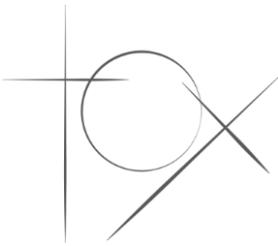


## SPIRITUAL GROWTH THROUGH INTENTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS



Our two cross vision unifies us around a passion for leading people to trust Jesus as Savior (His Cross) as well as inspires us to live surrendered lives to the Lord as we deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Him in every area of our lives.

We also believe that the place where spiritual growth and transformation takes place best is in the circle of growth and intentional relationships. This is where we are learning to live and love like Jesus as we connect in relationship with others and help each other grow in our walk with Him. This is the essence of discipleship.

No matter where people are engaged in the process of discipleship, no matter what tools or techniques we use to pass on spiritual truth, the ultimate goal is men and women who become more and more like Jesus—and are able to pass this character on to others and help them do the same. As we begin to live and love more like Jesus, here are a few helpful marks of a disciple who is growing in Christ. This is not intended to be a checklist to measure yourself against others but more like a compass to continually guide your journey.

As members of Calvary Fellowship, who are growing and maturing in the Lord by God's grace, we desire to be ...

### **WORSHIPPING REGULARLY**

Gathering together weekly with our church family, participating in baptism and the Lord's Table in celebration of the new life we have in Jesus and in remembrance of all that Jesus has done for us by His grace.

### **WITNESSING BOLDLY**

Asking God to open doors for the gospel, always being ready to give an answer for the reason for the hope to we have, sharing this Good News boldly and clearly yet with gentleness and respect.

### **LOVING UNCONDITIONALLY**

Walking in a manner worthy of the gospel and making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

### **CONNECTING INTENTIONALLY**

Learning to live and love like Jesus and helping others to do the same in the context of intentional, discipling relationships.

### **SERVING FAITHFULLY & GIVING GENEROUSLY**

Stewarding God's resources by giving of our time, talents, spiritual gifts and treasures to the Calvary Fellowship family and beyond.

### **PRAYING PURPOSEFULLY**

Seeking God's face and continually interceding for others privately and corporately as we pray for God's kingdom to come and His will to be done.

*In this next season, in what areas are you trusting God to grow and mature you as a disciple of Jesus?*



What's so encouraging is that many at Calvary Fellowship are experiencing the joy of being *Connected in Growth* as we help others grow in their relationship with Jesus. We have many environments where each of us can connect with others as we help each other learn to live and love like Jesus and actively live out the 2 cross vision.

- Families – The first and most important discipling relationships we have are developed between husbands & wives and parents & children.
- Men's and Women's studies, Students and Kidz JAM, Care Groups, Serving Team, Short term mission trips – Calvary Fellowship offers many relational environments for intentional discipleship to take root and grow.
- Small Groups provide a huge opportunity for intentional discipleship – Small groups enable us to connect with 4-12 people as we study and apply God's Word, pray for and encourage each other, and serve one another. Spiritual growth takes place as the members of the group minister to each other as well as sometimes God opens the door for people within the group to connect in one-on-one discipling relationships outside of the group.
- The most basic level is one-on-one mentoring relationships for a season.

As members of Calvary Fellowship, it is expected that we will be connected in relationship with others, helping others to grow in Christ and allowing others to speak into our lives as well. No matter where you are connected relationally, I encourage you to be intentional with using your gifts to help others continually grow in their relationship with Jesus.



Our strategy for disciple making is illustrated best by the two rails of a train track. The first rail represents an outward focus on **evangelism** - leading people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Every believer is called to be a witness for Christ.

The second rail is focused on **maturity** – helping believers get rooted and established in the faith as they press on toward maturity in Christ. In the same way, every believer is called to invest in the spiritual development of others.

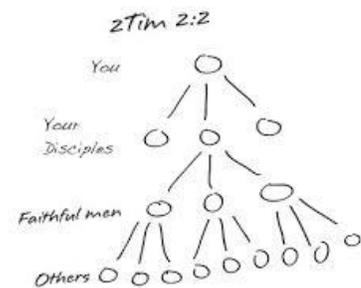
Often churches emphasize one more than the other. If a train leans too much on one rail than the other it will be in danger of running off the tracks. Discipleship begins with evangelism and continues through to making disciples who make disciples. Jesus ministered to the crowds and to His small group, but much of His ministry was focused on connecting with one person at a time.

Who's your "one" for this next season? Who's the man or woman who you may have led to the Lord or who is still an infant in their walk with Jesus who you can come alongside and help to learn to live and love more like Jesus? Imagine if each person in our church was connected in growth with just one other person for the next year.

This illustration helps to cast a vision for what can happen when we step out in faith and allow the Holy Spirit to transform us and grow us up in Christ. It is based on the principle found in 2 Timothy 2:2

*"And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses, entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others."*

Here we see the apostle Paul discipling Timothy, who in turn will disciple "faithful men", who in turn will disciple others. This represents 4 generations of disciples.



This is the vision of making disciples who make disciples that Jesus modeled for us.

## THE POTENTIAL OF INVESTING IN ONE PERSON FOR ONE YEAR AS YOU MAKE DISCIPLES, WHO MAKE DISCIPLES, ...

Year 1	2 disciples
Year 2	4 disciples
Year 3	8 disciples
Year 4	16 disciples
Year 5	32 disciples
Year 6	64 disciples
Year 7	128 disciples
Year 8	256 disciples
Year 9	512 disciples
Year 10	1024 disciples
Year 20	1,048, 496 disciples
Year 35	8,589,279,232 disciples

Imagine if you were to invest in just one person for the next year. At the end of the year they would have an abiding relationship with Jesus having grasped His vision for making disciples that He cast for us in Matthew 28. You would have also grown because that is God's plan to grow us up as we serve Him in this way. After one year there would be two disciples. In the second year you each find someone new to connect with for the next year and repeat the process, year after year. Just one person at a time. At the end of 5 years there would be 32 disciples. Now don't get discouraged. This is huge! Remember that Jesus only had 11 committed disciples at the end of three years. In theory, within 35 years there would be 8.5 billion disciples, more than the current population of the world!

As members of God's family we are to be *Connected in Growth!*

Let's just start with one!

### Additional Resources:

Mentoring: How to Invest Your Life in Others by Tim Elmore  
As Iron Sharpens Iron: Building Character in a Mentoring Relationship by Howard & William Hendricks  
Intentional Disciplemaking by Ron Bennett  
The Cost of Discipleship by Dietrich Bonhoeffer  
The Lost Art of Disciplemaking by Leroy Eims  
Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life by Donald Whitney  
The Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren

### One-on-One Resources:

Growing in Christ by Nav Press  
Following God Series: First Steps by Eddie Rasnake  
Discipleship Essentials by Greg Ogden

