplies it in your life. He’ll bring clarity to your confusion. Strength to your weariness. Conviction to your compromise. Joy to your routine. And over time, you’ll look back and realize: He’s been forming something beautiful in you all along.

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**“THERE IS A GREAT MARKET FOR RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE IN OUR WORLD; THERE IS LITTLE ENTHUSIASM FOR THE PATIENT ACQUISITION OF VIRTUE, LITTLE INCLINATION TO SIGN UP FOR A LONG APPRENTICESHIP IN WHAT EARLIER GENERATIONS OF CHRISTIANS CALLED HOLINESS. BUT DISCIPLESHIP IS JUST THAT: A LONG OBEDIENCE IN THE SAME DIRECTION. IT IS NOT A QUICK FIX OR A MOMENTARY INSPIRATION, BUT A STEADY JOURNEY OF TRUST AND OBEDIENCE THAT OVER TIME FORMS US INTO THE LIKENESS OF CHRIST.”**

*Eugene Peterson*

# HOW TO DO DAILY DEVOTIONS



Your time daily doesn't need to be profound—but your best fruit will come from **consistency**. Start by setting aside a consistent time each day, even just 10–15 minutes. Read a passage of Scripture. Reflect on what it reveals about who God is and what it means for your life. Then respond in prayer. Some days it might feel powerful. Other days it might feel routine. But over time, it will shape you.

Daily devotions are all about presence. God's. Yours. Together. That's where transformation begins.

## SIX TIPS FOR STARTING A DAILY DEVOTION ROUTINE



### 01. SET A SPECIFIC TIME—AND STICK TO IT

If you don't plan for it, it won't happen. Life is loud and distracting, and there's always something else fighting for your attention. That's why choosing a time to meet with Jesus—whether it's in the morning, on your lunch break, or before bed—is so important.

Starting with just ten minutes each morning can feel small—but small steps often spark something bigger. A simple habit of spending time with God can grow into genuine hunger for His presence. Over time, it's no longer just a routine—it becomes a rhythm. And those rhythms begin to shape a lifestyle.

### 02. FIND A FOCUSED SPACE

Jesus often withdrew to quiet places to pray—and we should too. Whether it's a corner of your bedroom, a quiet office, or a bench in a park, find a spot where you can tune out the noise and tune in to God. Stillness helps your soul breathe.

A quiet place gives you room to be honest with God—to ask questions, confess struggles, and invite Him into your real life. It doesn't have to be fancy. It just needs to be free from distractions. That might mean silencing your phone or setting it aside altogether—creating space where God has your full attention.

### 03. BRING YOUR BIBLE, A PEN, AND A JOURNAL

Coming prepared helps you stay engaged. Bring your Bible so you can read God's Word. Have a journal handy so you can write down what He's showing you—whether it's a verse that stands out, a truth that challenges you, or a prayer that's forming in your heart.

It's been said that writing things down increases your retention by over 40%. But more than that, **journaling helps you notice what God is doing in you**. It's like planting spiritual seeds you'll be able to look back on later.

### 04. READ A PASSAGE OF SCRIPTURE

Start small. You don't need to read a whole book of the Bible to get something meaningful out of it. Pick a passage—a psalm, a few stories from a gospel, a chapter in one of Paul's letters. Read slowly. Pay attention. Ask, "What does this reveal about God? What might He be saying to me?"

If you aren't sure what to read, we have some reading plans you can follow at [rise.cc/bible-reading-plans](http://rise.cc/bible-reading-plans)

## 05. TAKE NOTES & REFLECT

Don't rush past what God is showing you. Write down what stands out. Note any questions you have. Jot down a phrase that hits your heart. **We've provided some guided daily devotion pages that can help you develop this rhythm of reflection.** Over time, these reflections become a record of your walk with God. You'll be surprised how often He speaks if you're just paying attention.

## 06. SPEND TIME IN PRAYER

Talk to God like you would a friend—because He is one. Praise Him. Thank Him. Confess where you're struggling. Ask Him to speak, lead, and strengthen you. You can write your prayers, speak them out, or simply think them. God hears you.

Prayer grounds your heart in God's presence. It aligns your will with His. And it fills your soul with peace, perspective, and power for the day ahead.

**THE GOAL ISN'T JUST YOU GETTING INTO THE BIBLE.**

**THE GOAL IS THE BIBLE GETTING INTO YOU.**

USE THE "CREATE YOUR RHYTHM" PLAN AND THE DAILY DEVOTION TEMPLATES ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES TO HELP GET YOU STARTED.

YOU CAN EVEN TEAR THEM OUT IF YOU FIND THAT HELPFUL!



# Create Your Rhythm

A GRACE-FILLED PLAN FOR BUILDING A DAILY HABIT OF SPENDING TIME WITH JESUS.

Keep this somewhere visible—on your fridge, mirror, or inside your Bible—as a reminder that Jesus is inviting you into a relationship. So keep showing up.

### MY START DATE

I will begin my rhythm on

### PRIMARY RHYTHM

I will spend time with Jesus **before / during / after** this daily activity:

(Examples: during my morning coffee, after I drop the kids off)

(If I miss my usual time, my alternate devotional time will be)

### TIME COMMITMENT

How much time each day?

10min  15min  20min  30min

### TRACK YOUR FIRST TWO WEEKS:

DAY 01  DAY 02  DAY 03  DAY 04  DAY 05  
 DAY 06  DAY 07  DAY 08  DAY 09  DAY 10  
 DAY 11  DAY 12  DAY 13  DAY 14

**"ABIDE IN ME, AND I IN YOU. AS THE BRANCH CANNOT BEAR FRUIT BY ITSELF, UNLESS IT ABIDES IN THE VINE, NEITHER CAN YOU, UNLESS YOU ABIDE IN ME." —JOHN 15:4**



# STUDY RESOURCES

## ENDURING WORD COMMENTARY

The Enduring Word is a free commentary that takes you verse-by-verse through the Bible and provides insights, explanations, and helpful quotes from theologians and teachers in every passage of scripture.

→ [ENDURINGWORD.COM](http://ENDURINGWORD.COM)



## NIV STUDY BIBLE

A good study Bible is filled with helpful explanations or references on nearly every page for most major verses of scripture. Some great study Bibles include the ESV Study Bible, NIV Study Bible, or the She Reads Truth Study Bible. You can find a Study Bible in our Rise Bookstore.

## THE BIBLE PROJECT

The Bible Project has built an app centered around a reading journey that equips you with the skills to see the larger story of the Bible every time you read. It's packed with helpful videos, teaches you to develop Bible reading skills, and even has classes. This is great for visual learners.

→ [BIBLEPROJECT.COM/APP](http://BIBLEPROJECT.COM/APP)



## DWELL & STREETLIGHTS

The two very best audio Bible apps in existence are **Dwell** and **Streetlights**. **Dwell** has many different translations along with various voices all packed into a beautifully designed app. **Streetlights** is the NLT translation read by spoken word artists with music tracks added—it's absolutely brilliantly executed. **Find both in your phone app store.**

# Daily Devotion

## PASSAGE



## NOTES & OBSERVATIONS

What stands out to me in this passage—words, themes, or insights?

(Large dashed box for notes)

## KEY VERSE

 Which verse speaks most to my heart?

(Large white box for key verse)

## GOD'S WORD TO ME → MY RESPONSE

What is God saying to me here, and how will I live it out today?

(Large white box for God's Word to Me, with an arrow pointing to a second white box for My Response)

## PRAYERS, GRATITUDE & PRAISE

How can I thank God, ask for His help, and lift up praise to Him today?

(Large white box for Prayers, Gratitude & Praise)

# Daily Devotion



## PASSAGE

### NOTES & OBSERVATIONS

What stands out to me in this passage—words, themes, or insights?

### KEY VERSE

Which verse speaks most to my heart?

### GOD'S WORD TO ME → MY RESPONSE

What is God saying to me here, and how will I live it out today?

→

### PRAYERS, GRATITUDE & PRAISE

How can I thank God, ask for His help, and lift up praise to Him today?

# Daily Devotion



## PASSAGE

### NOTES & OBSERVATIONS

What stands out to me in this passage—words, themes, or insights?

### KEY VERSE

Which verse speaks most to my heart?

### GOD'S WORD TO ME → MY RESPONSE

What is God saying to me here, and how will I live it out today?

→

### PRAYERS, GRATITUDE & PRAISE

How can I thank God, ask for His help, and lift up praise to Him today?

# Daily Devotion



## PASSAGE

## NOTES & OBSERVATIONS

What stands out to me in this passage—words, themes, or insights?

## KEY VERSE

Which verse speaks most to my heart?

## GOD'S WORD TO ME → MY RESPONSE

What is God saying to me here, and how will I live it out today?



## PRAYERS, GRATITUDE & PRAISE

How can I thank God, ask for His help, and lift up praise to Him today?

**"DO NOT EXPECT TO MASTER THE BIBLE IN A DAY, OR A MONTH, OR A YEAR. DO NOT EXPECT ALWAYS TO GET AN EMOTIONAL CHARGE OR A FEELING OF QUIET PEACE WHEN YOU READ THE BIBLE. BY THE GRACE OF GOD YOU MAY EXPECT THAT TO BE A FREQUENT EXPERIENCE, BUT OFTEN YOU WILL GET NO EMOTIONAL RESPONSE AT ALL.**

**LET THE WORD BREAK OVER YOUR HEART AND MIND AGAIN AND AGAIN AS THE YEARS GO BY, AND IMPERCEPTIBLY THERE WILL COME GREAT CHANGES IN YOUR ATTITUDE AND OUTLOOK AND CONDUCT. YOU WILL PROBABLY BE THE LAST TO RECOGNIZE THESE. OFTEN YOU WILL FEEL VERY, VERY SMALL, BECAUSE INCREASINGLY THE GOD OF THE BIBLE WILL BECOME TO YOU WONDERFULLY GREAT.**

**SO GO ON READING IT UNTIL YOU CAN READ NO LONGER, AND THEN YOU WILL NOT NEED THE BIBLE ANY MORE, BECAUSE WHEN YOUR EYES CLOSE FOR THE LAST TIME IN DEATH, AND NEVER AGAIN READ THE WORD OF GOD IN SCRIPTURE, YOU WILL OPEN THEM TO THE WORD OF GOD IN THE FLESH—THAT SAME JESUS OF THE BIBLE WHOM YOU HAVE KNOWN FOR SO LONG—STANDING BEFORE YOU TO TAKE YOU FOREVER TO HIS ETERNAL HOME."**

*Geoffrey Thomas*



# FIND YOUR PEOPLE



**CITY GROUPS**  
PAGE 90



**RISE MEN**  
PAGE 92



**RISE WOMEN**  
PAGE 93

## PIVOTAL STEP #2

# JOIN A GROUP

**DISCIPLESHIP DOESN'T HAPPEN IN ISOLATION—IT HAPPENS IN RELATIONSHIP.**

When Jesus called His disciples, He gathered them as a community. They didn't walk alone. They shared meals, asked questions, and grew as friends. They prayed together, served together, struggled together, and ultimately helped turn the world upside down—together.

The early church followed His example. It wasn't built on events or stages, but on circles—groups of believers meeting in homes, breaking bread, studying the Scriptures, and caring for one another as spiritual family. These gatherings were foundational for gospel growth and life transformation.

That same invitation exists today. We believe every follower of Jesus needs a place to be known, to grow, and to walk with others. **That's why groups are more than a program at Rise—they are a primary pathway of discipleship.** Groups are where strangers become family, Scripture becomes lived-out, and the love of Christ becomes visible. In a group, you'll find support in struggles, encouragement in your walk, and a place to practice the way of Jesus with real people in real life.

At Rise, we have a handful of ways for you to take this step and find your people. Choose one of the following spaces to begin building real relationships with other believers.



## CITY GROUPS

City Groups are small groups that gather throughout our city to grow deeper in connection with each other and in following Jesus. We eat together, share our stories, and grow together.

Just like Jesus gathered with His disciples around the table and shared life in community, we want to do the same. These groups are where strangers become friends, where faith takes root, and where we learn to live out the way of Jesus together.

**YOU CAN FIND A CITY GROUP & REGISTER AT [RISE.CC/GROUPS](http://RISE.CC/GROUPS)  
OR IF IT'S EASIER, JUST TEAR OUT THE CITY GROUP REGISTRATION  
CARD ON THE NEXT PAGE AND BRING IT TO THE NEW HERE TEAM  
ON A SUNDAY.**

No matter your age, stage, or location—there's a group for you. With gatherings happening on different nights and in neighborhoods throughout the city, you'll find something that fits your season of life. We've made space for you—so come find your people, and let's walk this journey of faith together.

Watch this video to get a feel for city groups at [rise.cc/groups](http://rise.cc/groups)



**CITY GR<sup>UP</sup>S**

# FIND YOUR PEOPLE

→ **RISE.CC/GROUPS**

City Groups are **small groups** that gather throughout our city to grow deeper in connection with each other and in following Jesus. We eat together, share our stories, and grow together.

**NAME**

**EMAIL OR PHONE**

**GROUP(S) YOU'RE INTERESTED IN:**



# RISE MEN



# RISE WOMEN

## GET INVOLVED WITH RISE MEN EVENTS & GROUPS

You weren't made to do life alone. We believe God is calling men to rise up—not just as individuals, but as brothers, leaders, fathers, husbands, and friends. We're building a community of men who pursue Jesus with courage, fight for each other, and live with integrity and purpose.

In Rise Men you'll find opportunities to connect, be challenged, and become the man God has called you to be. **We offer events to connect with others like barbeques and axe throwing and small groups that lead to deeper relationships and growth.** Pick an event to start with, and begin your journey of finding your people.

