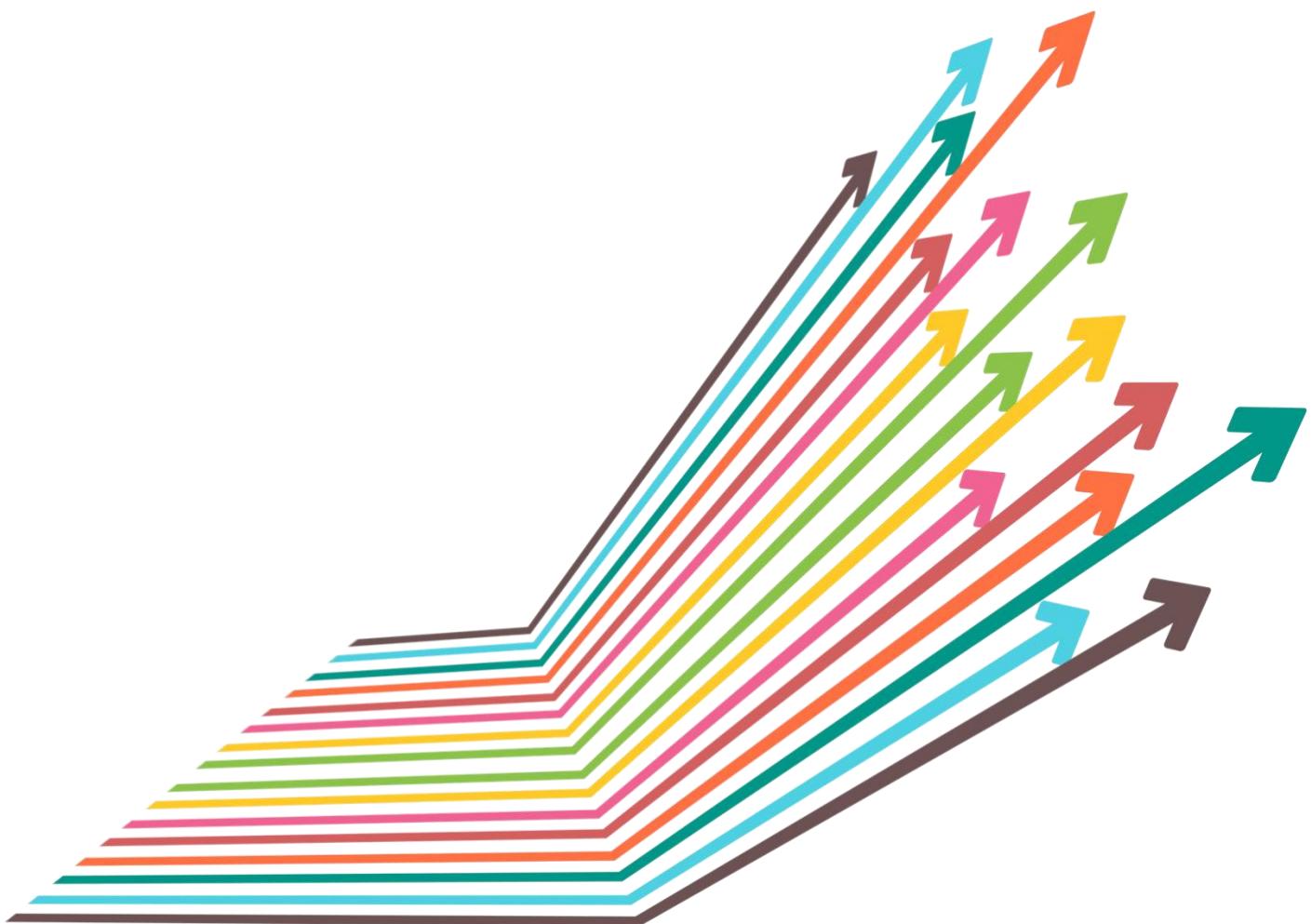


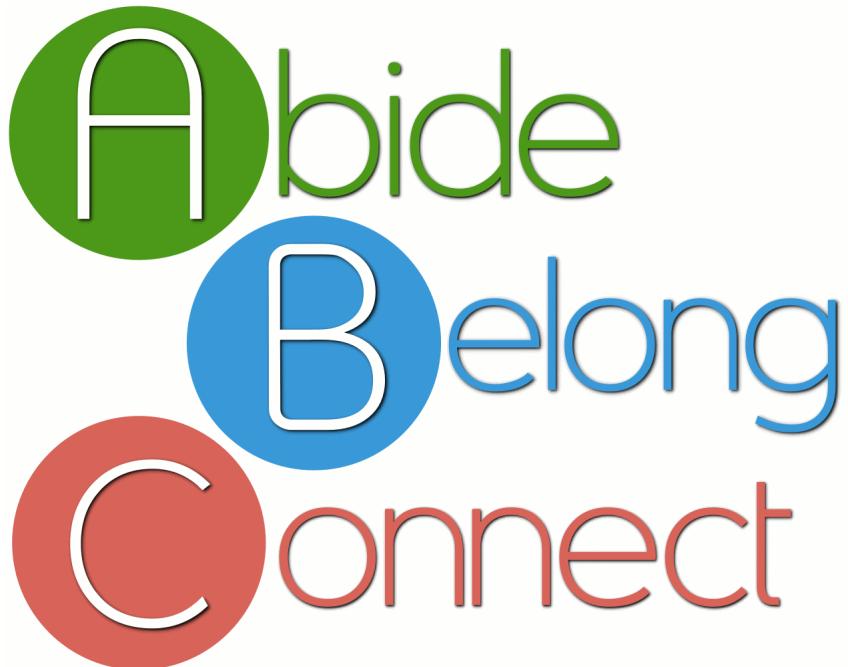
DISCIPLESHIP



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Discipleship at Calvary



*“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.””
– Matthew 28:18-20*

Making Disciples is the command that Christ has given us as believers. As Mt 28 shows us, we make disciples by **going** where God leads (*go therefore*), making disciples through **evangelism** (*baptizing them*) and **training** (*teaching them to observe*).

Discipleship at Calvary

“Follow Me”

“Discipleship is commitment to Christ. Because Christ exists, he must be followed. Christianity without the living Jesus Christ remains necessarily a Christianity without discipleship; and a Christianity without discipleship is always a Christianity without Jesus Christ.” – Dietrich Bonhoeffer

This booklet is designed to provide members of Calvary Baptist Church with a Bible-based discipleship plan that is designed to help believers grow in knowledge of and obedience to Christ.

Discipleship is when Jesus Christ calls a person, and they obediently and completely follow Him. The call of Jesus is a simple call with a powerful response – “Follow Me.” This is how Jesus called Simon and Andrew, who left their nets and followed Him (Mt 4:18-20; Mk 1:16-18). So also with Philip and Nathanael (Jn 1:43-45). He called to Matthew, who left all to follow Him (Mt 9:9; Mk 2:14; Lk 5:27-28). It is a call to His sheep, and those who are His hear His call (Jn 10:27). He calls those who follow to leave everything behind in order to follow (Mt 19:21; Mk 10:21; Lk 18:22-23). Christ’s call is above any other attachment, even family (Mt 10:37-39; Lk 9:59-60). It is a bid to follow Him even to the cross, yet a call without which our soul is in jeopardy (Mt 16:24-26; Mk 8:34-37; Lk 9:23-25). It is a call that commands none to look back, looking only to Christ (Lk 9:61-62). It is a call that contains our entire life (Jn 21:19). Yet it is the call that gives true and eternal life (Jn 12:25-26). The call to discipleship is the great dividing line that men accept or reject. Discipleship knows no middle ground (Mt 12:30).

