

DISCIPLESHIP

1

BECOMING A
GROWING DISCIPLE

DISCIPLESHIP 1

BECOMING A GROWING DISCIPLE

INTRODUCTION

- God's commission for every Christian
- The Woodlands Church Discipleship Process

SESSION 1

THE DISCIPLE'S POWER SOURCE

SESSION 2

THE DISCIPLINE OF A DAILY DEVOTIONAL

- Is the Bible Reliable?
- How to read, study and apply God's Word

SESSION 3

THE DISCIPLINE OF PRAYER AND FASTING

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SESSION 4

THE DISCIPLINE OF STEWARDSHIP

- Moving from ownership to stewardship
- Activating the Blessings of God

SESSION 5

THE DISCIPLINE OF SHARING YOUR FAITH

- Learning how to share your faith in a relational and confident way

THE MISSION

EXAMPLES OF MISSION STATEMENTS

Apple – Bring the best user experience to its customers through its innovative hardware, software, and services.

YouTube – To give everyone a voice and show them the world.

TikTok – To inspire creativity and bring joy.

X (formerly Twitter) – To promote and protect the public conversation – to be the town square of the internet.

Open AI – To ensure that artificial intelligence benefits all of humanity.

THE GREAT COMMISSION

"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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 28:18-20 (NIV)

WOODLANDS CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT (THE CHRIST EXPERIENCE)

Helping people experience a relationship with Christ rather than religion and discipling them to make disciples so they can take the Christ Experience to their neighbors and the world.

"TO MAKE DISCIPLES WHO MAKE DISCIPLES "

To make disciples who make disciples is also the mission of every Christian.

INVITE PEOPLE TO THE PARTY, CONNECT THEM TO THE FAMILY, AND DISCIPLE THEM TO MAKE DISCIPLES.

INVITE PEOPLE TO THE PARTY

"Jesus followed up. "Yes. For there was once a man who threw a great dinner party and invited many. When it was time for dinner, he sent out his servant to the invited guests, saying, 'Come on in; the food's on the table.'" Luke 14:16-17 (MSG)

"The servant went back and told the master what had happened. He was outraged and told the servant, 'Quickly, get out into the city streets and alleys. Collect all who look like they need a square meal, all the misfits and homeless and down-and-out you can lay your hands on, and bring them here.' "The servant reported back, 'Master, I did what you commanded—and there's still room.' "The master said, 'Then go to the country roads. Whoever you find, drag them in. I want my house full!' " Luke 14:21-23 (MSG)

- Invite them to church
- Invite them to your Life Group

CONNECT THEM TO THE FAMILY

- Connect them to a Life Group. We are not a church with Life Groups, we are a church of Life Groups.

DISCIPLE THEM TO MAKE DISCIPLES

- Disciple them in a Life Group and through discipleship classes to disciple others one on one or by leading a Life Group.

Invite people to the party, connect them to the family, and disciple them to make disciples WHO...

Invite people to the party, connect them to the family, and disciple them to make disciples...

WOODLANDS CHURCH DISCIPLESHIP PROCESS

1. Become a member and join a LIFE GROUP.

Disciple: A follower, learner or pupil of a leader. A disciple is someone who follows Christ. The first disciples followed Jesus by doing life together with him.

A LIFE GROUP IS REALLY A DISCIPLESHIP GROUP!

"Woodlands Church is my church family!"

2. Invite people to church and to your Life Group.

"You should come to church with me this weekend, you'll love it!"

"I'd love for you to check out my Life Group. We have fun together and learn more about the Bible."

3. SERVE with your Life Group on the weekend.

Welcome Team, Preschool and Children's Ministry, Student Ministry, Worship and Production Team, Church Online Team, Embrace (Special needs ministry)

4. Complete Woodlands Church DISCIPLESHIP training courses.

5. LEAD a Life Group or assist a leader.

6. TRAIN others to lead or start a life group.

WOODLANDS CHURCH DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

WOODLANDS CHURCH DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING LEVEL 1

Open to all. Level 1 takes the disciple through powerful principles and practices for spiritual growth.

