

THE DISCIPLESHIP COVENANT

Jesus spent time with His Disciples. They learned together ... they shared life together ... they followed Jesus in His examples of daily living. This is a big part of what being/making a Disciple looks like - **Sharing life as we grow closer to Jesus, to each other, becoming more like Him.**

Each year, you commit to doing this with just two people, and repeat the following year with two new people. THEY repeat the cycle with two more each, and **THIS** is how we change the world!

If you don't believe you're ready to disciple others, then spend the first year **BECOMING** a Disciple. We reproduce what we are, so why not make sure we are the best follower of Jesus before leading others?

THE DISCIPLESHIP CYCLE

We commit to an annual discipleship cycle. Our cycle runs from January 1 - December 31 (9 months for Bible reading commitments, and 3 months for catching up - if needed).

BE INTENTIONAL

Pray and ask the Lord who He would have you disciple.

Prayerfully secure 2 people to commit to the "5 Lifestyle Disciplines" to meet with you each week.

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE

Select and meet with 2 others each week for 1 year to help each other establish **for a lifetime** this Discipleship Covenant using the "5 Lifestyle Disciplines".

5 LIFESTYLE DISCIPLINES

These 5 Lifestyle Disciplines will help us to intentionally **HEAR** from Jesus, **SEE** Him at work in and through us, and **HELP PREPARE US** to become not only better Disciples, but Disciple-Makers and Makers of Disciple-Makers!

#1 BIBLE READING (ADULTS)

With our detailed and flexible reading plans, you will read through the Old Testament and the New Testament each year. Adult reading plans are based upon a 15, 30, and 45 minute reading schedule.

BIBLE READING (CHILDREN)

We have also created 2 reading plans specifically designed for your children to experience God's Word in an easy format.

#2 PRAYER - TALKING WITH JESUS

Praying is talking with Jesus. He is present, listening, and speaking by His Spirit and through His Word.

#3 - FASTING (TO INCREASE TIME FOR PRAYER)

Objective - to pursue time with Jesus, in place of a normal activity/meal.

HOW DO I DO IT?

There are many types of fasting (such as from food, social media, screen-time, soda, etc.), but the main point is to substitute a normal event (this is why meals are good choices) for a time devoted to prayer. Instead of eating breakfast, devote that normal time period in prayer. Don't just skip a meal - Intentionally take that time to seek the Lord and spend time talking **AND LISTENING** to Him during these times.

KEEP IT SIMPLE

Don't make it so difficult that it feels more like a job than an honor. The goal is to spend time with Jesus in place of a normal activity/meal.

#4 ACTS OF CARING & MERCY

Motivated by love for Jesus & others

See Matthew 25:31-40

Do one specific act of mercy (at least), alone or as group

Do each month for one of Jesus' broken and/or lost sheep

SEE "Feeding & Caring of Sheep" by Hal Perkins BELOW

In John 21:15-17, Jesus has a conversation with Peter during which He asks Peter, "Do you truly love me more than these?" To which he replied, "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you."

Jesus' response was: "Take care of my sheep."

We, like Peter, as a Disciple of Jesus, are to tend to His sheep.

4 TYPES/KINDS OF SHEEP

Because of our authentic love for Jesus, we sincerely partner with Him to care for and feed His lambs and sheep (1) Ourselves, (2) Our family - those with whom we live, (3) A specific few of our church family, and (4) Specific, long term relationships with lost sheep (especially the under-privileged).

#5 MAKING DISCIPLES

Make Disciples - Select and meet with 2 others each week for 1 year to help each other establish for a lifetime this Discipleship Covenant of 5 Lifestyle Disciplines. (See "5 Lifestyle Disciplines" on this page/section).

GOALS OF DISCIPLING MEETINGS

Meet Weekly

Meet weekly to be disciplined by Jesus together for 1 hour, or 1 ½ hours, or 2 hours each week. The quantity of time given to meetings impacts the quality of discipling that can be accomplished.

Goal 1: All 3 in group profoundly disciplined by Jesus' Body, Word, and Spirit--an authentic encounter together each week.

Goal 2: Individuals, having been disciplined in a group to be disciplined by Jesus, able--in private--to be disciplined by Jesus' Word and Spirit several times per week, and to then make great progress in being disciplined moment by moment / led by Jesus' Spirit all day long.

Goal 3: For all 3 of Jesus' disciples who are meeting weekly to be intentionally trained (discipled) to effectively make disciples in successive annual discipling cycles.