OUR VISION – Jesus said, “Follow Me.” The life of Jesus is defined by three dynamic relationships: A relationship with the Father; A relationship with believers; A relationship with unbelievers. At CBC, we have identified those three relationships as the ABC’s of a Jesus Follower.

- A. Every believer should have a personal relationship with God. The word “abide” comes from John 15:5 and describes the close intimacy that should exist between Jesus and those who love Him.
- B. Every believer should belong to a family of Jesus followers. Jesus designed every human to desire relationship with others. God never intended for us to live life alone.

C. Every believer should be involved in God's mission to reach the world with the Gospel.

Areas of Discipleship

Below are some of the areas of discipleship at Calvary Baptist Church. We hope that everyone at Calvary can be involved in the discipleship process at multiple levels, growing in the Lord and leading others to grow as well! *The three areas of discipleship at CBC are Congregational Discipleship, Calvary Group Discipleship, and Personal Discipleship.*

Congregational Discipleship (Corporate)

- Sunday Morning preaching is the primary form of discipleship. The preaching of the Word is vital for the church, yet this is a broad method. (example: Jesus spoke to the gathered crowds, teaching them)

Calvary Group Discipleship (Big Group)

- Calvary Groups are larger discipleship groups that meet throughout the week (though primarily on Sunday nights) to dig deeper into the lessons from Sunday. Sermon Discussion Guides are provided to help these groups dig deeper into God's Word. (example: Jesus specifically invested in 12 men for most of His earthly ministry)

Personal Discipleship (Small Group)