Discipleship 1: BECOMING A GROWING DISCIPLE

Discipleship 2: DEVELOPING A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

- Foundational Doctrine
- Making decisions based on timeless Biblical truth rather than changing culture.
- What the Bible teaches about current social issues.

Discipleship 3: DISCOVERING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Woodlands Church Discipleship Training Level 1 Completion Requirements

1. A member of Woodlands Church
2. A member of a Life Group
3. Completed Discipleship 1, 2 and 3

WOODLANDS CHURCH DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING LEVEL 2

Open to all who have completed the requirements of Woodlands Church Discipleship Training Level 1. Helps you develop leadership gifts and grow in God's word. Essential training to lead or assist in leading a Life Group.

Discipleship 4: THE RELIABILITY AND AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE

Discipleship 5: CONFIDENTLY SHARING YOUR FAITH

Discipleship 6: SPIRITUAL WARFARE AND THE UNSEEN WORLD

Woodlands Church Discipleship Training Level 2 Completion Requirements

1. Be actively serving in your Life Group (Life Group leader, assistant leader, host, discipler of someone in your Life Group one-on-one, or a consistent helper)
2. Completed Discipleship Training Level 1
3. Completed Discipleship 4, 5 and 6

SESSION 1

THE DISCIPLE'S POWER SOURCE

Being a disciple of Christ means practicing the disciplines of Christ. Consistently practicing the spiritual disciplines that we will learn in this study will completely transform your life. The problem is, these disciplines are impossible to follow consistently without the divine power source giving you strength to practice them.

The Christian life is not hard. It is impossible.

It is a miraculous and supernatural life.

For example, how will you follow the teachings of Jesus when He tells you, "love your enemy," "do good to those who hate you," "forgive those who hurt you"? Many of Christ's commands go against our natural tendency and require supernatural power.

That's why even many Christian marriages do not last, because couples don't understand the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit, that we were never meant to live the Christian life on our own strength.

*"For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline."
2 Timothy 1:7 (NLT)*

Living the Christian Life is impossible without the Holy Spirit. He gives us the strength to love, forgive and follow Jesus every day.

- The Holy Spirit is not a **mythical force**.
- The Holy Spirit is not an **impersonal power**.
- The Holy Spirit is a **person, is God, and has all the divine characteristics of God**.

*"But if God himself has taken up residence in your life, you can hardly be thinking more of yourself than of him. Anyone, of course, who has not welcomed this invisible but clearly present God, the Spirit of Christ, won't know what we're talking about. But for you who welcome him, in whom he dwells—even though you still experience all the limitations of sin—you yourself experience life on God's terms. It stands to reason, doesn't it, that if the alive-and-present God who raised Jesus from the dead moves into your life, he'll do the same thing in you that he did in Jesus, bringing you alive to himself? When God lives and breathes in you (and he does, as surely as he did in Jesus), you are delivered from that dead life. With his Spirit living in you, your body will be as alive as Christ's!"
Romans 8:9-11 (MSG)*

The Bible is saying that if Christ is in you, the Holy Spirit dwells in you! Do you realize this life changing truth? If you're a Christ follower, the Holy Spirit, all the power of Christ, literally lives inside you!

"To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." Colossians 1:27 (NIV)

It doesn't say, Christ and you. The secret to the Christian life is Christ in you through the Holy Spirit!

LIVING A SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE

"But for you who welcome him in, in whom He dwells – even though you still experience all the limitations of sin – you yourself experience life on God's terms." Romans 8:10 (MSG)

This verse is talking about the **indwelling** of the Holy Spirit.

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit happens at **salvation**.

"Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit..." Ephesians 5:18 (NLT)

This verse is talking about **the filling** of the Holy Spirit. The filling of the Holy Spirit is a moment-by-moment **continuous practice** in the life of a disciple.

INDWELLING of the Holy Spirit is permanent. Once He comes into your life, the Holy Spirit promised He will never leave you.

THE FILLING of the Holy Spirit is moment by moment, there's no guarantee that tomorrow He's in control of your life, as you may lose your temper; you may get angry; if so, how do you go back to being Spirit-filled? You must confess your sin and by faith, ask the Holy Spirit to fill you once more and continue walking in the Spirit.