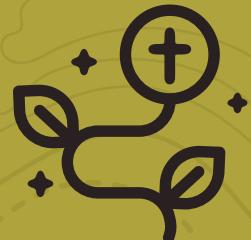
[LEARN MORE AT RISE.CC/MEN](http://RISE.CC/MEN)

## GET INVOLVED WITH RISE WOMEN EVENTS & GROUPS

You were made for meaningful connection. We believe God is raising up women to walk in bold faith, build deep community, and live with Spirit-filled purpose—no matter your season of life. Rise Women is a space to belong, to be encouraged, and to grow in your identity as a daughter of God.

**From social gatherings like mixers and movie nights to small groups and Bible studies that help you go deeper in your walk with Jesus, there are plenty of ways to get connected.** Pick an event to start with—and begin building the kind of friendships that shape your faith and your life.

[LEARN MORE AT RISE.CC/WOMEN](http://RISE.CC/WOMEN)



# DEVELOP YOUR PURPOSE

JOIN THE TEAM  
& BEGIN TO GIVE

## DEVELOP YOUR PURPOSE

### **YOU WERE CREATED ON PURPOSE— FOR A PURPOSE.**

God is doing good in the world. He's building His Kingdom. He's renewing what's broken, rescuing what's lost, and restoring what's been torn apart by sin. And here's the stunning truth: He wants to do it with you, not just for you.

Your precise placement is not a random accident—it's a purpose-filled assignment. You are in this city, in this church, and in this moment of history to bring about Kingdom good in the lives of others.

At this stage in your discipleship journey, you begin to recognize that your time, your talents, and your treasure are not yours to cling to—they're gifts to be used for God's glory and the good of others.

God has work for you to do. Good work. Lasting work. Kingdom work.

**HE'S ENTRUSTED YOU WITH SOMETHING VALUABLE,  
AND NOW HE INVITES YOU TO TAKE TWO CLEAR NEXT STEPS:**

### PIVOTAL STEP #3

## JOIN THE TEAM

### STEP INTO YOUR PURPOSE

One of the most important ways you grow in your faith is by stepping into the purpose God has placed on your life—and a powerful way to do that is by serving alongside others in the church. That's why a key step in the Develop phase is this: Join the Team.

As you develop your faith, serving is where your growth starts to move from the inside out. You go from being a spectator to a participant. From watching others serve to joining the move of God yourself. Stepping fully into the family of God and saying, "This is my church. This is my mission too."

#### WHEN YOU JOIN THE TEAM, YOU BEGIN TO:

Experience the joy of serving others

See how God made and gifted you for His Kingdom.

Build friendships with people as you serve side-by-side

Grow in your faith as you step into your God-given purpose

The Church isn't built on the gifts of a few, but on the participation of the many. Taking this step—right here, right now—is one of the most practical ways to grow in your faith and begin walking in your God-given purpose.

#### READY TO JOIN THE TEAM?

Start by scanning the QR code to explore the different ways you can get involved. When you find a team (or two) that interests you, fill out the Join the Team card—either the tear-out in this booklet or the digital version online. We'll follow up to help you take your next step.



**"IN CHRIST WE, THOUGH MANY,  
FORM ONE BODY" ROMANS 12:5**



SEE ALL THE TEAMS.  
LEARN MORE. JOIN.  
**RISE.CC/JOIN-THE-TEAM**

# I WANT TO JOIN THE TEAM

NAME

EMAIL

PHONE

## SELECT ALL TEAMS THAT INTEREST YOU

**RISE KIDS**  
KIDS CLASSROOMS

**SAFETY TEAM**  
KEEP US SAFE

**WORSHIP TEAM**  
VOCALS & INSTRUMENTS

**SUNDAY SUPPORT**  
CHAIRS & SIGNS

**USHERING TEAM**  
HELP SEAT GUESTS

**PRAYER TEAM**  
PRAY WITH PEOPLE

**BOOKSTORE**  
RESOURCES & SWAG

**733**  
SERVE 20-SOMETHINGS

**NEW HERE**  
CONNECT NEW GUESTS

**KIDS CHECK-IN**  
HELP NEW FAMILIES

**HOSPITALITY TEAM**  
COFFEE & COMMUNION

**PRODUCTION TEAM**  
LIGHTS, SOUND, VIDEO

**SUNDAY ENVIRONMENT**  
PREPARING SPACES

**HOST TEAM**  
GREET AT THE DOORS

**PARKING TEAM**  
HELP GUESTS PARK

**PHOTO TEAM**  
CAPTURE SUNDAYS

**OUTREACH**  
REACH OUR CITY

**RISE YOUTH**  
MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

**FILL THIS OUT. TEAR IT OUT.  
BRING IT TO THE NEW HERE TEAM ON A SUNDAY.**

## KEY QUESTIONS

We know you may have a few questions before taking your next step. Here are some answers to commonly asked questions.

### 1. DO I NEED EXPERIENCE TO SERVE?

For most teams, no experience is needed! We provide training and support for every role so you can serve with confidence.

### 2. HOW OFTEN DO I HAVE TO SERVE?

Most teams serve on a rotation, typically once or twice a month, but you can choose a schedule that works for you.

### 3. WHAT IF I TRY A TEAM AND REALIZE IT'S NOT THE RIGHT FIT?

No problem! We want you to serve where you thrive, so we'll help you find a team that fits your gifts and passions.

### 4. CAN MY KIDS SERVE WITH ME?

Yes! Some teams, like Hospitality, Ushering, and Sunday Environment, allow families to serve together. Rise Kids also has opportunities for older students to help.

### 5. ARE THERE OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE OUTSIDE OF SUNDAYS?

Absolutely! Many teams, like Outreach, Prayer, Digital Media, Youth, Alpha, and Care, serve throughout the week in different ways.

### 6. WHAT IF I HAVE A BUSY SCHEDULE?

We have flexible serving options to fit any schedule. Whether you serve weekly, monthly, or occasionally, every contribution matters!

#### PIVOTAL STEP #4

## BEGIN TO GIVE

### PRACTICE TRUST AND GENEROSITY

Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). Giving is about more than money—it's about **trust, worship, and aligning your heart with God's priorities**.

In this stage **we're inviting you to begin a spiritual practice modeled by Jesus**. To take your first step into generosity by intentionally giving to God through your local church.

When you give, you're practicing trust. You're saying, "God, I believe You'll provide for my needs—even as I open my hands to meet the needs of others." That kind of trust builds over time, and giving becomes a way to actively lean into God's faithful provision.

#### HERE'S A SIMPLE WAY TO THINK ABOUT IT:

**START WITH SOMETHING**—a consistent gift that reflects your desire to put God first.

**GIVE PRAYERFULLY**—ask God to grow your trust as you give.

**GIVE JOYFULLY**—knowing your generosity is forming you and fueling His Kingdom.

Giving may feel uncomfortable at first—but over time, it becomes a spiritual rhythm that stretches your faith and roots your hope in something greater. As you begin giving, you'll discover that generosity isn't a duty—it's a joy. And it's a key part of living your purpose.



**"WITH SOME CHRISTIANS, THE LAST PART OF THEIR NATURE THAT IS SANCTIFIED IS THEIR POCKETS. TRUE DISCIPLESHIP WILL REFORM OUR TREASURE, AND TEACH US HOW TO USE OUR SUBSTANCE TO THE GLORY OF GOD. IF WE GIVE AS WE OUGHT, IT WILL NOT BE FOR THE SAKE OF THE CHURCH, NOR FOR THE SAKE OF THE MINISTER, BUT FOR THE SAKE OF GOD —TO SHOW OUR LOVE TO HIM. THIS IS THE ONLY MOTIVE WHICH WILL SANCTIFY THE GIFT."**

*Charles Spurgeon*



# DEVELOPING A GENEROUS HEART.

Giving to God for the first time is a bold step of faith—a declaration of trust, worship, and participation in His Kingdom work. These best practices will help you begin with confidence and joy.

## GIVE FIRST, NOT LAST

Start by making giving a priority, not an afterthought. Instead of seeing what's left over at the end of the month, choose to honor God with the first portion of your income. This puts Him at the center of your finances and reminds you that everything you have is from Him.

**HONOR THE LORD WITH YOUR WEALTH, WITH THE FIRSTFRUITS OF ALL YOUR CROPS. — PROVERBS 3:9**

## PRAYERFULLY DECIDE WHAT TO GIVE

Generosity begins in the heart before it ever reaches the wallet. Giving isn't about reaching a certain number—it's about responding to God's grace with gratitude and trust. Take time to pray and ask God what He's inviting you to give. For some, that might mean taking a first step; for others, it could mean stretching in faith. What matters most is that your giving reflects worship, not pressure. Cheerfully land on a percentage or set amount to start with.

**EACH OF YOU SHOULD GIVE WHAT YOU HAVE DECIDED IN YOUR HEART TO GIVE, NOT RELUCTANTLY OR UNDER COMPELCTION, FOR GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER.” — 2 CORINTHIANS 9:7**



## SETUP RECURRING GIVING

Giving isn't meant to be random—it's meant to be a rhythm. Setting up recurring giving helps you practice generosity with consistency and intentionality, just like other spiritual disciplines. It's a way to put your faith into a regular habit, ensuring your giving flows from commitment, not convenience. After you've prayerfully decided how much, follow through on this commitment with a regular rhythm: weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly. This kind of steady obedience builds trust over time and keeps generosity at the center of your walk with God.

**ON THE FIRST DAY OF EACH WEEK, YOU SHOULD EACH PUT ASIDE A PORTION OF THE MONEY YOU HAVE EARNED. — 1 CORINTHIANS 16:2**

## WATCH FOR HIS FAITHFULNESS

As you give, watch how God provides, blesses, and stretches your faith. Pay attention to His faithfulness in your life: unexpected provision, deeper contentment, and joy in being part of His mission. Your giving becomes a discipleship tool, shaping your heart to rely more on Him.

**“TEST ME IN THIS,” SAYS THE LORD ALMIGHTY, “AND SEE IF I WILL NOT THROW OPEN THE FLOODGATES OF HEAVEN AND POUR OUT SO MUCH BLESSING THAT THERE WILL NOT BE ROOM ENOUGH TO STORE IT.” — MALACHI 3:10**

When you begin giving, you're stepping into a lifelong journey of faith and generosity. As you give, He will grow your faith, multiply your impact, and remind you that you can never out-give Him.

# *A Story of Generosity*



Last fall I sat in service and listened to a sermon on giving. I was a newly single mother, struggling to pay my bills and feed my kids. I knew that even though I had nothing and wanted to hold onto the nothing that I had, I needed to be more faithful in giving back to God.

That Sunday afternoon I had \$300 in my bank account. I tithed \$150 from my previous paycheck, which clearly meant I was down to scary level. Three kids. Bills. Gasoline. Food. School. Life. Long time until payday.

And yet, God filled in the gaps, not just filled them in, He did Exceedingly, Abundantly more than I could have ever asked or imagined. Just like He promises.

That next week, someone from the church showed up at my work and handed me an envelope of cash. They felt prompted by God to show me with this tangible act that "God sees me." I paid my bills. I got my groceries. I knew that Jesus saw me. I knew that Jesus would see me through.

Once again He showed me that He is so very faithful, that He is the greatest provider and will always have us.

What an absolute gift it was to share all of this with the kids after school. That they get to see firsthand just how faith works. We deposited the money in the bank together and I asked them what was the first thing we were going to do with it. My youngest immediately said, "give back to God!". And here we are, nine-year-olds learning real faith lessons of a Great God.

—

Nine months later I can tell you that I have seen His faithfulness to provide so deeply the more that I continue to be faithful with giving. Simple ways like finding gift cards in my purse that I thought were spent already. Getting a massive, unexpected discount on something I didn't know about. Scholarships for my child's sports. A refund check from a job I worked 10 years ago. I could go on.

The best part is that my children have seen this. They have seen how He provided when I didn't know how to take care of something.

I am so thankful for this church. You welcomed us last year when we needed a new church home, and we have not looked back since. Thank you for preaching Jesus, His truth, His truth, and His providence. It has provided a place for my heart to continue to heal and I look forward to finding our place to give back to others through Rise as well.

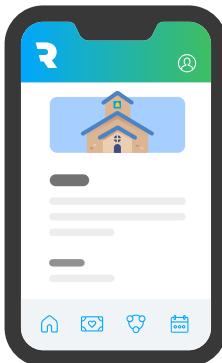
# WAYS TO GIVE AT RISE

## GIVE ONLINE

The easiest and simplest way is to **set up a giving profile online**. We use a donation portal called **Church Center Online**. This allows you to create a giving profile, setup your giving, and even track donations.

GIVE ONLINE AT [RISE.CC/GIVE](http://RISE.CC/GIVE)

Or by downloading the **Church Center App**



## GIVE IN-PERSON AT A GATHERING

Sundays are a time where we can give in person as an act of worship. We are intentional about not passing a plate, in order to allow people to give joyfully, not under compulsion. You can give via check, cash, or card at our giving station.

## MAIL IN YOUR GIFT

You can setup recurring giving through Bill Pay at your bank so that a check comes directly in the mail each month—or mail a check to:

Rise City Church  
1220 NE Kelly Ave  
Gresham, OR 97030

## Create a Giving Plan

Creating a giving plan helps you turn good intentions into intentional generosity—aligning your heart, habits, and resources with God's Kingdom.

### HOW MUCH I WILL GIVE:

Will you give a percentage of your income or a set amount? Start with something meaningful and sustainable.

### HOW OFTEN I WILL GIVE:

Will you give weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly? Pick a rhythm that works with your income and helps you stay consistent. *i.e. Monthly on the 10th*

### WHAT IS MY WHY?

Clarify your heart behind the habit—because generosity becomes joyful when you remember why you're doing it.

### WHAT WILL BE MY CHALLENGES?

Be honest: What might hold you back? Naming the challenges helps you bring them to God in prayer and prepare to push through them with faith.