- Discipleship occurs at multiple levels in church, but small groups provide accountability that larger settings do not easily accommodate. Small groups take various forms, but these groups must be intentional in meeting to study God's Word with the expectation to be accountable to one another. We recommend groups of no more than one on three. (example: Jesus focused on three disciples in His ministry)

Every Week at Calvary

Calvary Baptist Church seeks to lead our people by **ABIDING** in relationship with God, **BELONGING** with fellow believers, and **CONNECTING** with the world. On a weekly basis, this takes place in the following ways:

Weekly at CBC

Sunday Mornings

- Sunday mornings include Sunday Schools at 9:15a and corporate Worship Service at 10:30a. Sunday Worship Service is our primary method of Corporate Discipleship.

Wednesday Evenings

- Wednesday evenings include Adult Bible Study, Student Ministry Worship, and Children's Ministry Worship. Our Student and Children's Ministries study through the same books of the Bible, and The Review is provided for parents to engage the lesson. Wednesdays provide further spiritual growth and biblical growth mid-week.

Discipleship Groups

- Along with the Sunday Morning Worship Service (Corporate Discipleship), we encourage our members to further be involved with Calvary Group and Personal Discipleship throughout the week. Calvary Groups primarily meet Sunday evenings and work through the Sermon Discussion Guide. Personal Discipleship meets at various times, and suggested materials are available toward the end of this booklet.

The Personal Discipleship Meeting

The discipleship meeting places its primary emphasis on leading others to follow Christ – it recognizes that discipleship is commitment to Christ, and that discipleship is therefore at the heart of a Christian’s life. In the Bible, discipleship is expressed in several ways. Jesus invested in 12 Disciples, and most especially in 3 of those 12 throughout His earthly ministry. Paul discipled Timothy, and maintained a discipling relationship long after geography separated them.

Without being overly rigid, we recommend that discipleship groups meet regularly. For many, meeting 1-2 hours every week is an effective guideline. It is important to maintain biblical growth as the primary component of the weekly meeting, while reserving some time for prayer, accountability, and equipping for evangelism.

It is difficult to maintain closeness in larger groups, so many find smaller groups to be the most effective. Taking direction from the earthly ministry of Christ, many discipleship group leaders choose to focus on 1-3 individuals at a time to grow alongside. Larger groups have their place as well, and should encourage accountability as much as possible.

Discipleship is the lifestyle of the Christian – it is commitment to Christ. We encourage our discipleship groups to be self-replicating, teaching others to disciple as we have been discipled. Each discipleship group should see itself as an equipping group – preparing its members to evangelize the lost, disciple the saved, and grow in lifelong obedience to Christ.

There are three primary means of teaching in discipleship:

- **Formal Teaching**
 - Discipleship places its focus on learning who God is and how we can worship Him with our lives. Therefore, instruction from Scripture is essential.
- **Informal Teaching**
 - Discipleship also involves discussions and life lessons that spring from our growth in God’s Word. This further equips us to mold every area of our lives into following Christ.
- **Modeling**
 - Our lives teach others, even when we do not recognize it. Discipleship is a lived experience – as we follow Christ together, our daily activities become part of the discipleship process.

The Calvary Group Meeting

The Calvary Group Meeting is designed around “Big Group” discipleship, which includes any groups that are larger than Personal Discipleship (1-3 people) and smaller than Congregational Discipleship (church-wide gatherings). The main material for the Calvary Groups is the Sermon Discussion Guide – a weekly set of questions given out by CBC that digs deeper into the sermon preached that week. The following is a suggested model for a typical Calvary Group meeting of one hour:



- **Review** – a time to catch up from the previous week
- **Planning** – take some time to discuss how your group can engage in evangelism and service within Calvary Baptist Church
- **Prayer** – spend time in prayer, individually and as a group. Share prayer requests and praises, and pray for God’s will for our time together
- **Sermon Discussion** – this will take up the bulk of the meeting. The Sermon Discussion Guide is distributed on a weekly basis by CBC Staff, which includes questions to further engage the text preached that week. This is our opportunity to engage beyond Sunday mornings, to ask questions of the Bible passage, and to grow as a group together

Sermon Discussion Guides available weekly,
in print at the church office and online at www.gocalvary.org

Foundations Discipleship Plan

Foundations Lesson Plan – for Personal Discipleship

1. Jesus & Nicodemus John 3:1-15
2. The Samaritan Woman John 4:1-42
3. The Parable of the Prodigal Luke 15:11-32
4. The Rich Man & Lazarus Luke 16:19-31
5. The Thief on the Cross Luke 23:32-43
6. The Humble Man Luke 18:9-14
7. The Little Man Luke 19:1-10
8. The Rich Young Ruler Luke 18:18-30
9. “Who Do You Say That I Am” Matthew 16:13-20
10. The Sinful Woman Luke 7:36-50
11. The Resurrection of Lazarus John 11:1-44
12. The Rich Fool Luke 12:13-21
13. The Way John 14:1-11