INDWELT BY THE SPIRIT	FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT
Upon salvation (Ephesians 1:13-14)	Upon surrendering (Ephesians 5:18)
Indwelt by faith, through repentance and prayer (Ephesians 1:13,14; Acts 2:38)	Filled by faith, through prayer and obedience (1 John 5:14,15)
Permanent (Hebrews 13:5)	Moment-by-moment (Galatians 5:16)
Gift of God (Galatians 3:14)	Commanded by God (Ephesians 5:18)

"So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want." Galatians 5:16-17 (NIV)

"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death." Romans 8:1,2 (NIV)

The law of gravity is a universal law that is operational on every one of us. Similarly, **the law of sin is operational in every human being everywhere in the world**. This means that for those under the law of sin, they will keep on sinning from the day they are born until the day they die.

The law of the Spirit is another law, and it overcomes the law of sin. This would be like how the law of aerodynamics can overcome the law of gravity.

Just as the law of aerodynamics allows a plane or butterfly to fly despite the law of gravity, the law of the Spirit enables believers to live above the law of sin. Gravity and sin still exist, but a higher law can overcome them. This means if Christ is in you, the Spirit is at work.

The law of the Spirit says you do not have to sin anymore; you can overcome the law of sin. By the grace of God, a believer's lifestyle is no longer a lifestyle of sin because he is no longer under sin, he is no longer in bondage.

We need to be filled with the Holy Spirit because the law of the Spirit of Life in Christ sets us free from the law of sin and death.

The Bible doesn't teach that when you come to Christ, you will never sin again. We still sometimes sin because we will always have our flesh on this earth, but when we do, the Holy Spirit will convict us. Then we confess our sin and ask the Holy Spirit to fill us again.

To have victory over sin we need the **Holy Spirit's** power and other **Christ followers**. We can't live the Christian life alone. We need each other.

"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." James 5:16 (NIV)

THREE KINDS OF PEOPLE

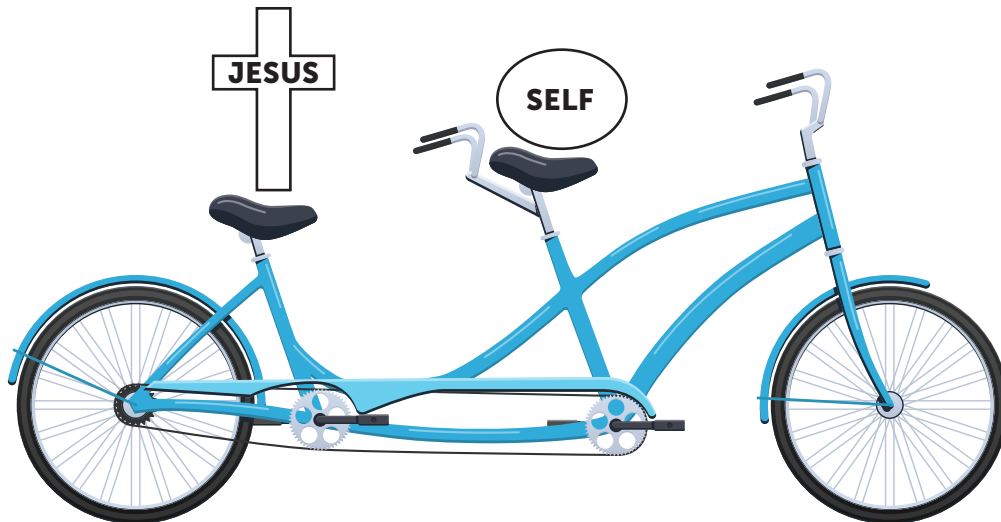
1. **UNBELIEVER**

"The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit." 1 Corinthians 2:14 (NIV)