### WHAT DO I HOPE TO SEE GOD DO IN MY LIFE AS I TAKE THIS STEP?

Do you long for deeper trust? Financial peace? Stronger faith? A more generous heart? Let your giving be a prayer in action—believing that as you give, God is forming something new in you.



## WHERE DOES YOUR GIVING GO?

At Rise, we're committed to making the most of every dollar entrusted to us—fueling the mission to Rise Up and Saturate our City with the Gospel. Every part of our budget is intentionally aligned with that calling.

### OUTWARD REACH

We give away a portion of our budget through Kingdom Builders—supporting church planting, local outreach, global missions, and strategic partnerships. This is how we live beyond our walls and extend the hope of Jesus to our city and the world.

Learn more at [rise.cc/kingdom-builders](http://rise.cc/kingdom-builders)



### MINISTRY IMPACT

We invest directly into ministries that make disciples—like Rise Kids, Rise Youth, City Groups, and our Sunday gatherings. These environments help people encounter Jesus, grow in their faith, and take next steps in community.



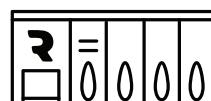
### STAFFING + PERSONNEL

We believe the church is built through people, not just programs. That's why we invest in a high-capacity staff team who equip volunteers, disciple leaders, and help carry the vision forward with excellence and care.



### OPERATIONS + FACILITY

We invest in the spaces and systems that make ministry possible—from our building and equipment to the behind-the-scenes operations that create a welcoming, functional, and effective home for the mission.



## CLOSING THOUGHTS

The Develop phase is a season of growth, practice, and new rhythms. You've said "yes" to Jesus, and now you're learning what it means to follow Him in daily life. This is where habits are formed, gifts are discovered, and your roots begin to go deeper. Every time you pray, every step you take to serve, every act of generosity you choose—these are shaping you into a disciple who is becoming more like Christ.

As Paul urged the Colossians,

**"LET YOUR ROOTS GROW DOWN INTO HIM, AND LET YOUR LIVES BE BUILT ON HIM. THEN YOUR FAITH WILL GROW STRONG IN THE TRUTH YOU WERE TAUGHT, AND YOU WILL OVERFLOW WITH THANKFULNESS."**  
**(COLOSSIANS 2:7)**

So lean into this season.

Spend time with Jesus every day.

Find your people and grow in community.

Use your gifts to serve others.

Begin to give and trust God with your resources.

And trust that as you put your faith into action, God is deepening your character and equipping you for the good works He prepared for you long ago.



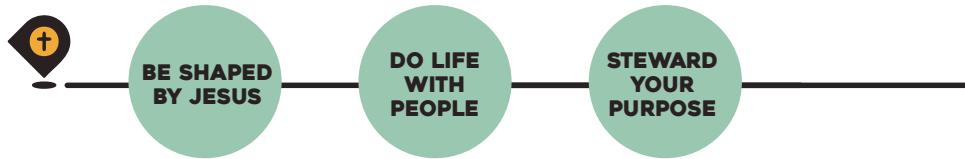
**DISCIPLESHIP  
PATHWAY**



# DEEPEN

**"AND WE ALL... ARE BEING TRANSFORMED INTO HIS IMAGE WITH EVER-INCREASING GLORY, WHICH COMES FROM THE LORD, WHO IS THE SPIRIT."**

**– 2 CORINTHIANS 3:18**



## **ALL OF LIFE IS BEING SHAPED BY & FOR JESUS.**

The Deepen stage is about going from surface-level faith to surrendered, Spirit-shaped living. You're no longer just learning about Jesus—you're being formed into His likeness. The gospel is sinking deeper into every part of your life, and your faith is beginning to influence your time, decisions, relationships, and character.

Spiritually, this stage involves refining and stretching your faith. God is shaping your desires, purifying your motives, and deepening your trust.

**The goal of this stage is whole-life transformation.** You're becoming more like Jesus in how you think, act, and love. This stage **builds resilience, spiritual maturity, and prepares** you to live a life of deeper impact and lasting fruitfulness.

In this season of spiritual formation, you're embracing rhythms of prayer, dwelling on Scripture, community, rest, generosity, and service—not out of obligation, but because you know they shape your soul. You're aware of your weaknesses, but you're also more rooted in grace than ever before.



Your relationships go deeper and become more vulnerable. You're internally investing in community and doing life with others. In your maturing, you're actually becoming more open to the sharpening that others have upon your life.

As you've built a basis of service and giving, this is the season where you press deeper and go to a new level of surrender and stewardship of your time, talents, and treasure. You're going to become more aware of who you are and what you're truly wired for.

This is where discipleship gets deep and real. It's where you start to look more like Jesus—not just in belief, but in the way you live, love, and lead. It's where your faith becomes resilient, rooted not in emotion or convenience, but in truth and trust.

One of the critical shifts that happens as you move into the Deepen phase is this: you go from being spiritually fed to learning how to feed yourself. Early in your faith journey, you might rely heavily on others to help you grow spiritually—but as you mature, it's vital that you develop the rhythms and habits that sustain your own spiritual life. This is where real depth occurs. When you learn to feed yourself spiritually, your faith becomes stronger, more resilient, and deeply rooted in Christ.

Another unique aspect of this stage, is that you never grow beyond it. Yes you will eventually begin actively making disciples, but even then, you'll never outgrow the need for deep formation. In fact, disciple-making requires it. As you step further into your purpose and begin intentionally investing in others, you'll find yourself stretched in new ways. Your need for closeness with God and other believers grows, not shrinks. Your dependence deepens. Your surrender expands.



# YOUR DEEPEN JOURNEY



## BUILD A RHYTHM FOR DEEP FORMATION

Allow the Holy Spirit to shape every part of your life.



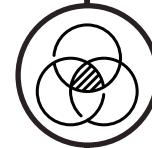
## FORM A GROUP TO DO LIFE WITH

A commitment to be known, sharpened, and encouraged in faith.



## STEWARD YOUR TIME

Invest your time where you're called and fruitful.



## STEWARD YOUR TALENT

Use your God-given gifts with deeper intentionality and impact.



## STEWARD YOUR TREASURE

Trust God with your finances by tithing.



# BE SHAPED BY JESUS

ALLOW THE SPIRIT TO  
SHAPE ALL OF LIFE—  
ALL FOR JESUS.

## PIVOTAL STEP #1

### BE SHAPED BY JESUS

True discipleship means allowing Jesus to shape every area of your life—your thoughts, actions, desires, and relationships. At this point in your journey, the **Holy Spirit actively leads you into deeper layers of growth through honest self-examination**. He **convicts, comforts, and empowers you** to courageously face places of resistance or disobedience and humbly surrender them to Jesus.

In the Discover and Develop stages, you began meeting Jesus through Scripture and establishing daily rhythms of intentional time with Him. Those practices don't fade away—instead, **the Spirit uses them as the foundation He builds upon**. In this Deepen phase, your hunger to know Jesus more intimately grows, and you welcome the Spirit's transforming presence into every area of your life, not just the comfortable ones.

As David prayed in Psalm 139:23–24: **“Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.”**

Being Shaped By Jesus is a process of surrendering every part of who you are and living with Kingdom intentionality. It's saying: "Lord, I want every part of me—my family, my finances, my habits, my health—to reflect You." When you take time to reflect, recalibrate, and respond in each area of life, you give the Spirit space to do lasting transformational work.

## STEP 01 SPIRIT-GUIDED EXAMINATION

Begin by inviting the Holy Spirit to help you see your life clearly. Before you make any plans or set any goals, pause to pray: “Spirit of God, search me and show me what matters most. Reveal where I am thriving, where I’m drifting, and where You’re calling me to grow.”

Assess where you are right now and ask the Spirit to help you discern what is truly important. This step is about awareness—not shame or striving—but honest reflection guided by grace.

**How am I doing?** With the Spirit’s help, rate each of these life priorities on a scale of 1-10 in terms of how satisfied you feel in each area (1 being far from where you want to be, 10 being flourishing). This number is for you alone, so be prayerfully honest with yourself.

**Priority:** Next, ask the Holy Spirit to help you recognize what areas He wants to shape in this season. Number each life area from 1-8 in order of what you sense is most important to focus on over the coming year.

	EVALUATE SATISFACTION SCALE 1-10	PRIORITIZE RANK 1-8
<b>RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD</b>		
<b>MARRIAGE</b>		
<b>FINANCES</b>		
<b>CAREER</b>		
<b>FRIENDSHIPS</b>		
<b>PARENTING</b>		
<b>MINISTRY</b>		
<b>HEALTH</b>		

## STEP 02 DISCERN WHERE THE SPIRIT IS CALLING YOU TO GROW

Now that you’ve prayerfully evaluated each area of your life, take time to listen for the Spirit’s leading. Growth in the Kingdom doesn’t come from ambition alone—it comes from obedience. Ask: *“Holy Spirit, where are You inviting me to grow deeper? What part of my life are You placing Your hand on in this season?”*

Look back at your priorities from Step 01, and choose 2-3 areas where you sense the Spirit is drawing your attention. It might be the place where you feel the most tension—or where you feel a fresh hunger. Either way, let this choice be a response to God’s prompting, not just your own pressure.

01

02

03

Once you’ve selected your areas to focus on, we’ll guide you through a Spirit-led process of reflection, vision, and practical action—so that every part of your life is increasingly shaped by Jesus.

## STEP 03 WRITE A SPIRIT-SHAPED VISION FOR EACH AREA OF LIFE

In each life area you've chosen, take time to write a vision statement—but don't just write who you want to become. Ask the deeper question: "*Holy Spirit, who are You forming me to be in this area of my life?*"

Write in the present tense, as a **declaration of identity and direction**. Let this statement reflect a picture of your life fully aligned with the heart of Jesus—what it would look like if this area was increasingly marked by His presence, His priorities, and His power.

Take time to search the Scriptures and let God's Word shape your vision. **Find a key verse for that area of your life and write it down.** Ask: "What kind of person am I becoming as I walk with Jesus in this area of life?"

**Let your vision statements be rooted in grace, fueled by hope, and shaped by the Spirit's leading.**

### EXAMPLE FOR A VISION STATEMENT ON MARRIAGE:

*I am a man who lovingly pursues my wife. I take the lead and initiative in our marriage spiritually, romantically, and relationally. My wife knows that she is the most important human relationship in my life. She feels honored and served by the decisions I make in my personal life; knowing I put her interests above mine. I push and encourage her to use her gifts, passions and potential; yet I don't try to make her be something she is not. My wife and my children feel safe, protected, provided for, and loved in our home and in my presence.*

## STEP 04 REFLECT HONESTLY & INVITE THE SPIRIT TO REVEAL

Now it's time to take an honest look at where you currently stand in this area of your life. This isn't about shame or striving—it's about humility, clarity, and openness to the Spirit's refining work.

Ask the Holy Spirit: "*Search me, God. Show me what's going well, what's broken, and where You want to heal, correct, or strengthen me.*"

Growth begins with truth. You can't move forward if you won't acknowledge where you are. This is where we lay down illusions and excuses—and receive the grace to grow.

Take time to reflect and write down your current reality using bullet points. Consider facts, feelings, and observations:

**What's going well in this area?**

**What needs growth, healing, or change?**

**Where do you sense the Spirit convicting or challenging you?**

**Are there patterns, habits, or relationships that need realignment?**

Don't rush this. Be specific. Be courageous. This is how we invite Jesus deeper into the places that still need His touch. The Spirit doesn't expose to shame you, but convicts to transform you.

**"YOU DESIRE TRUTH IN THE INNERMOST BEING." — PSALM 51:6**

## STEP 05 FORM A SPIRIT-LED GROWTH PLAN

This is where vision becomes action. Now that you've discerned who God is forming you to be, it's time to partner with the Holy Spirit by developing a clear, intentional plan for growth.

Ask yourself: "What is God calling me to do—daily, weekly, monthly, or yearly—to become the person Jesus is forming me into?"

Transformation doesn't stop at awareness—it moves through obedience. As God reveals areas of change, take the next faithful step, no matter how small. Obedience often looks like rhythms, habits, and small, faithful steps.

For each life area, write down 3–5 specific, measurable, and Spirit-aligned action steps. Think practically and prayerfully. Make sure your steps are realistic, repeatable, and rooted in discipleship—not just self-improvement.

Write down when you will take these steps—put them on your calendar, set reminders, or invite accountability. This is how formation moves from aspiration to incarnation.

Obedience is how transformation takes root. We don't just hear God's voice—we follow it. This is how we're deeply shaped by Jesus—In stillness, in community, and in everyday decisions where we choose surrender over self. **"DISCIPLINE YOURSELF FOR THE PURPOSE OF GODLINESS."**

— 1 TIMOTHY 4:7

Let these practices be your offering—simple acts of faith that open wide the door for God to do what only He can do: form Christ in you.

## STEP 06 NAME THE WRONG PATH

As you walk with Jesus, there will always be other paths pulling at your soul. The call of discipleship is not just about growing toward Christ—it's also about resisting the slow drift away from Him.

Go back to the mirror from Step 4. With humility and courage, ask yourself:

**"If I ignore what the Spirit is showing me... where will this lead?"**

**"If I stay passive, distracted, or self-centered in this area, what might my life look like 5 or 10 years from now?"**

Write it out. Be specific. Let it sober you, not shame you. This is about seeing clearly, so you can choose wisely. Without change, drift becomes direction.

**Where will your marriage go if you keep avoiding connection and working too much?**

**What kind of legacy will you leave your kids if you never work through your anger issues?**

**What will your soul become if you keep numbing out or pushing prayer to the margins?**

**Who will you be if the habits you're forming today continue unchallenged?**

**"THERE IS A WAY THAT SEEMS RIGHT TO A MAN, BUT ITS END IS THE WAY TO DEATH." — PROVERBS 14:12**

So take this seriously. Look darkness in the face. And then, with hope, turn again toward the Light.

