Discipleship Essentials

BE ONE MAKE ONE

Matthew 28:19

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

At Disciples Church, we believe every believer is called to be more than a Christian; we are disciples of Jesus. This Discipleship Essentials booklet is a simple guide to help our church live out what it means to Be One and Make One together, in everyday life. This journey starts with understanding and is lived out through action.

The Goal of a Disciple:
Become More Like Jesus

Ephesians 4:15
Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.

The Definition of a Disciple:

Someone who is:
Following Jesus (Devoted)
Being Transformed by Jesus (Disciplined)
Joined the mission of Jesus (Duplicated)

Matthew 4:19
And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

The Discipleship Process:

Discipleship does not happen by accident. People grow when there is a clear path, consistent practices, and real relationships that help them follow Jesus in everyday life.

Our Be One Make One Discipleship Process gives Disciples Church a shared direction so anyone who wants to become more like Christ can take steady, intentional steps forward and help others do the same.

Be One

Follow the Path of a Disciple:

Know God • Find Freedom • Grow in Purpose • Make a Difference

The path of a disciple is a lifelong journey of knowing God, not just intellectually, but personally. As we walk with Him, we find freedom from past wounds, sins, and patterns that keep us from becoming who God created us to be.

The journey continues as we grow in purpose. God didn't just save us from something; He saved us for something. God's ultimate plan is that we would make a difference in the lives of others. Disciples don't just discover God's purpose; they live it out by serving others and reaching those who are far from Him.

Follow the Practices of a Disciple:

The Practices of a Disciple are built around 7 foundational truths that form a follower of Jesus and fuel the 7 habits of a Disciple. As a disciple, what do I need to know and how do I live it out? This list is not exhaustive, but forms a great foundation for every follower of Jesus.

7 Foundational Truths

1. The Gospel and Salvation

The gospel is the message of salvation through Jesus Christ. Without the gospel, there is no forgiveness or hope.

- **We all need salvation • Romans 3:23**
- **The penalty of sin is death • Romans 6:23**
- **Jesus is the solution • Romans 5:8**
- **Confess & Believe • Romans 10:9**

See More: goodgodgospel.com
Memorize: Ephesians 2:8–9
Read: The Cross of Christ by John Stott

2. The Character and Nature of God

God is one God who exists eternally as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. What you believe about God shapes how you live, pray, and trust Him.

- God is one • Deuteronomy 6:4
- God is holy • Isaiah 6:1–5
- God is faithful • Lamentations 3:22–23
- God is just • Psalm 89:14

Memorize: Exodus 34:6–7
Read: The Attributes of God by A.W. Tozer

3. Identity in Christ

When we place our faith in Jesus, our identity is defined by who we are in Christ, not by our past or performance.

- We are new creations • 2 Corinthians 5:17
- We are children of God • John 1:12
- We are forgiven and redeemed • Ephesians 1:7
- We are chosen and loved • Colossians 3:12
- We belong to God's kingdom • Philippians 3:20

Memorize: 2 Corinthians 5:17
Read: Renovation of the Heart by Dallas Willard

4. How to Read and Apply Scripture

The Bible is God's Word, given to reveal truth and guide us in following Jesus. God's Word brings clarity and direction.

- **God's Word is living and active • Hebrews 4:12**
- **Scripture guides our path • Psalm 119:105**
- **We are to do what the Word says • James 1:22**
- **Holy Spirit helps us understand • John 14:26**

Study Method:
SOAP (Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer)
See More: soapstudies.com
Memorize: 2 Timothy 3:16–17
Read: How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth by Gordon Fee

5. How to Pray and Hear God

Prayer is an ongoing conversation with God where we connect to God, align with God, and receive from God

- **Pray with confidence • Hebrews 4:16**
- **Pray like Jesus • Matthew 6:9–13**
- **The Spirit helps us pray • Romans 8:26–27**
- **Pray continually • 1 Thessalonians 5:17**

See More: go.dc.one/prayerbook
Memorize: Philippians 4:6
Read: Prayer by Timothy Keller

6. The Mission and Purpose of the Church

The church is not a building, but a people, the body of Christ. We are called to worship God, grow together, serve others, and make disciples, each playing a role in God's mission.

- We are the body • 1 Corinthians 12:27
- Love one another • John 13:34
- Encourage one another • 1 Thess. 5:11
- Bear one another's burdens • Galatians 6:2
- Forgive one another • Ephesians 4:32

Join the Church: go.dc.one/growthtrack
Memorize: Ephesians 4:11–13
Read: What's Next By Chris Hodges

7. Love as the Greatest Command

Love is the defining mark of a follower of Jesus. We are called to love God fully and love others sacrificially, reflecting Christ to the world.

