



CROSSROADSCHURCH

DISCIPLESHIP OVERVIEW

WHY: We naturally reproduce in our own image. Look at God's creative order or, in your own home, with your kids as an example. They probably look, talk, and have many attributes as you do. As we consider discipleship, we want to grow people to be like Jesus. Our reason for this is because the church exists to fulfill the purposes of Jesus and he clearly gave us our marching orders in Matthew 28, stating, *"And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

Since this is our goal, we are wise to look to the words and actions of Jesus to best discern the "type" of disciple He wants us to create. In Luke 10:27 Jesus beautifully stated *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind."* For our discipleship process, we have built everything around Jesus' words here; to cultivate a *mind, heart, soul, and strength* to honor God.

HOW: Crossroads Church aligns with many churches who believe that *"discipleship happens best in circles, not in rows."* What that means, is that spiritual growth that leads to lifestyle change more often occurs in small groups where people actually live life together and encourage one another to the application of truth in real life. Classrooms have a purpose, but to develop disciples who live and love like Jesus, we believe they are best developed and encouraged in small groups.

Toward this end, our discipleship strategy is focused primarily on equipping our many Community Groups to make and encourage disciples within their gatherings. Our Community Groups make up the core of Crossroads Church and our goal is to continually encourage new people to join Community Groups, and equip our Community Groups to digest biblical truth in their experience of life together.

WHAT: We have written modules toward this end, with four key categories flowing directly from Luke 10:27. They are:

- **[MIND] Theological truths:** *Basic truths Christian must know and believe.*

- **[HEART]** Value shifts: *Changes in perspective and values to align our reality with that of God's greater plan.*
- **[SOUL]** Spiritual Practices: *Personal disciplines we need to engage to connect with God and become empowered to live a spiritual life*
- **[STRENGTH]** Lifestyle changes: *Discerning how your life must look different in order to join God in His redemptive work*

MODULES:

MIND: Theological Truths

Basic truths Christian must know and believe

Modules in this category:

- The Story of God: The big picture
- The Nature of God: Trinity - Triune relational God [Father, Son, Holy Spirit]
- The Nature of God: Eternal - no beginning and no end (self-existent)
- The Nature of God: Creator; He is purposeful in all that He does
- The Nature of God: God speaks-reveals himself
 - General revelation
 - Specific revelation
- The Nature of God: The Father
- The Nature of God: Jesus
- The Nature of God: Holy Spirit
- The Nature of Humanity: Created for purpose
- The Nature of Humanity: Depraved/broken
- The Nature of Humanity: Individually responsible
- Salvation: Islam
- Salvation: Buddhism
- Salvation: Humanism
- Salvation: The uniqueness of Christian faith
- The Bible: Confidence & authority in Scripture
- Key words: Holy/Holiness
- Key words: Glory
- Key words: Sin
- Key words: Reconciliation
- Key words: Justification

- Key words: Sanctification
- Key words: Glorification

HEART: Value shifts

*Changes in perspective and values
to align our reality with that of God's greater plan*

Modules in this category:

- God is knowable: We are created to be loved by God and to love God
- God is Knowable: Engaging the Bible for truth and direction
- God is knowable: Living in relationship with God in life's stages & rhythms
- God is knowable: Looking for what God is actively doing in my life and the lives of others, and how to actively participate (Blackaby's *Experiencing God* idea)
- Identity - Who God says I am vs. the world/our own story
- Kingdom mindset - God's KINGDOM over my mini-kingdom
- Submission
 - To the will and authority of God
 - To the authority structures He has established
 - To the purposes He has called your church into
 - To the purposes He has called you into
- Suffering: God is present and working in our seasons of trial
- Eternal perspective vs. temporal
- Spiritual realm: we have an enemy AND we have spiritual power (Holy Spirit)

SOUL: Spiritual Practices

*Personal disciplines we need to engage
to connect with God and become empowered to live a spiritual life*

Modules in this category:

- Engaging the Bible
- Prayer
- Worship
- Church: engagement and participation
- Sacraments: Baptism
- Sacraments: Communion

- Confession
- Sabbath: Rest/Play/Restoration
- Understanding and using spiritual gifts

STRENGTH: Lifestyle changes

Living Differently to join God in His redemptive work

Modules in this category:

- Interdependent Living - Life Together
- Neighboring
- Devotion and allegiance
- Generosity
- Serving
- Love for all

CONVERSATION EXAMPLE (from Devotion and Allegiance):

CONVERSATION #1: Livin' on the Vine

The Christian life is an invitation to transformation and hope. Experiencing this does not come merely by mental ascent to Christian beliefs, but rather allowing God to work within us, then embracing a lifestyle of transformation. Key to this are two paramount values: the first is establishing a lifestyle of devotion to God where we cultivate depth and knowledge of the heart of God and the values He holds. God has made Himself "knowable" and cultivating this relationship is central to biblical Christianity. Second is what we call allegiance, or obedience. Simply put, allegiance is allowing God to actually be "God" in our lives and joyfully surrendering our will in order to His in order to experience the fullness of transformation offered to us.

In this module we will explore how the Christian lifestyle is one of living connected to God.

MY STORY | Starting Place

What is the worst disaster you have been in where services (water, electricity) were not available? How did the "disconnection" affect you and those around you?

DIGGING DEEPER | Practical Biblical Application

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in

my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. John 15:5-10.

- What comes to mind when you read of Jesus' command to abide in him?
- Is the idea of abiding in Christ something you have heard communicated in church or Christian circles? How could it be communicated more clearly or helpfully?
- Share a time when you felt profoundly connected to Jesus. How did you cultivate that experience?
- In verse 5 Jesus says that "apart from (him) we can do nothing." Clearly people can do things apart from him, so what do you think he means by this?
- In verse 6 Jesus shares that if we don't abide we will be gathered like sticks and burned. What do you think Jesus means here? And why would an illustration like this be important?
- Is abiding in Jesus as simple as a branch sticking to a tree, or is there discipline involved? What are the most meaningful spiritual disciplines for you to stay connected to Jesus?
- How do you know when you're connected and abiding? What does it feel like to be disconnected from Jesus?
- To go deeper, read Ephesians 3:17-19.

GROWING TOGETHER | Spiritual Friendship

- Have you ever had a friend who helped, or encouraged you, to abide in Jesus? Share about how that worked.
- How can friends or a married couple encourage one another to abide in Christ?
- How can your group cultivate greater vulnerability to be honest about our levels of connection with Jesus week by week?

MOVING OUTWARD | Faith in Action

God working in the lives of humans is a powerful reality. Think of someone in your circle with whom you might be able to share about this amazing reality, and give them a taste of the hope, joy, and purpose we gain by living in connection with Jesus.