# Example: Marriage



## VISION STATEMENT

I am a man who lovingly pursues my wife. I take the lead and initiative in our marriage spiritually, romantically and relationally. My wife knows that she is the most important human relationship in my life. She feels honored and served by the decisions I make in my personal life; knowing I put her interests above mine. My wife and my children feel safe, protected, provided for and loved in our home and in my presence. **"Love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her... so that He might present the church to himself in splendor" Ephesians 5:25,27**

## CURRENT ASSESSMENT

### WHAT'S GOING WELL:

- We really enjoy being married to each other and sharing life together.
- We are around each other often though we are in a busy season of life.
- Communication is vastly improved

### WHAT NEEDS GROWTH, HEALING, OR CHANGE?

- We do not get enough time alone & are not where we want to be romantically.
- Kids go to sleep about 10pm, making bedtime a long, exhausting process.
- Starting to feel more like roommates than we are marriage partners

### WHERE DO YOU SENSE THE SPIRIT CONVICTING OR CHALLENGING YOU?

- We need more regular date nights.
- I have become really selfish with my time and addicted to my phone
- I haven't been praying over our marriage like I should

## SPIRIT-LED GROWTH PLAN

*What is God calling me to do—daily, weekly, monthly, or yearly—to become the person Jesus is forming me into?*

WRITE OUT THE ACTION YOU WILL TAKE	WHEN/HOW
I will plan and schedule date nights	1st & 3rd Thursdays
We will read two books together by fall.	At bedtime to connect
My phone will get shut off each evening	On the charger by 6pm
We will meet with Marriage Team to discuss our communication challenges.	Starting this month
We will pray together daily	Even if for 1 min before work

## NAME THE WRONG PATH

If I stay passive, distracted, or self-centered in this area, what might my life look like 5 or 10 years from now?

**Too Much Work >> Not Enough Family Time or energy into my marriage >> Disconnection in my marriage >> Frustration and coldness when actually at home > > No longer even want to be home, Wife resents my calling >> No longer even want to be married >> Destruction in my family, for my kids, and even for my life calling.**

# Relationship with God



## VISION STATEMENT

A large dashed rectangular box for writing a vision statement.

## CURRENT ASSESSMENT

### WHAT'S GOING WELL:

### WHAT NEEDS GROWTH, HEALING, OR CHANGE?

### WHERE DO YOU SENSE THE SPIRIT CONVICTING OR CHALLENGING YOU?

## SPIRIT-LED GROWTH PLAN

*What is God calling me to do—daily, weekly, monthly, or yearly—to become the person Jesus is forming me into?*

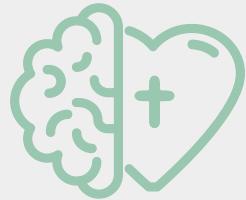
WRITE OUT THE ACTION YOU WILL TAKE	WHEN/HOW

## NAME THE WRONG PATH

If I stay passive, distracted, or self-centered in this area, what might my life look like 5 or 10 years from now?

# Marriage

## VISION STATEMENT



## SPIRIT-LED GROWTH PLAN

*What is God calling me to do—daily, weekly, monthly, or yearly—to become the person Jesus is forming me into?*

WRITE OUT THE ACTION YOU WILL TAKE	WHEN/HOW

## CURRENT ASSESSMENT

### WHAT'S GOING WELL:

### WHAT NEEDS GROWTH, HEALING, OR CHANGE?

### WHERE DO YOU SENSE THE SPIRIT CONVICTING OR CHALLENGING YOU?

## NAME THE WRONG PATH

If I stay passive, distracted, or self-centered in this area, what might my life look like 5 or 10 years from now?

# Finances

## VISION STATEMENT



## SPIRIT-LED GROWTH PLAN

*What is God calling me to do—daily, weekly, monthly, or yearly—to become the person Jesus is forming me into?*

WRITE OUT THE ACTION YOU WILL TAKE	WHEN/HOW

## CURRENT ASSESSMENT

### WHAT'S GOING WELL:

### WHAT NEEDS GROWTH, HEALING, OR CHANGE?

### WHERE DO YOU SENSE THE SPIRIT CONVICTING OR CHALLENGING YOU?

## NAME THE WRONG PATH

If I stay passive, distracted, or self-centered in this area, what might my life look like 5 or 10 years from now?

# Career

## VISION STATEMENT



## SPIRIT-LED GROWTH PLAN

*What is God calling me to do—daily, weekly, monthly, or yearly—to become the person Jesus is forming me into?*

WRITE OUT THE ACTION YOU WILL TAKE	WHEN/HOW

## CURRENT ASSESSMENT

### WHAT'S GOING WELL:

### WHAT NEEDS GROWTH, HEALING, OR CHANGE?

### WHERE DO YOU SENSE THE SPIRIT CONVICTING OR CHALLENGING YOU?

## NAME THE WRONG PATH

If I stay passive, distracted, or self-centered in this area, what might my life look like 5 or 10 years from now?

# Friendships

## VISION STATEMENT



## SPIRIT-LED GROWTH PLAN

*What is God calling me to do—daily, weekly, monthly, or yearly—to become the person Jesus is forming me into?*

WRITE OUT THE ACTION YOU WILL TAKE	WHEN/HOW

## CURRENT ASSESSMENT

### WHAT'S GOING WELL:

### WHAT NEEDS GROWTH, HEALING, OR CHANGE?

### WHERE DO YOU SENSE THE SPIRIT CONVICTING OR CHALLENGING YOU?

## NAME THE WRONG PATH

If I stay passive, distracted, or self-centered in this area, what might my life look like 5 or 10 years from now?

# Parenting

## VISION STATEMENT



## SPIRIT-LED GROWTH PLAN

*What is God calling me to do—daily, weekly, monthly, or yearly—to become the person Jesus is forming me into?*

WRITE OUT THE ACTION YOU WILL TAKE	WHEN/HOW

## CURRENT ASSESSMENT

### WHAT'S GOING WELL:

### WHAT NEEDS GROWTH, HEALING, OR CHANGE?

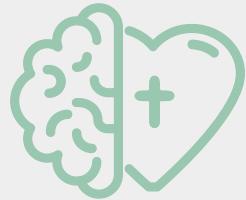
### WHERE DO YOU SENSE THE SPIRIT CONVICTING OR CHALLENGING YOU?

## NAME THE WRONG PATH

If I stay passive, distracted, or self-centered in this area, what might my life look like 5 or 10 years from now?

# Ministry

## VISION STATEMENT



## SPIRIT-LEAD GROWTH PLAN

*What is God calling me to do—daily, weekly, monthly, or yearly—to become the person Jesus is forming me into?*

WRITE OUT THE ACTION YOU WILL TAKE	WHEN/HOW

## CURRENT ASSESSMENT

### WHAT'S GOING WELL:

### WHAT NEEDS GROWTH, HEALING, OR CHANGE?

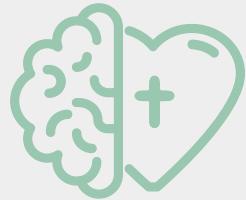
### WHERE DO YOU SENSE THE SPIRIT CONVICTING OR CHALLENGING YOU?

## NAME THE WRONG PATH

If I stay passive, distracted, or self-centered in this area, what might my life look like 5 or 10 years from now?

# Health

## VISION STATEMENT



## SPIRIT-LEAD GROWTH PLAN

*What is God calling me to do—daily, weekly, monthly, or yearly—to become the person Jesus is forming me into?*

WRITE OUT THE ACTION YOU WILL TAKE	WHEN/HOW

## CURRENT ASSESSMENT

### WHAT'S GOING WELL:

### WHAT NEEDS GROWTH, HEALING, OR CHANGE?

### WHERE DO YOU SENSE THE SPIRIT CONVICTING OR CHALLENGING YOU?

## NAME THE WRONG PATH

If I stay passive, distracted, or self-centered in this area, what might my life look like 5 or 10 years from now?



# DO LIFE WITH PEOPLE

WHO KNOWS THE REAL ME AND SHARPENS ME TOWARD JESUS?

## BUILD DEEP RELATIONSHIPS WHERE REAL GROWTH HAPPENS.

In earlier stages, you've found community through a City Group, a serving team, or men's and women's groups. **Now it's time to take these friendships even deeper.** This is where acquaintances become close friends, and friends become family. It's about sharing real life—going camping, making memories, sharing meals, and experiencing life's highs and lows side-by-side.

In these trusted relationships, something special happens spiritually. **This is the circle where you can be truly known and deeply loved. You practice honesty and vulnerability, sharing struggles, victories, and everything in between.** You wrestle openly with what Jesus is doing in your lives—encouraging, challenging, and calling one another to greater faithfulness.

These relationships aren't just comfortable—they're transformational. They include confession, accountability, and mutual care, all grounded in grace and truth. At Rise, we believe that God shapes us profoundly through these honest relationships where we lovingly challenge, confess to, and sharpen one another. This kind of intentional, trusted community is essential if we want to grow deeper and become more like Jesus.

# MARKS OF TRUE FRIENDSHIPS

BY JON TYSON

When you read the Scriptures, you see that the kingdom of God moves along relational lines. On the pages of scripture, we see depth, sacrifice, joy and loyalty all modeled for us to behold. These give us clues to the kind of friends we need in our lives today.

## FRIENDS WHO WILL RISK FOR YOU

PRISCILLA AND AQUILLA

**GREET PRISCILLA AND AQUILA, MY CO-WORKERS IN CHRIST JESUS. THEY RISKED THEIR LIVES FOR ME. NOT ONLY I BUT ALL THE CHURCHES OF THE GENTILES ARE GRATEFUL TO THEM. GREET ALSO THE CHURCH THAT MEETS AT THEIR HOUSE.**  
ROMANS 16:3-5

Paul traveled as an apostolic leader and was often forced to move and flee due to persecution. Being his friend came at a cost. But Priscilla and Aquilla were willing to risk themselves for Paul. They risked their resources to support his calling; they risked their time to help plant churches with him; they risked their hearts by uniting themselves to a call.

Pay attention to the folks who say yes. Who will believe in the crazy idea, join you for the last-minute road trip, invest in your latest vision, and stand by you when it costs them status, reputation or resources. Build your life with people like this. Be a friend like this.

## FRIENDS WHO ENCOURAGE YOU

BARNABAS

We live in a critical and cynical time. People feel entitled to lash out and criticize like it's a societal right. Sniping post on social media, subtle jabs in the lobby, passive aggressive emails, brutal confrontations. It is soul destroying and demoralizing. A steady diet of criticism and complaint will bleed a man's heart dry.

But there are also people who build you up. Those who come alongside you to stir your faith and build your spirit. Barnabas was a man like this.

He gave generously to the fledgling Christian movement. **Acts 4:36-37**

He assured the believers of the genuine conversion of a persecutor-turned-Christian named Saul, later known as Paul. **Acts 9:26-27**

He brought Saul to teach believers at Syrian Antioch, releasing him into ministry. **Acts 11:25-26**

He joined Saul in bringing relief to the Christians in Judea. **Acts 11:30**

## FRIENDS WHO REFRESH YOU

ONESIPHORUS

**MAY THE LORD SHOW MERCY TO THE HOUSEHOLD OF ONESIPHORUS, BECAUSE HE OFTEN REFRESHED ME AND WAS NOT ASHAMED OF MY CHAINS. ON THE CONTRARY, WHEN HE WAS IN ROME, HE SEARCHED HARD FOR ME UNTIL HE FOUND ME.** **2 TIMOTHY 1:16-18**

Certain people give you life simply by their presence. They have the ability to lift you out of whatever sorrow or pain you are in and bring you back to joy. They irrigate your heart in times of relational drought.

Henri Nouwen commented about friends like this. He said, “When we honestly ask ourselves which person in our lives mean the most to us, we often find that it is those who, instead of giving advice, solutions, or cures, have chosen rather to share our pain and touch our wounds with a warm and tender hand.”

## FRIENDS WHO FIGHT FOR YOU.

EPAPHRODITUS

**BUT I THINK IT IS NECESSARY TO SEND BACK TO YOU EPAPHRODITUS, MY BROTHER, CO-WORKER AND FELLOW SOLDIER, WHO IS ALSO YOUR MESSENGER, WHOM YOU SENT TO TAKE CARE OF MY NEEDS.**

PHILIPPIANS 2:25

There are people who support your vision, and then there are people who support you. These are the ones you can count on when the warfare gets real. They cover you in prayer. They fight for your heart. They join you in your cause. They rescue you when you get stuck. They refuse to quit on you when things get hard. And they are loyal when others turn away.

These people remind us of the faithfulness of Jesus. They are another incarnation of the stubborn love of God. When life gets hard, they dig in. They have your back, stand beside you, and clear a path in front of you. They ensure you never go to war alone.

## FRIENDS WHO TELL YOU THE TRUTH

NATHAN

**REBUKING A KING CAN BE HARD. REBUKING HIM FOR MURDER AND ADULTERY IS HARDER STILL. YET NATHAN HAD THE COURAGE TO DO THIS TO KING DAVID FOR HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH BATHSHEBA AND MURDER OF URIAH. “YOU ARE THE MAN!” NATHAN TOLD DAVID. (2 SAMUEL 12:5-7)**

Yet, this rebuke was done in love, and Nathan remained loyal, even to the ends of his days. Proverbs 27:5 says, “Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Wounds from a friend can be trusted.”

You don't need people hyping you up, overlooking your weaknesses, ignoring your faults. You need friends like Nathan who will call you out, then stand beside you to help you walk out the consequences.

## BECOMING THE FRIEND YOU LONG FOR

Jesus calls us to lay down our lives for our friends. He calls us to love one another as he has loved us. **The best way to find true friendship is to become one yourself.** I know it can feel forced and even strained to begin to move toward others in these ways, but you never know how God will move when you obey His commands of love. You never know how even the smallest acts of relational courage could mature into oaks of belonging in your life.