- Love fulfills God's law • Romans 13:10
- Jesus modeled sacrificial love • John 15:13
- Love is patient and kind • 1 Cor. 13:4–7
- God first loved us • 1 John 4:19

See More: go.dc.one/outreach
Memorize: Matthew 22:37–39
Read: The Essential Commandment by Greg Ogden

7 Habits of a Disciple

1. Meet with God Daily

A disciple spends daily time in prayer, Bible study, and worship, pursuing intimacy with God and learning to follow His voice. You don't stay close to Jesus by accident. Open your Bible. Talk to Him. Listen.

- God's Word sustains us • Matthew 4:4
- Relationship, not routine • Jeremiah 29:13
- Bears Fruit • John 15:4–5
- Strengthens our walk • Joshua 1:8

See More: youversion.com
Memorize: Psalm 63:1
Read: The Pursuit of God by A.W. Tozer

2. Serve Faithfully

A disciple uses their gifts to strengthen the church and bless the world, showing up with a willing heart and a servant spirit.

- We are gifted to serve others • 1 Peter 4:10
- Serving builds the body • Ephesians 4:16
- We are called to good works • Ephesians 2:10
- God honors faithful service • Matthew 25:21

See More: go.dc.one/teams
Memorize: Ephesians 2:10
Read: Just Do Something by Kevin DeYoung

3. Share Your Faith Intentionally

A disciple stays spiritually aware, looks for opportunities to talk about Jesus, and trusts the Holy Spirit to work in conversations and relationships.

- We are Christ's witnesses • Acts 1:8
- Faith grows • Romans 10:14–15
- We are ambassadors • 2 Corinthians 5:20
- Gospel is God's power to save • Romans 1:16

See More: goodgodgospel.com
Memorize: 1 Peter 3:15
Read: The Master Plan of Evangelism by Robert E. Coleman

4. Live Generously

A disciple lives open-handed with time, talent, and treasure, trusting God as the provider.

- Everything comes from God • James 1:17
- Generosity honors God • Proverbs 3:9
- Called to live generously • 1 Timothy 6:17–19

Memorize: Matthew 6:19–21
Read: The Genius of Generosity by Chip Ingram

5. Surrender Daily

A disciple chooses obedience to Jesus over comfort and personal preference.

- Surrender is an act of worship • Romans 12:1
- Jesus modeled surrender • Luke 22:42
- Surrender leads to true life • Galatians 2:20

Memorize: Luke 9:23
Read: I Surrender All by Priscilla Shirer

6. Love Like Jesus

A disciple loves in a way that points people to Jesus.

- Love reflects God's nature • 1 John 4:7–8
- Love puts others first • Philippians 2:3–4
- Jesus loved through sacrifice • Romans 5:8
- Love is lived out in action • 1 John 3:18

Memorize: John 13:34–35
Read: B.L.E.S.S. by Dave Ferguson

7. Engage in Community Consistently

A disciple commits to church life through worship, small groups, and intentional relationships.

- Early church lived in community • Acts 2:42–47
- We are stronger together • Ecclesiastes 4:9–12
- Community helps us grow • Ephesians 4:15–16
- God places believers in a family • Psalm 68:6

Join a Group: go.dc.one/groups
Memorize: Hebrews 10:24–25
Read: Life Together by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Make One

Making disciples is not optional or reserved for church leaders. It's the calling of every follower of Jesus. If we are to Be One, we must also Make One (John 14:15; Matthew 28:19).

At Disciples Church, we believe disciple-making happens through intentional, relational discipleship, not by accident, and not through programs alone.

Discipleship moves through three relational spaces: from the crowd (church gatherings), to the group (DC Groups), and into intentional one-to-one relationships (2 Timothy 2:2).

Within those intentional relationships, we practice a simple pattern modeled in Scripture (Philippians 4:9):

Model • Teach • Encourage • Correct • Challenge

•**Model:** Before you disciple with your words, disciple with your life.

•**Teach:** From Scripture and from your own walk, show what it means to follow Jesus.

•**Encourage:** Following Jesus isn't always easy, so disciples encourage one another through challenges.

•**Correct:** When someone is headed in the wrong direction, we lovingly help realign their steps.

•**Challenge:** We challenge one another to keep growing toward full obedience to Christ.

Discipleship works best in consistent, one-to-one relationships where life is shared, faith is practiced, and growth is intentionally pursued.