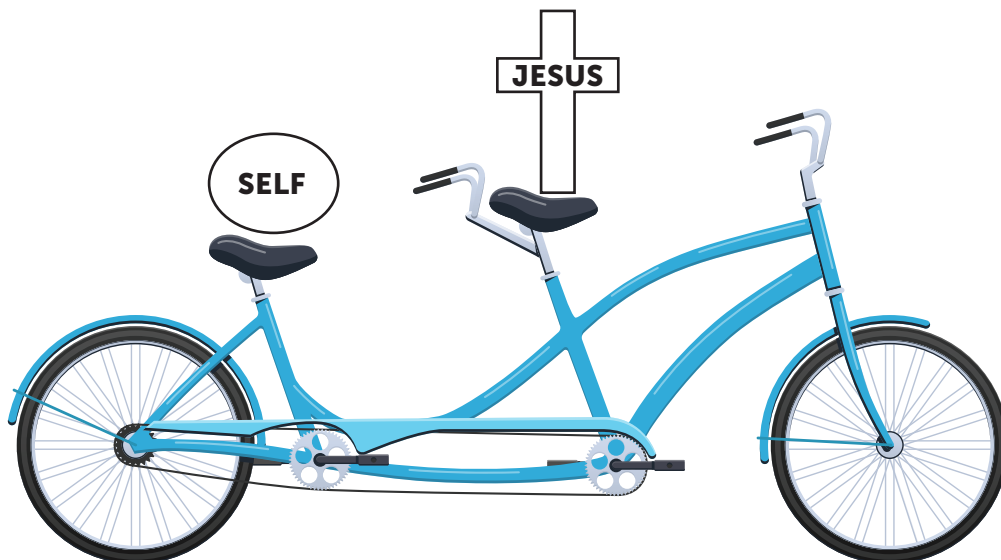
2. **WORLDLY** CHRISTIAN

"Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans?" 1 Corinthians 3:1-3 (NIV)



3. **SPIRIT-FILLED** CHRISTIAN

"The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, for, "Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ." 1 Corinthians 2:15,16 (NIV)



"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law." Galatians 5:22,23 (NIV)

SPIRITUAL BREATHING

Exhale – **Confess your sin**

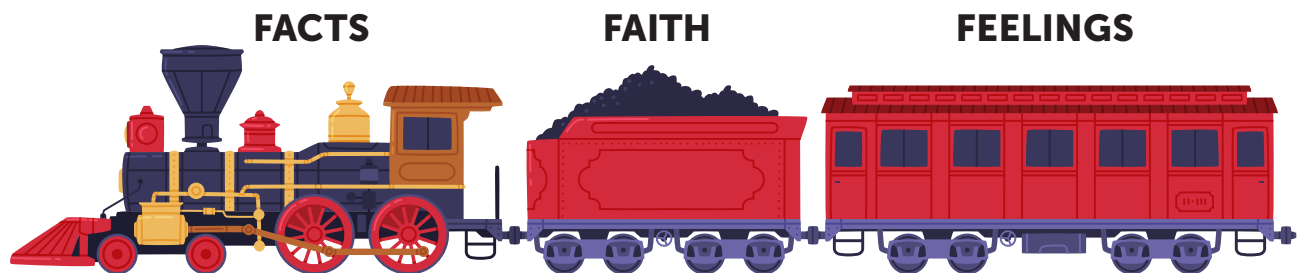
Inhale – **Surrender control** back to God and ask the Holy Spirit to fill you again.

"I firmly believe that the moment our hearts are emptied of selfishness and ambition and self-seeking and everything that is contrary to God's law, the Holy Spirit will come and fill every corner of our hearts; I also believe that many a man is praying to God to fill him, when he is full already with something else. Before we pray that God would fill us, I believe we ought to pray that He would empty us but if we are full of pride and conceit, ambition and self-seeking, pleasure and the world, there is no room for the Spirit of God. There must be an emptying before there can be a filling; and when the heart is turned upside down, and everything that is contrary to God is turned out, then the Spirit will come..." – D. L. Moody

PRAYER

"Dear Father, I confess that I have been in control of my own life. I am truly sorry, Lord, and I am deeply grateful for the forgiveness you have granted me when I trusted in Jesus as my Savior and Lord. Forgive me for trying to take back control. I surrender the control of my life to You. Fill me now with the Holy Spirit as You commanded me to be filled. I claim Your promise that You will answer me when I ask in faith. In Jesus' Name, Amen."

Claim in faith that you are filled with the Holy Spirit and choose to walk in the spirit.



"The world has yet to see what God can do with and for and through and in and by the man who is fully and wholly consecrated to Him. I will try my utmost to be that man." – D. L. Moody

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