You never know when the holy place in your heart will open.

## PIVOTAL STEP #2

# FORM A GROUP TO DO LIFE WITH.

At this point in your discipleship journey, it's important for you to lead the way in forming deeper, intentional community. But how exactly do you build a group like this?

First, you need a foundation of friendship and relationship. If you haven't yet connected with others through a City Group or serving on a team, start there. **These environments naturally help you build connections, identify people you resonate with, and foster initial relationships built around shared interests and mission.**

Once you've identified people you connect with and desire deeper spiritual friendships with, **make the ask**. Invite them into something intentional. Ask if they'd be open to regularly gathering for purposeful spiritual sharpening and community.

## WHO COULD YOU ASK?

Who are the people you connect with and would like to go deeper in your discipleship journey with? **Aim for a group of 3-8 people.**



Here are a few helpful tips for starting and deepening this kind of group:

### 01. SHARE A MEAL TOGETHER

There's a reason Jesus gathered around tables. Sharing meals breaks down walls and builds connection. Eating together creates a relaxed and natural space where friendships deepen, conversations become authentic, and genuine community takes shape. Food draws us together—it helps shift the environment from formal to relational, making space for trust and comfort to grow.

### 02. GIVE LIFE UPDATES

Begin each gathering by honestly sharing what's going on in your lives—marriage, parenting, relationship with God, work, and health. This is a great place to share how you're doing with your growth plan. What's going well, where you're struggling, or where you're feeling stuck. This practice moves us purposefully beyond casual conversation into deeper authenticity. Remember, transparency is good, but vulnerability is transformative. Transparency is simply sharing information; vulnerability allows others to speak into your life and shape you spiritually. It opens the door for accountability, encouragement, challenge, and care.

### 03. SPEAK INTO ONE ANOTHER'S LIVES

Don't just share—invite and offer spiritual input. Ask for guidance. Give encouragement. Share wisdom from your own walk with Jesus. Help each other notice where God is at work and what next steps He might be prompting. Offer gentle accountability as you each pursue obedience and faithfulness. These conversations may feel awkward at first, but over time, they become the moments that shape and strengthen both your faith and your friendships.

## 04. GROW TOGETHER SPIRITUALLY

This intentional community should have a clear spiritual purpose. Consider reading and discussing a book of the Bible, choosing a thoughtful book to journey through, or tackling a discipleship study together. The key is purpose. Your gatherings should consistently point each other back to Jesus, Scripture, and the growth He desires in your lives. You'll find that as you intentionally pursue growth together, your faith deepens, and your relationships become even stronger.

## 05. CONTINUE TO SHOW UP

Community doesn't grow overnight—it deepens through consistency. Keep showing up, even when schedules get busy or it feels like you're not seeing immediate fruit. Faithful presence builds trust, and trust builds transformation. Every time you gather, share, pray, or listen, you're allowing God to shape not just your relationships, but your heart. Over time, you'll look back and realize that simply showing up—week after week—was one of the most powerful things you did.

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By embracing these intentional rhythms—meals, vulnerability, and spiritual growth—you'll cultivate an environment where authentic discipleship naturally happens and true community thrives.

**“TO BE LOVED BUT NOT KNOWN IS COMFORTING BUT SUPERFICIAL. TO BE KNOWN AND NOT LOVED IS OUR GREATEST FEAR. BUT TO BE FULLY KNOWN AND TRULY LOVED IS, WELL, A LOT LIKE BEING LOVED BY GOD. IT IS WHAT WE NEED MORE THAN ANYTHING. IT LIBERATES US FROM PRETENSE, HUMBLES US OUT OF OUR SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND FORTIFIES US FOR ANY DIFFICULTY LIFE CAN THROW AT US.”**

*Timothy Keller*





# STEWARD YOUR PURPOSE

## KINGDOM STEWARDSHIP.

### LEVERAGING YOUR TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE TO REFLECT THE HEART OF JESUS AND ADVANCE HIS KINGDOM.

If discipleship means becoming who Jesus would be if He were you, then one of the key questions we must wrestle with is this: **how would Jesus steward my time, my talent, and my treasure?**

As you deepen your discipleship, you begin to recognize that everything you have is a gift from God—and He calls you to intentionally leverage it for His Kingdom and His purposes.

You're no longer asking "How much do I have to give?"—you're asking "How can I give back to the One who has given me all that I have?"

This season is about increasing intentionality with every area of your life—**time, talent, and treasure**—so that your daily life becomes a clear expression of your true purpose: loving God, loving others, and joining Him in His redemptive work.



## PIVOTAL STEP #3

# STEWARD YOUR TIME

## INVEST YOUR TIME WHERE YOU'RE CALLED & FRUITFUL—CREATING MARGIN TO RESPOND TO WHAT MATTERS MOST.

Once you begin to understand how God has wired you, you can start making better decisions about how to use your time. You're not just reacting to the urgent or saying yes to everything—you're learning to invest your energy where God bears the most fruit through you.

You begin asking:

“Where do I sense God consistently working through me?”

“What should I say no to in order to say yes to what matters?”

“How can I bring Kingdom purpose into the places I'm already spending time?”

Whether you're meeting with clients or co-workers, sitting in the carpool line, doing projects around the house, or chatting on the sidelines at your kid's soccer game—you begin to see each moment as an opportunity to reflect the love, wisdom, and presence of Jesus.

You also start creating margin—not to do more, but to be more available. When you're not rushed, you're more likely to notice people, respond to needs, and follow the Spirit's promptings.

Jesus didn't cram His schedule full—He always had time for people. As His disciple, you're learning to live with that same kind of purposeful presence.

## PAUSE + REFLECT

### WHERE IS MY TIME BEARING FRUIT OR DRAINING LIFE?

**WHAT MIGHT I NEED TO STOP?** Tasks that drain your energy, feel like a grind, flow from guilt or pressure rather than joy or calling, and keep you from what matters most.



**WHAT MIGHT I NEED TO START?** Opportunities God may be prompting you toward—aligned with your gifts, showing early fruit, stirring excitement or quiet curiosity, and opening space where He might want to use you.



**WHAT MIGHT I NEED TO CONTINUE?** Things you're already doing that God calls you to approach with renewed purpose—fruitful, energizing, and opportunities to love Him and others.



**BONUS READ:** *At Your Best* by Carey Nieuwhof is a practical and faith-centered guide to time management and energy stewardship. If you often feel stretched thin or want to make the most of the time God's given you, this book is an excellent place to start.

## AT YOUR BEST



How to Get Time, Energy &  
Priorities Working in Your Favor

**Carey Nieuwhof**  
Bestselling author of *DIDN'T SEE IT COMING*

#### PIVOTAL STEP #4

## STEWARD YOUR TALENT

### UNDERSTAND HOW GOD UNIQUELY WIRED YOU—AND SERVE FROM A PLACE OF CLARITY, NOT OBLIGATION.

You were created on purpose, for a purpose. Your gifts, skills, passions, personality, and even your past experiences were never random. They are tools in God's hands—and when surrendered to Him, they become powerful instruments for Kingdom impact, both in and outside of the church.

In this season, you begin asking:

**"How has God uniquely gifted me?"**

**"Where do I see fruit when I serve others?"**

**"What have others affirmed in me that I might be overlooking?"**

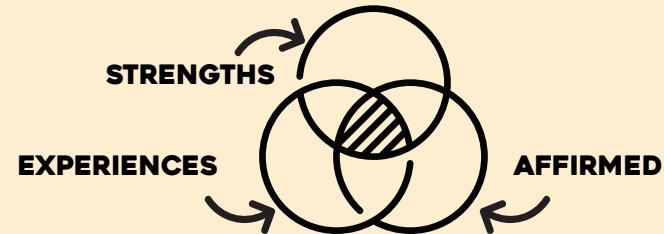
You start shifting from simply filling a need to discerning where you're most fruitful. You realize that burnout often comes from saying yes to everything—or saying yes out of guilt. Stewardship isn't about doing more. It's about saying yes to what's yours to carry—and no to what's not. The better you understand how God can use you, the more intentionally and sustainably you can give your time and energy.

**"AS EACH HAS RECEIVED A GIFT, USE IT TO SERVE ONE ANOTHER, AS GOOD STEWARDS OF GOD'S VARIED GRACE." — 1 PETER 4:10**



## DISCOVER YOUR KINGDOM SWEET SPOT

Stewarding your talent is about finding the place where your gifts, fruitfulness, and what others affirm converge—the intersection where God's unique design in you meets the needs of the world around you.



### 1. GIFTS & ABILITIES

What do you naturally do well? What skills or strengths come easily to you? These are divine deposits. Scripture reminds us that God has entrusted you with certain abilities not for self-promotion, but for Kingdom participation.

### 2. EXPERIENCES MARKED BY JOY AND FRUITFULNESS

Think back to moments where serving brought you both life and impact. When did you feel most alive while also seeing God use you to bless others? Those experiences are often clues to your calling. Joy and fruitfulness are like signposts pointing toward the work God has specifically equipped you for.

### 3. AFFIRMATION FROM OTHERS

Often others see in us what we overlook in ourselves. Pay attention to what people consistently affirm: "You're great at that," or "When you did that, it really made a difference." The Body of Christ helps us recognize our gifts more clearly so that we can walk in them more confidently.

## PAUSE + REFLECT



### GIFTS & ABILITIES

Spend some time reflecting on and listing out both your **spiritual gifts** and **abilities**. Pages 160-165 are filled with some helpful lists.

### JOYFUL & FRUITFUL EXPERIENCES

What are some areas of ministry that you've gotten to experience that fill you with joy and you see you're very effective at? What makes you come alive? These can be both inside and outside of the church.

### AFFIRMATION FROM OTHERS

What have others affirmed or spoken into your life? This could be a word of encouragement, an affirmation of impact, or even a prophetic message over your life.



## WHERE DO THESE CONVERGE?

### REVIEW & SEEK THE SPIRIT

Look over your notes for your giftings, experiences, and affirmation and begin to seek the Spirit's guidance in what He might be calling you to step into in a deeper way. Write down some notes as you process and pray:

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### WHAT IS YOUR NEXT STEP?

Maybe it's exploring a new serving opportunity, committing to a ministry team, or setting aside time to grow a particular skill. Write down one or two specific actions you can take and when so you can begin walking in greater alignment with your Kingdom purpose.

### WHO DO I NEED TO TALK TO?

Share what you're sensing with someone who knows you well—your team lead, city group leader, or trusted friend. Ask them to pray with you and speak into what they see. Sometimes the people around you can confirm what the Spirit is stirring within you—or help you see something you've missed.

# SPIRITUAL GIFTS

## ADMINISTRATION

The gift of administration is the divine strength or ability to organize multiple tasks and groups of people to accomplish these tasks.

**Luke 14:28-30; Acts 6:1-7; 1 Corinthians 12:28**



## APOSTLESHIP

The gift of apostleship is the divine strength or ability to pioneer new churches and ministries through planting, overseeing and training. **Acts**

**15:22-35; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Galatians 2:7-10**

## CRAFTSMANSHIP

The gift of craftsmanship is the divine strength or ability to plan, build and work with your hands in construction environments to accomplish multiple ministry applications. **Exodus 30:22, 31:3-11; 2 Chronicles 34:9-13**

## DISCERNMENT

The gift of discernment is the divine strength or ability to spiritually identify falsehood and to distinguish between right and wrong motives and situations. **Acts 5:1-11, 1 Corinthians 12:10; 1 John 4:1-6**

## EVANGELISM

The gift of evangelism is the divine strength or ability to help non-Christians take steps toward Jesus. **Acts 8:5-6, Ephesians 4:11-14**

## EXHORTATION

The gift of exhortation is the divine strength or ability to encourage others through the written or spoken word and Biblical truth. **Acts 14:22; Romans 12:8; 1 Timothy 4:13; Hebrews 10:24-25**



## FAITH

The gift of faith is the divine strength or ability to believe that God will move and to wait for Him to do so. **Romans 4:18-21; 1 Corinthians 12:9**

## GIVING

The gift of giving is the divine strength or ability to give faithfully and even radically for the purpose of advancing the Kingdom of God on earth. **Mark 12:41-44; Romans 12:8; 2 Corinthians 8:1-7, 9:2-7**

## HELPS

The gift of helps is the divine strength or ability to invest time and talents into the lives of other Christians in order to free them to be more effective in their own gifting and ministries. **Mark 15:40-41; Acts 9:36; Romans 16:1-2; 1 Corinthians 12:28**

## HOSPITALITY

The gift of hospitality is the divine strength or ability to sacrificially create warm, welcoming environments for others in places such as your home, office, or church. **Acts 16:14-15; Romans 12:13, 16:23; Hebrews 13:1-2**

## INTERCESSION

The gift of intercession is the divine strength or ability to pray for someone, something, or someplace, believing for profound results. **Hebrews 7:25; Colossians 1:9-12, 4:12-13; James 5:14-16**

## KNOWLEDGE

The gift of knowledge is the divine strength or ability to understand and to bring Biblical clarity to circumstances. **1 Cor 12:8; Colossians 2:2-3**



## LEADERSHIP

The gift of leadership is the divine strength or ability to influence people on their level while directing and focusing them on the big picture or vision. **Romans 12:8; 1 Timothy 3:1-13, 5:17; Hebrews 13:17**

## MERCY

The gift of mercy is the divine strength or ability to feel empathy that results in care for those who are hurting. **Mark 9:41; Romans 12:8**

## MISSIONARY

The missionary gift is the divine strength or ability to understand and reach others in their specific context while embodying their culture as an ambassador of the Gospel. **Acts 8:4, 13:2-3, 22:21; Ephesians 3:6-8**