The “Foundations” Discipleship Plan is an excellent introductory plan to walk through with seasoned Christians, new believers, and even with unbelieving friends. This plan is designed to lay out some basic truths about the gospel, culminating by recognizing the Lordship of Jesus Christ (John 14). A sample weekly guide for this lesson is attached on the following page, and additional materials are available through the church office. This plan should lead people to understand who God is and confront their personal relationship with God.

Foundations Discipleship Plan

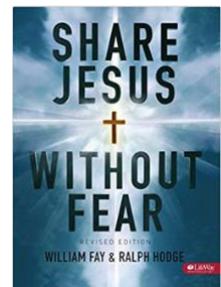
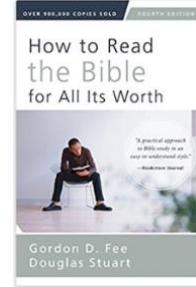
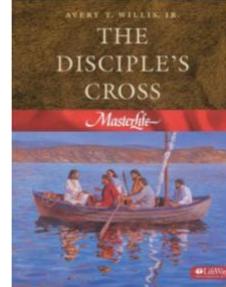
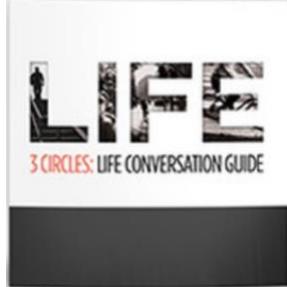
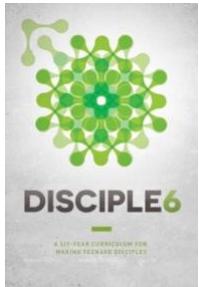
Jesus & Nicodemus	Jn 3	Notes:
The Samaritan Woman	Jn 4	
The Parable of the Prodigal	Lk 15	
The Rich Man & Lazarus	Lk 16	
The Thief on the Cross	Lk 23	
The Humble Man	Lk 18	
The Little Man	Lk 19	
The Rich Young Ruler	Lk 18	
"Who Do You Say That I Am"	Mt 16	
The Sinful Woman	Lk 7	
The Resurrection of Lazarus	Jn 11	
The Rich Fool	Lk 12	
The Way	Jn 14	

Engaging the Text

For each lesson, ask (and answer) the following questions:

- What is the main lesson of this passage?
- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about ourselves?
- What does this passage lead us to do (or not do) in our lives?
- What will you do, based on this passage?

Additional Resources



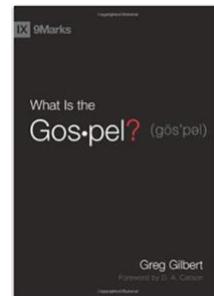
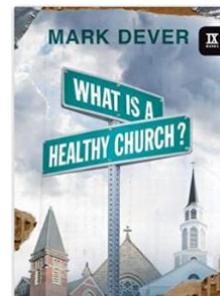
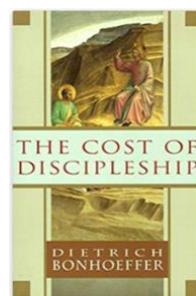
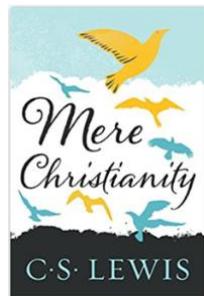
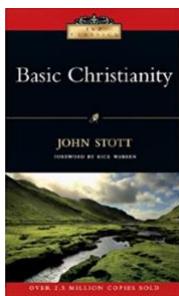
Disciple6.com – a comprehensive 6-year discipleship plan for Student Ministry

3 Circles Life Conversation Guide – a redemptive-historical evangelism guide through NAMB/SBC

MasterLife – a sequential, developmental, small-group discipling process

How To Read The Bible For All Its Worth (Gordon Fee)

Share Jesus Without Fear (William Fay)



Basic Christianity (John R.W. Stott)

Mere Christianity (C.S. Lewis)

The Cost of Discipleship (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

What is a Healthy Church? (Mark Dever)

What is the Gospel? (one of several from the IX Marks series) (Greg Gilbert)

Additional Resources available at:



/gocalvarybc

*“Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes,
and see that the fields are white for harvest.”*
– John 4:35



www.gocalvary.org