## MUSIC WORSHIP

The gift of music/worship is the divine strength or ability to sing or play an instrument for the purpose of helping others worship God. **Deuteronomy 31:22; 1 Samuel 16:16; 1 Chronicles 16:41-42; 2 Chronicles 5:12-13, 34:12; Psalm 150**

## PASTOR / SHEPHERD

The gift of pastor/shepherd is the divine strength or ability to identify and care for the personal needs of others and help them take their next steps toward Jesus. **John 10:1-18; Ephesians 4:11-14; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; 1 Peter 5:1-3**

## PROPHETCY

The gift of prophecy is the divine strength or ability to apply the truth of God's Word to people's situations in a way that is clear, direct, and relevant. **Acts 2:37-40, 7:51-53, 26:24-29; 1 Corinthians 14:1-4**

## SERVICE

The gift of serving is the divine strength or ability to see and meet practical needs within the body of the Church, especially when those needs are related to unseen areas of work. **Acts 6:1-7, Romans 12:7, Galatians 6:10, 1 Timothy 1:16**

## TEACHING

The gift of teaching is the divine strength or ability to study and learn from God's Word in order to bring understanding and growth to other Christians and help them take steps toward Jesus. **Acts 18:24-28, 20:21, 1 Corinthians 12:28**

## WISDOM

The gift of wisdom is the divine strength or ability to apply the truths of God's Word in a practical way, bringing Biblical clarity to a situation that leads to personal breakthrough or life change. **Acts 6:3,10; 1 Corinthians 2:6-13, 12:8**

## HEALING

The gift of healing is the divine strength or ability to act as an intermediary in faith, prayer, and by the laying of hands for healing. **Acts 3:1-10, 9:32-35, 28:7-10**

## TONGUES & INTERPRETATION

The gift of tongues is the divine strength or ability to pray in a heavenly language to encourage your spirit and to commune with God in prayer, especially in private. In public, it should be accompanied by interpretation. **Acts 2:1-13; 1 Corinthians 12:10, 14:1-14**

# IDENTIFY YOUR TALENTS & ABILITIES.

God has uniquely shaped you with strengths, passions, and abilities—and He intends to use them in making disciples. When you understand how He's wired you, you can serve with greater clarity and confidence. The more you know how God has equipped you, the more intentional you can be in using those gifts to build His Kingdom. **Circle the 3-5 abilities that you see as your greatest strengths.**

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**Adapting** — the flexibility to meet people where they are and adjust as circumstances shift.

**Analyzing** — the ability to discern, evaluate, and wisely speak into people's lives.

**Coaching** — training, equipping, and developing others for growth.

**Coordinating** — helping people and resources come together for discipleship environments.

**Counseling** — listening well, offering care, and guiding others through challenges.

**Developing** — cultivating growth and maturity in people over time.

**Directing** — setting healthy direction and helping others stay on course.

**Empathy** — understanding and sharing the struggles and joys of those you disciple.

**Encouraging** — speaking life, inspiring faith, and building people up in Christ.

**Facilitating** — making discipleship environments possible, guiding conversations, and drawing others in.

**Implementing** — turning vision into action, ensuring steps are followed through.

**Improving** — helping others take the next faithful step toward Christlikeness.

**Influencing** — shaping lives through example, words, and presence.

**Leading** — inspiring vision, modeling faithfulness, and guiding others forward.

**Learning** — continuing to grow in your own faith and understanding.

**Mentoring** — walking alongside others with wisdom and intentionality.

**Motivating** — sparking courage, perseverance, and action in those you disciple.

**Organizing** — creating order and clarity so discipleship has room to thrive.

**Problem Solving** — helping others navigate obstacles in faith and life.

**Recruiting** — inviting others into discipleship opportunities and building teams.

**Resourcing** — providing tools, Scripture, and encouragement for growth.

**Serving** — modeling humility by meeting the needs of others.

**Strategizing** — thinking ahead about how to multiply disciples effectively.

**Teaching** — explaining truth clearly and helping others apply it.

**Welcoming** — creating an environment of belonging and openness.

**Writing** — communicating truth, encouragement, or guidance in lasting ways



# STEWARD YOUR TREASURE

**“WE HAVE FOUND IN OUR OWN  
HOME, AS HAVE THOUSANDS OF  
OTHERS, THAT GOD’S BLESSING  
UPON THE NINE-TENTHS, WHEN WE  
TITHE, HELPS IT TO GO FARTHER  
THAN TEN-TENTHS WITHOUT HIS  
BLESSING.”**

*Billy Graham*



# *A Theology of Tithing*

## EVERYTHING BELONGS TO GOD

All throughout Scripture, God reminds His people: "Bring me my tithe." The tithe was never a random percentage—it was an act of recognition that everything we have already belongs to Him (Psalm 24:1). The way God instructed His people to honor this truth was by bringing the tithe to His temple—His dwelling place among His people. Today, that same principle continues as we give our tithe to Christ's body, the church.

Tithing is not about meeting God's needs—as if He lacked anything—but about shaping our hearts. It is a tangible way of saying, "Lord, I trust You first with my life, and I will not worship what You've placed in my hands."

## MALACHI AND THE CALL TO RETURN

One of the clearest biblical windows into God's heart on the tithe is in Malachi 3. God confronts His people for withholding what belongs to Him:

**"WILL A MERE MORTAL ROB GOD? YET YOU ROB ME.  
BUT YOU ASK, 'HOW ARE WE ROBBING YOU?  
IN TITHES AND OFFERINGS." —MALACHI 3:8**

Here, God frames withholding the tithe not just as disobedience, but as robbing Him. The issue isn't the money—it's the covenant relationship. He ties their return to Him directly to their stewardship. God isn't after their resources; He's after their hearts.

## THE PATTERN OF TITHING IN SCRIPTURE

### ABRAHAM'S FIRST RESPONSE (GENESIS 14)

Abraham encounters Melchizedek, the priest-king of Salem—widely understood as a foreshadowing of Christ. Abraham's instinctive response is to give Him a tenth. Notice: this was before the Law of Moses was ever given. The tithe predates the law—it reflects what God's people naturally do when they recognize His greatness.

### THE TORAH CALLS THE TITHE HOLY

**A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.**

**Leviticus 27:30**

In the Law, God clarifies that the tithe is not just money—it is holy. To set aside the tithe was to treat a portion of one's increase as **sacred, devoted, and untouchable** before the Lord.

### WISDOM LITERATURE COMMENDS FIRSTFRUITS

Proverbs 3:9 carries this forward: **"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops."** Firstfruits are about priority. God is not honored with leftovers—He is honored when He comes first.

### THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

Paul teaches the Corinthians: **"On the first day of every week, each of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income."** — **1 Corinthians 16:2.** This mirrors the tithe pattern—intentional, proportional, regular—without making it a legal requirement.



## GRACE-MOTIVATED GENEROSITY

Paul then expands the vision: giving should be **sacrificial, cheerful, and motivated by grace**. The Macedonian believers gave “beyond their ability,” not out of law but out of love. This is the New Covenant vision of stewardship.

**EACH OF YOU SHOULD GIVE WHAT YOU HAVE DECIDED IN YOUR HEART TO GIVE, NOT RELUCTANTLY OR UNDER COMPELSION, FOR GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER. AND GOD IS ABLE TO BLESS YOU ABUNDANTLY, SO THAT IN ALL THINGS AT ALL TIMES, HAVING ALL THAT YOU NEED, YOU WILL ABOUND IN EVERY GOOD WORK.**

**—2 CORINTHIANS 9:7-8**

## OLD COVENANT LAW VS. NEW COVENANT LOVE

The New Testament does not command tithing as a law. We are not under the Old Covenant. Instead, we are under the New Covenant, where the law is fulfilled in Christ and summed up in this: Love God and love people.

But here's the tension: if love is the standard, shouldn't it take us further than law, not less? As Randy Alcorn points out, **“When New Testament believers, living in a far more affluent society than ancient Israel, give only a fraction of what was required under the Law, we must reevaluate our concept of ‘grace giving.’”**

The Israelites, with far less, gave far more. And they did so without the indwelling Spirit. We have the Spirit of God in us—shouldn't our generosity reflect even greater love?

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## WHY I STILL BELIEVE IN TITHING

“Tithing is the pattern I see in scripture, what God calls His people to. But also, it's a pattern of trust where I've experienced God's faithfulness to me and my family over and over and over.

Personally, I've seen God's faithfulness to me and my family over and over through this practice. The tithe keeps my heart aligned: it reminds me God is first, my provider, and that my money is not my master.

And if the New Covenant command is to love God with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength, the last thing I want is to handle my money in a way that places Him last in priority.” —Pastor Jason Clarke

## CONCLUSION: TITHING IS A PIVOTAL STEP IN OUR DISCIPLESHIP TO JESUS

Tithing is not ultimately about numbers—it's about our love and trust in our Creator. It's a practice that matures us, teaching us to trust God with what feels most tangible. Every time we tithe, we declare with our wallets what we profess with our lips: **Jesus is Lord!**

The tithe is a wise, biblical pattern that points us toward a greater reality: everything belongs to God. And when we surrender the first and best to Him, we declare our trust, grow in faith, and participate in His Kingdom work on earth. God longs to bless you, entrust you with more, and invite you to participate in eternal Kingdom impact with all that you have.

**LISTEN TO A SERMON EXPLAINING THE SIGNIFICANCE AND POWER THAT TITHING HAS IN OUR LIVES AS DISCIPLES.**



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PIVOTAL STEP #5

## BEGIN TO TITHE

### TRUST GOD WITH YOUR FINANCES BY TITHING—AND LET GENEROSITY REORIENT YOUR HEART AROUND HIS KINGDOM.

At the Deepen stage of your discipleship journey—you will begin to see your money not as something to control, but as something God has entrusted you with. And the most significant step you can take in this area is to start tithing—giving the first 10% of your income back to God through the local church.

Tithing rarely feels easy at first. You probably won't ever feel "ready." But when you take that step of obedience, something shifts. God shows up and begins to reorient your heart. What once felt like a loss becomes a declaration: **"God, I trust You with all of it."**

Tithing is a declaration that everything you have is from God and for God. And it's a step we've seen radically transform people's spiritual lives time and time again.

**"BRING THE WHOLE TITHE INTO THE STOREHOUSE. TEST ME IN THIS," SAYS THE LORD ALMIGHTY, "AND SEE IF I WILL NOT THROW OPEN THE FLOODGATES OF HEAVEN."** — MALACHI 3:10

## FROM GIVING TO KINGDOM STEWARDSHIP.

Giving often starts spontaneous and unstructured, but God's vision for generosity is deeper, fuller, and more transformative than we first imagine. Part of maturing as a disciple is learning to see giving not just as an occasional act, but as an **ongoing practice of stewardship under Christ**.

### MOVE FROM CASUAL GIVING

**SPONTANEOUS** – Giving only when you feel like it in the moment.

**SPORADIC** – Inconsistent, without rhythm or plan.

**SPARING** – Offering what's leftover rather than what's best.

This kind of giving often starts the journey—but it keeps **you** at the center: your mood, your margin, your control.

### TO KINGDOM STEWARDSHIP

**PRIORITY** – God comes first, so you give your first and best (Proverbs 3:9).

**PERCENTAGE** – You set aside a clear portion of your income as an act of worship.

**PROGRESSING** – As God entrusts you with more, you grow in generosity, increasing your capacity to bless.

Kingdom Stewardship puts **Jesus** at the center—His Kingdom, His provision, His mission.



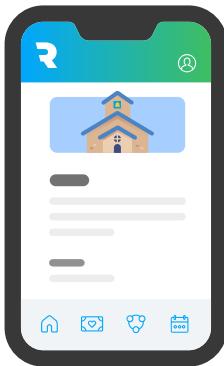
# WAYS TO GIVE AT RISE

## GIVE ONLINE

The easiest and simplest way is to **set up a giving profile online**. We use a donation portal called **Church Center**. This allows you to create a giving profile, setup your giving, and even track donations.

**GIVE ONLINE AT [RISE.CC/GIVE](http://RISE.CC/GIVE)**

Or by downloading the **Church Center App**



## GIVE IN-PERSON AT A GATHERING

Sundays are a time where we can give in person as an act of worship. We are intentional about not passing a plate, in order to allow people to give joyfully, not under compulsion. You can give via check, cash, or card at our giving station.

## MAIL IN YOUR GIFT

You can setup recurring giving through Bill Pay at your bank so that a check comes directly in the mail each month—or mail a check to:

**Rise City Church  
1220 NE Kelly Ave  
Gresham, OR 97030**

## Create a Tithing Plan

Creating a plan helps you turn good intentions into intentional generosity—aligning your heart and resources with God's Kingdom.

### HOW MUCH I WILL GIVE:

### HOW OFTEN I WILL GIVE:

Will you give weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly? Pick a rhythm that works with your income and helps you stay consistent. *i.e. Monthly on the 10th*

### WHAT IS MY “WHY”?

Clarify your heart behind the habit—because generosity becomes joyful when you remember why you’re doing it.

### WHAT DO I HOPE TO SEE GOD DO IN MY LIFE AS I TAKE THIS STEP?

Do you long for deeper trust? Financial peace? Stronger faith? A more generous heart? Let your giving be a prayer in action—believing that as you give, God is forming something new in you.

## WHERE DOES YOUR GIVING GO?

At Rise, we're committed to making the most of every dollar entrusted to us—fueling the mission to Rise Up and Saturate our City with the Gospel. Every part of our budget is intentionally aligned with that calling.

### OUTWARD REACH

We give away a portion of our budget through Kingdom Builders—supporting church planting, local outreach, global missions, and strategic partnerships. This is how we live beyond our walls and extend the hope of Jesus to our city and the world.

Learn more at [rise.cc/kingdom-builders](http://rise.cc/kingdom-builders)



### MINISTRY IMPACT

We invest directly into ministries that make disciples—like Rise Kids, Rise Youth, City Groups, and our Sunday gatherings. These environments help people encounter Jesus, grow in their faith, and take next steps in community.



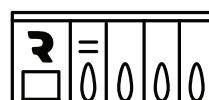
### STAFFING + PERSONNEL

We believe the church is built through people, not just programs. That's why we invest in a high-capacity staff team who equip volunteers, disciple leaders, and help carry the vision forward with excellence and care.



### OPERATIONS + FACILITY

We invest in the spaces and systems that make ministry possible—from our building and equipment to the behind-the-scenes operations that create a welcoming, functional, and effective home for the mission.



## CLOSING THOUGHTS

The Deepen phase is a season of surrender, maturity, and Spirit-led transformation. You're no longer just building new rhythms—you're allowing the Holy Spirit to search your heart, refine your character, and lead you into greater obedience. This is where faith grows resilient, love grows sacrificial, and your life begins to reflect Jesus in deeper, unseen ways. Every time you pause to listen, every step of surrender, every act of faithful stewardship—these are forming you into a disciple rooted firmly in Christ.

As Paul urged the Ephesians,

**"I PRAY THAT FROM HIS GLORIOUS, UNLIMITED RESOURCES HE WILL EMPOWER YOU WITH INNER STRENGTH THROUGH HIS SPIRIT. THEN CHRIST WILL MAKE HIS HOME IN YOUR HEARTS AS YOU TRUST IN HIM. YOUR ROOTS WILL GROW DOWN INTO GOD'S LOVE AND KEEP YOU STRONG." (EPHESIANS 3:16-17)**

So go deep in this season.

**Build a rhythm for deep formation.**

**Form a group to do life with.**

**Steward your time with holy intention.**

**Steward your talent for Kingdom impact.**

**Steward your treasure with faith and generosity.**

And trust that as you walk with Jesus, the Spirit is deepening your roots, strengthening your faith, and equipping you for a life that bears lasting fruit.



**DISCIPLESHIP  
PATHWAY**



# DISCIPLE MAKER

**“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, 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**



## MULTIPLYING DISCIPLES & LIVING ON MISSION.

In the Disciple-Maker stage, your faith moves beyond inward growth to active participation in multiplying disciples and advancing God's Kingdom. You've experienced God's transformation in your life, and now you want to help others experience it too. You're not just growing—you're giving. You're leading, mentoring, discipling, and investing in others, while still remaining rooted in your own growth.

Spiritually, this stage is marked by maturity, humility, and mission. You see your life as part of God's Kingdom work—your home, workplace, and community as places to reflect Christ and multiply disciples. You're learning to lead with love, point people to Jesus, and empower others to take steps in their journey.

The goal of this stage is multiplication. Just as Jesus poured into His disciples so they could pour into others, you're now living for more than just your own growth—you're helping others follow Jesus and continue the cycle of disciple-making.



Jesus didn't just say "Follow me." He said "Go and make disciples." This stage is about multiplying the gospel. Your life becomes a conduit of grace, truth, and transformation for others.

This is how the Kingdom grows. Not through programs, but through people. Through you. When you make disciples, you're not just impacting a moment—you're impacting generations. And in the process, your own life becomes even more vibrant, refined, and aligned with God's heart.

## THE PIVOTAL STEP OF A DISCIPLE-MAKER

The Disciple-Maker stage builds on all the pivotal steps of the earlier stages and brings them to their natural culmination—multiplying outward into others. At this point, you're not only walking as a disciple; you're helping others become disciples by replicating what God has done in you.

Here, *Joining Jesus*, *Investing in People*, and *Multiplying Your Purpose* converge into one unified calling: **Multiplying the Kingdom by making disciples**. Instead of having distinct steps for Jesus, People, and Purpose, disciple-making weaves them together—you pour into others so they can follow Jesus, grow in faith, and live on mission.



This multiplication can take many different forms and will look different across seasons of life. For some, it means leading a City Group or walking closely with a few people in their discipleship journey. For others, it may mean stepping further into leadership, taking on greater ownership, and helping others rise.

The key is to identify who you are, how you've been shaped by your own journey and what God is calling you to right now. As you discern and obey, every step you take extends the life of Jesus into others and carries His Kingdom forward.

**"MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS IS THE OVERFLOW OF DELIGHT IN BEING DISCIPLES OF JESUS."**

*David Platt*

# IDENTIFY YOUR SPHERE OF DISCIPLESHIP.

We won't all make disciples in the same way. Some of us thrive in the depth of a one-on-one relationship, while others come alive guiding a group. None of these are better, above, or more important than the others. The point isn't to do it all, but to discover the sphere where you feel most drawn, where God seems to make you most effective, and where others affirm your impact.

## ONE-ON-ONE DISCIPLESHIP

This is discipleship through personal relationships. This is mentoring, walking closely with someone, listening deeply, and modeling Christ in everyday life. It's about intentional investment in a single life.

*You'd be a good fit for this if: You naturally connect deeply with individuals, enjoy mentoring or coaching, and find joy in walking alongside someone's spiritual journey. You're patient, attentive, and willing to invest time in steady, personal growth.*



## GROUP DISCIPLESHIP

This is discipling others through guiding, launching, or facilitating a group of some kind. This may be leading a City Group, hosting at Alpha, serving in kids or youth, or helping with men's or women's groups. You guide the group, but everyone contributes to one another's discipleship.



*You'd be a good fit for leading a group if: You love bringing people together, fostering discussion, and creating a safe environment for others to share. You enjoy guiding conversations, asking good questions, and helping people learn from one another.*

## MINISTRY LEADERSHIP

This is making disciples through the impact made on others via helping to execute a ministry. Through taking on greater responsibilities within a team—you disciple others by impacting their faith and equip them to have their own Kingdom impact.



*You'd be a good fit for this if: You see the bigger picture, enjoy equipping others, and thrive on building systems or structures that help people succeed. You're comfortable delegating, developing leaders, and encouraging people to discover and use their gifts.*

## CHURCH LEADERSHIP

This is the rarest sphere, and it's not something you nominate yourself for but something others affirm and invite you into. This could be pastoring, planting, being an elder in a local church or leader in a denomination or network. At this level, you disciple by shaping the direction of a church, creating systems, and building a culture where discipleship flourishes at scale.



*You'd be a good fit for this if: Others consistently recognize and affirm your spiritual leadership, wisdom, and character. You carry vision for the whole church, love shaping culture, and feel a deep burden to guide people collectively toward Christ.*

# IDENTIFY WHO YOU'RE COMPELLED TO DISCIPLE.

Just as every disciple-maker has unique gifts and abilities, every disciple-maker will find themselves drawn to and shaped for certain people. God entrusts us with certain people based on who He has made us to be, the season of life we're in, and the opportunities He places in front of us.

Peter was uniquely called to the Jews because of his background, culture, and personality, while Paul was called primarily to the Gentiles. Their gifts, experiences, and even weaknesses positioned them for different people groups.

This matters because disciple-making isn't random—it's intentional. **When you recognize who God may be calling you to invest in, you can disciple with greater focus and fruitfulness.** For some, that might mean walking with seekers or new believers. For others, it may be developing young leaders, encouraging the struggling, or investing in the overlooked.

As you discern who God has placed in your path, ask: Who am I uniquely equipped to disciple in this season? Who has God entrusted to me?

## CATEGORIES OF PEOPLE TO DISCIPLE

Select the ones that resonate most with you.

### EMERGING DISCIPLES

People just beginning their journey with Jesus or still exploring faith.

- Seekers** — those exploring faith, asking big questions, or spiritually curious.
- Starters** — those who've just begun following Jesus and need a strong foundation.
- Next-Gen** — kids, students, and young adults growing into lifelong disciples.

### GROWING DISCIPLES

People following Jesus but need support, guidance, or deeper roots.

- Hungry** — hungry to learn and explore Scripture.
- Servants/Doers** — eager to serve but need guidance in growth.
- Struggling Drifters** — struggling to stay anchored in faith.

### HEALING DISCIPLES

People who may feel stuck or wounded, and need intentional investment.

- Wounded** — those scarred by past pain or trauma.
- Weary** — exhausted from trials or hardship.
- Withdrawn** — pulled away from community, overlooked, or isolated.

### MULTIPLYING DISCIPLES

People ready to pour into others and expand God's Kingdom.

- Emerging leaders** — learning to steward their gifts.
- Expanders** — influencing others but need sharpening and support.

# Disciple-Making Plan



## SPHERE OF DISCIPLESHIP I FIT BEST



ONE-ON-ONE



GROUP



MINISTRY TEAM

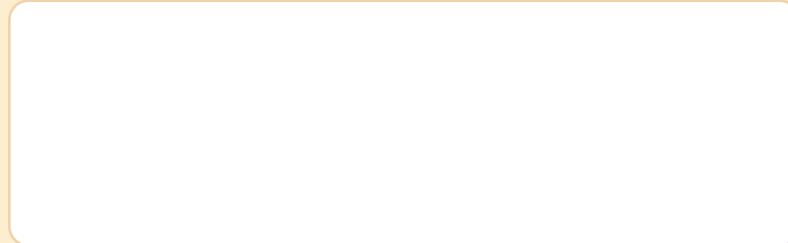
## WHO I FEEL CALLED TO DISCIPLE

Write down some of the categories selected from page 187.



## MINISTRY JOY & IMPACT

What experiences in ministry have given you the most joy and where you have seen Kingdom fruit?



## YOUR NEXT STEP

Once you've identified your sphere of discipleship, read the pages that go with it and write down what you sense your next step might be.



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## TAKING YOUR NEXT STEP

Once you've identified the sphere of discipleship you feel most drawn to, you'll find some helpful ideas on the following pages for how to take your next step.

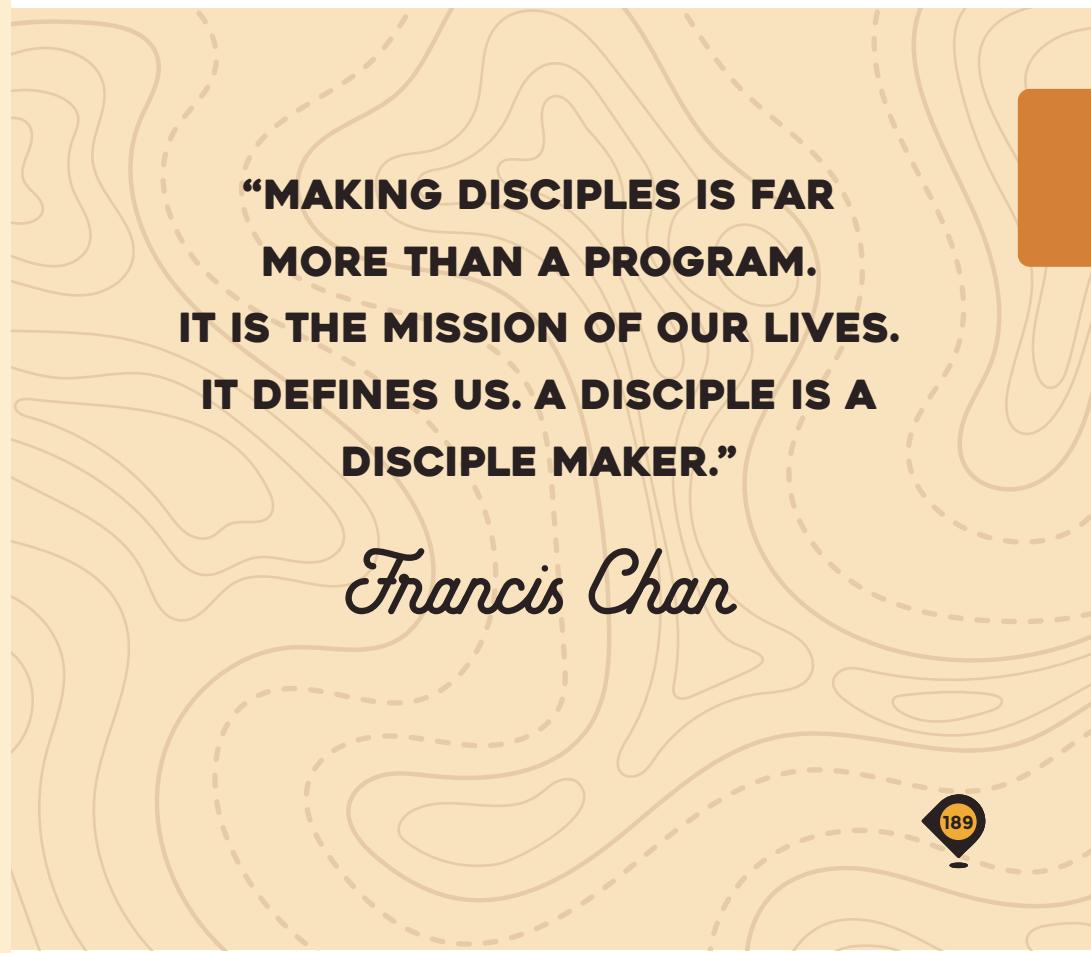
ONE-ON-ONE DISCIPLESHIP.....PAGE 190-191

GROUP DISCIPLESHIP.....PAGE 192-193

MINISTRY LEADERSHIP.....PAGE 194-195

**“MAKING DISCIPLES IS FAR MORE THAN A PROGRAM. IT IS THE MISSION OF OUR LIVES. IT DEFINES US. A DISCIPLE IS A DISCIPLE MAKER.”**

*Francis Chan*

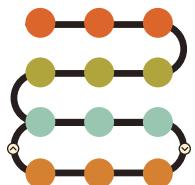


# ONE-ON-ONE DISCIPLER

If you're drawn toward personal, relational discipleship, here are some ways to begin:

## USE THIS GUIDEBOOK.

One of the biggest barriers in discipling others is not knowing where to begin. That's why this guide exists. Use it as a roadmap for your time together. Read sections, talk through where they find themselves, and walk alongside them as they take pivotal steps. Discipleship was never meant to be walked alone—we need one another to grow.



## ASK SOMEONE TO START MEETING.

God may already be placing someone on your mind—a person in your City Group, at Alpha, on your serving team, or even a coworker or friend. Invite them out for coffee or a meal. You don't need to announce, "I'm going to disciple you." Instead, simply start asking intentional questions about life and faith. Position yourself as a guide, walking alongside them and pointing them toward Jesus.

## FORM A GROUP OF 2-3.

Even though this sphere is called one-on-one, a small group of two or three can create the same depth with added accountability and encouragement. This time, be clear and invite them into an intentional process of discipleship together.



## BECOME A PATHWAY GUIDE

Another powerful step you can take is simply making yourself available to others who are walking this journey. As our church leans into disciple-making, we need mature, humble guides who are willing to walk alongside others. This might happen through a group, over coffee, or in one-on-one conversations.

### QUALITIES OF A GOOD PATHWAY GUIDE

**Spirit-Led** — prayerful, sensitive to the Holy Spirit's direction, and grounded in God's Word.

**Humble** — doesn't posture as the expert but walks alongside others as a fellow disciple.

**Faithful & Available** — willing to give time and attention, whether through groups, coffee meetings, or one-on-one conversations.

**Encouraging & Equipping** — speaks life, inspires confidence, and builds others up. Helps others take their next steps of faith.

**Patient** — recognizes that growth takes time and discipleship is a process, not a quick fix.

**Good Listener** — asks thoughtful questions, pays attention, and seeks to understand before giving advice.

## TAKE YOUR NEXT STEP

Let us know you're interested at [rise.cc/lead](http://rise.cc/lead). By making yourself available, you're creating space for others to grow in Christ with the support and encouragement they need.

# GROUP LEADER

If you feel called to guide or facilitate others, you can step into leadership by launching or leading a group. At Rise, there are several opportunities to step into this kind of role and help shape a space where people grow in faith and community.

**CITY GROUP LEADER** – Shepherd a mid-sized group that gathers regularly to live out community, discipleship, and mission together in our city.

**LAUNCH A MEET-UP** – Start a simple, interest-based gathering (like hiking, coffee, or board games) that helps people connect and build friendships around shared rhythms.

**ALPHA HOST OR HELPER** – Create a welcoming space for people to explore faith by either leading discussion (Host) or supporting relationally and practically (Helper).

**MEN'S OR WOMEN'S GROUP LEADER** – Guide gender-specific groups where people can grow deeper in faith, accountability, and encouragement alongside others in the same stage of life.

**JOIN THE RISE KIDS TEAM** – Help children discover who Jesus is in a fun, engaging environment. You'll guide small groups through lessons, conversations, and activities that build faith foundations and show kids they're loved by God and seen by His church.

**YOUTH LEADER** – Build relationships with middle and high school kids by leading meaningful discussions and modeling what it looks like to follow Jesus authentically—helping raise up the next generation of disciple-makers.



## APPLY TO BE A GROUP LEADER

Group Leaders play a vital role in helping people find belonging and take next steps in their faith. Whether it's leading a City Group, hosting a Meet-Up, or guiding a men's or women's group, your leadership creates space for real growth, honest conversations, and Kingdom community to flourish. If you sense God stirring you to help others grow, this could be your next step in the journey of discipleship and leadership at Rise.

### QUALITIES OF AN EFFECTIVE GROUP LEADER

**Relationally Warm** – Creates a welcoming, safe, and authentic space where people feel seen, known, and valued. Leads with empathy and approachability, helping others open up and build genuine connection.

**Spiritually Hungry** – Models a growing, teachable heart that pursues Jesus personally and invites others to do the same. Leads from overflow, not obligation, and points people back to God's Word and presence in every conversation.

**Socially Aware** – Reads the room and leads with wisdom—balancing voices, navigating tension with grace, and cultivating an environment of respect and belonging.

**Empowering Others** – Sees potential in people and calls it out. Encourages participation, shares ownership, and equips others to use their gifts so the group doesn't just grow together—it multiplies outward.

**IF YOU'RE READY TO OPEN YOURSELF UP IN THIS WAY, LET US KNOW BY SIGNING UP AT [RISE.CC/LEAD](http://RISE.CC/LEAD). ONCE YOU FILL OUT THE FORM, WE'LL FOLLOW UP WITH NEXT STEPS.**

# MINISTRY LEADERSHIP

Disciple-making doesn't always look the same. Sometimes it happens in close, personal relationships, but it can also happen through leadership—by building teams, shaping culture, and creating spaces where others encounter Jesus and grow.

Leadership isn't limited to titles or roles. It's expressed through the gifts God has given you—gifts like vision, strategy, planning, organizing, and administration. These skills strengthen ministries, bring clarity and order, and make room for discipleship to thrive.

When you lead within a ministry, you disciple both directly and indirectly. Directly, as you invest in team members, encouraging and helping them grow. Indirectly, as your leadership enables more people to experience transformation through the ministry itself.

This can happen inside or outside the church—through a ministry team, nonprofit, or parachurch organization. These gifts aren't separate from disciple-making—they make it possible and help it multiply at scale.

If you sense God may be calling you to take on more responsibility where you already serve, here's where to start:

## 01. SHOW UP & SERVE FAITHFULLY

Start by modeling what it looks like to serve with excellence, consistency, and joy. Jesus taught that the path to leadership in His Kingdom begins with serving others, not seeking positions or titles.



## 02. HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH YOUR TEAM LEAD

Reach out to your Team Lead—or connect after a Sunday gathering—to let them know you'd like to take on more responsibility. Express a heart to be helpful wherever there's a need and a willingness to learn.

## 03. BRING YOUR “MAKING DISCIPLES PLAN”

Bring the responses from page 188 to your meeting with your Team Lead. This framework will help guide the conversation about how you can intentionally disciple others through your role.

## 04. LEAD WITH HUMILITY

Don't come in demanding leadership. Instead, approach the conversation with humility and teachability. Be ready to listen, receive feedback, and follow the direction of those God has already placed in leadership.

## 05. GROW. GROW. GROW.

Once you do step into greater responsibility, the Jesus, People, Purpose practices from the Deepen stage will matter more than ever. Leadership in the church is a sacred calling. If you only pour out but never fill up, you'll eventually run dry. Keep pursuing Jesus deeply so that what you give flows from overflow, not exhaustion.



**A DISCIPLE MAKER IS  
SOMEONE WHO HAS MOVED  
FROM BEING THE RECIPIENT  
OF THE CHURCH'S MISSION  
TO BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR  
THE CHURCH'S MISSION.**

## CLOSING THOUGHTS

The Disciple-Maker stage is a season of multiplication, mission, and spiritual legacy. You're no longer focused only on your own growth—you're partnering with Jesus to see that growth take root in others. What began as inward transformation now overflows into outward investment.

This is where discipleship becomes movement. Every conversation, every prayer, every intentional investment is a seed that can bear eternal fruit. When you pour your life into others, you're joining Jesus in His mission to "go and make disciples of all nations." You become part of the unbroken chain of faith that stretches from the first followers of Jesus to the people He's calling today.

Disciple-making doesn't require perfection; it requires presence. It's showing up, walking alongside others, and pointing them toward the One who changes everything. As you lead, guide, and invest, the same Spirit who formed Christ in you is now forming Christ through you.

As Paul wrote to Timothy,

**"AND THE THINGS YOU HAVE HEARD ME SAY IN THE PRESENCE OF  
MANY WITNESSES ENTRUST TO RELIABLE PEOPLE WHO WILL ALSO  
BE QUALIFIED TO TEACH OTHERS." — 2 TIMOTHY 2:2**

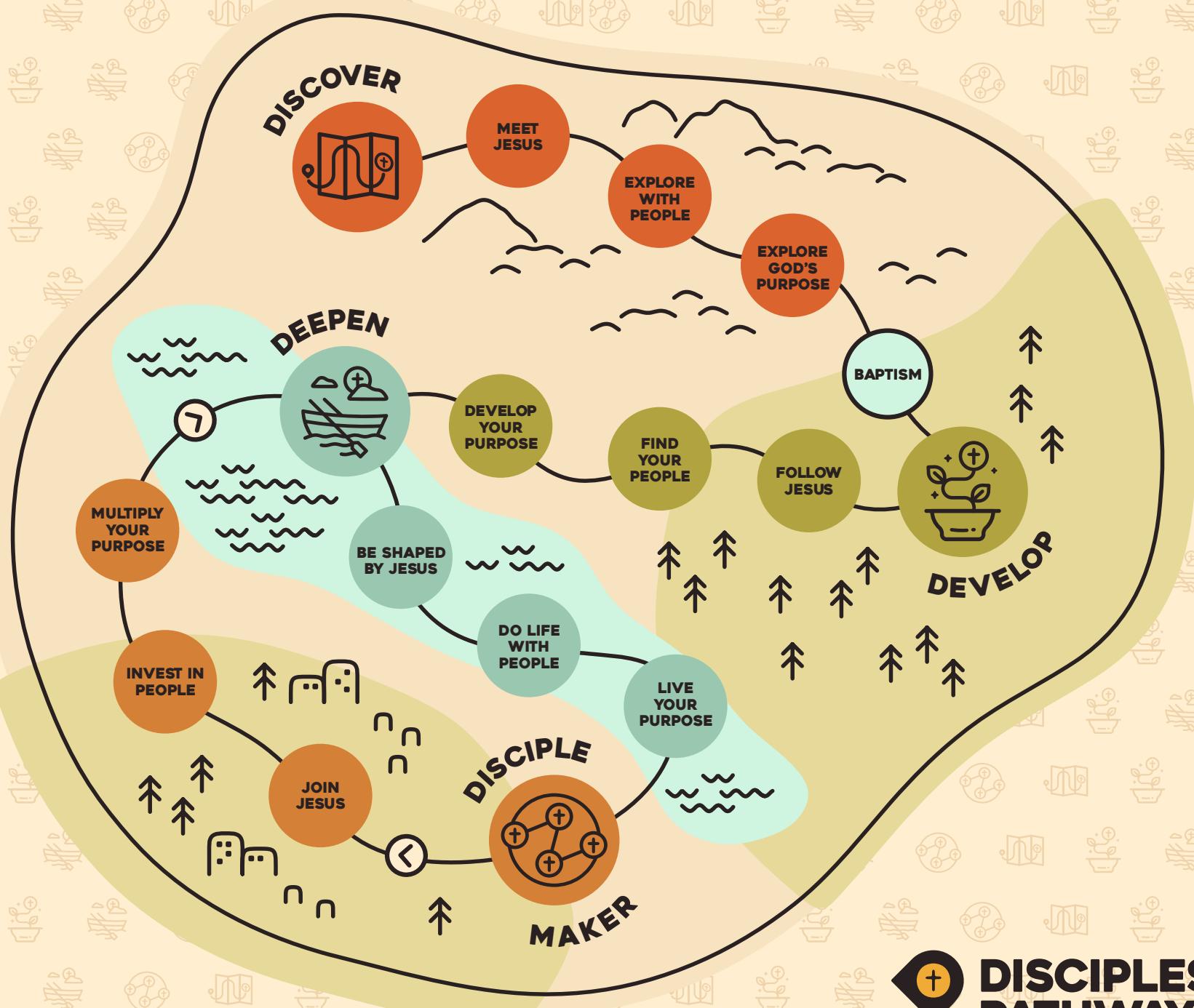
So live as a sent one in this season.

Join Jesus in His mission.

Invest in people with intention.

Multiply your purpose for the Kingdom.

And trust that as you make disciples, the Spirit is expanding the life of Jesus through you—impacting generations and advancing His Kingdom one life at a time.



**DISCIPLESHIP  
PATHWAY**

# NEVER BEYOND, ONLY DEEPER.

Discipleship is the lifelong journey of every follower of Jesus. From the moment we say “yes” to Him, we begin a journey of transformation that continues for the rest of our lives.

We don’t move beyond discipleship; we move deeper into it. Deeper into grace when we fail. Deeper into trust when life doesn’t go as planned. Deeper into surrender as the Holy Spirit continues to refine us. The longer we walk with Jesus, the more we realize that maturity isn’t about mastering a set of lessons—it’s about becoming more like Him in heart, mind, and character.

Following Jesus is not a class to complete or a checklist to achieve. It’s a relationship that keeps shaping us from the inside out. As we grow, He invites us into new levels of obedience, new opportunities to love, and new steps of faith. Some seasons will stretch us; others will strengthen us. But in every season, God’s purpose remains the same—to form Christ in us so His life can shine through us.

That’s why discipleship never ends. Even as we lead others, we remain learners. Even as we pour out, we stay dependent on His Spirit. Even as we teach, we continue to be taught. The most effective disciple-makers are those who never stop being disciples themselves.

**SO KEEP COMING BACK TO THIS PATHWAY.**

**REPEAT THE EVALUATION. SEE HOW YOU'RE GROWING.**

Jesus is not finished with you.

The Spirit is still forming you.

The Father is still leading you.

And the path of discipleship will always lead you closer to His heart.

Keep walking.

Keep listening.

Keep letting Him shape your life.

Because we never move beyond discipleship to Jesus—only deeper in it.

**“SO THEN, JUST AS YOU RECEIVED CHRIST JESUS AS LORD,  
CONTINUE TO LIVE YOUR LIVES IN HIM, ROOTED AND BUILT UP IN  
HIM, STRENGTHENED IN THE FAITH AS YOU WERE TAUGHT, AND  
OVERFLOWING WITH THANKFULNESS.” — COLOSSIANS 2:6-7**





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[rise.cc/pathway](http://rise.cc/pathway)



**RISE.CC/PATHWAY**