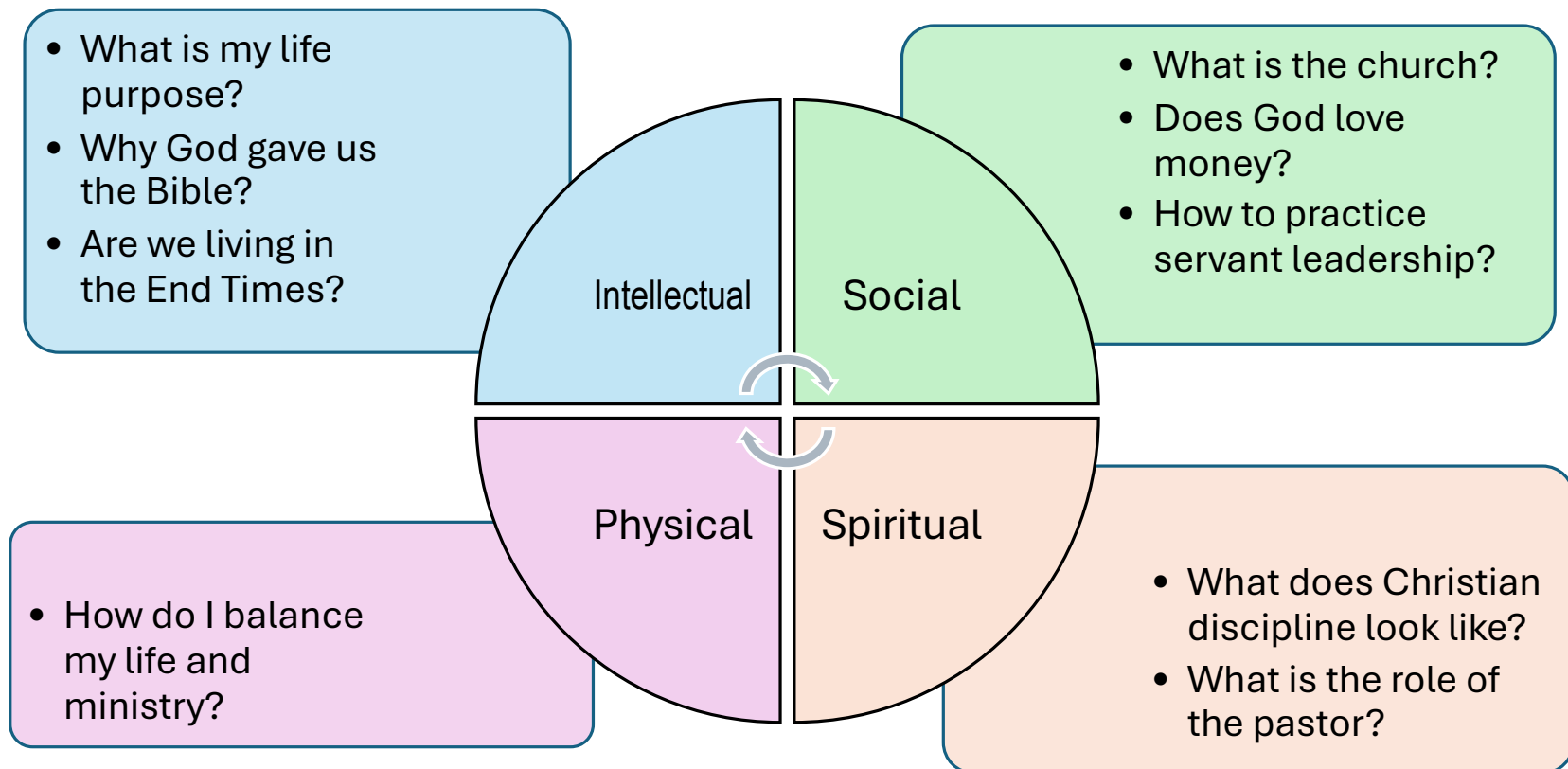




Holistic Growth For Ministry Impact

Session 8
Christian Discipleship

Session Topics



The Importance of Discipleship

- Following the step of Jesus
 - Discipleship is important because we want people to become fully committed followers of Christ.
 - Discipleship helps believers to grow in their faith, to grow in maturity and wisdom, and build their faith on a strong foundation so that they can then disciple and lead others towards Christ.
 - To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that **you should follow in his steps** (1 Peter 2:21)

Following His Steps: 4 Stages of Growth



Step 1: Remember your Identity

- Identity
 - Knowing yourself is important because it strengthens your character.
 - When we know who we are, have confidence in our self and are able to identify our strengths, we emerge as stronger individuals.
 - It also keeps us unique and distinguishes us from everyone else.
- My value to God
 - It is not what I do that gives me worth, but what I belong to.
 - I'm the son (daughter) of God, not based on my work or achievement, but based on my relationship with God (grace).

- Identity (Case studies)

- **Moses**: By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter (Hebrews 11:24)
- **Daniel**: Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way (Daniel 1:8)

	The Identity Defined by God	The Identity Defined by World/Culture/People
Moses	A Hebrew slave	A grandson of the strongest nation in the world
Daniel	A Hebrew slave	A servant of a royal palace
Effects/ Benefits	Obey God's command	Enjoy worldly happiness
	You may have a short-term pain, but long-term (eternal) happiness/security	You may have a short-term gain but eternal lost (long-term loss)

Your spiritual identity

- **Saint (or Holy One):**

- You are set apart for God's purposes (1 Corinthians 1:2).

- **Child of God:**

- You are adopted into God's family, gaining all the privileges of sonship (John 1:12; Romans 8:15).

- **Heir (Joint-Heir):**

- You are an heir to God's promises and co-heir with Christ to inherit eternal life (Romans 8:17).

- **Temple of the Holy Spirit:**

- Your body is the dwelling place where God's Spirit lives, making you a sacred space (1 Corinthians 6:19).

- **New Creation:**

- You have been fundamentally remade into a completely new person (2 Corinthians 5:17).

- **Priesthood (Royal Priesthood):**

- You have direct access to God and are offer spiritual sacrifices of praise and service (1 Peter 2:9).

- **Citizen of Heaven:**

- Your true citizenship and ultimate home are not on earth but in heaven (Philippians 3:20).

- **Sheep:**

- You are protected, guided, and cared for by Jesus, the Good Shepherd (John 10:11).

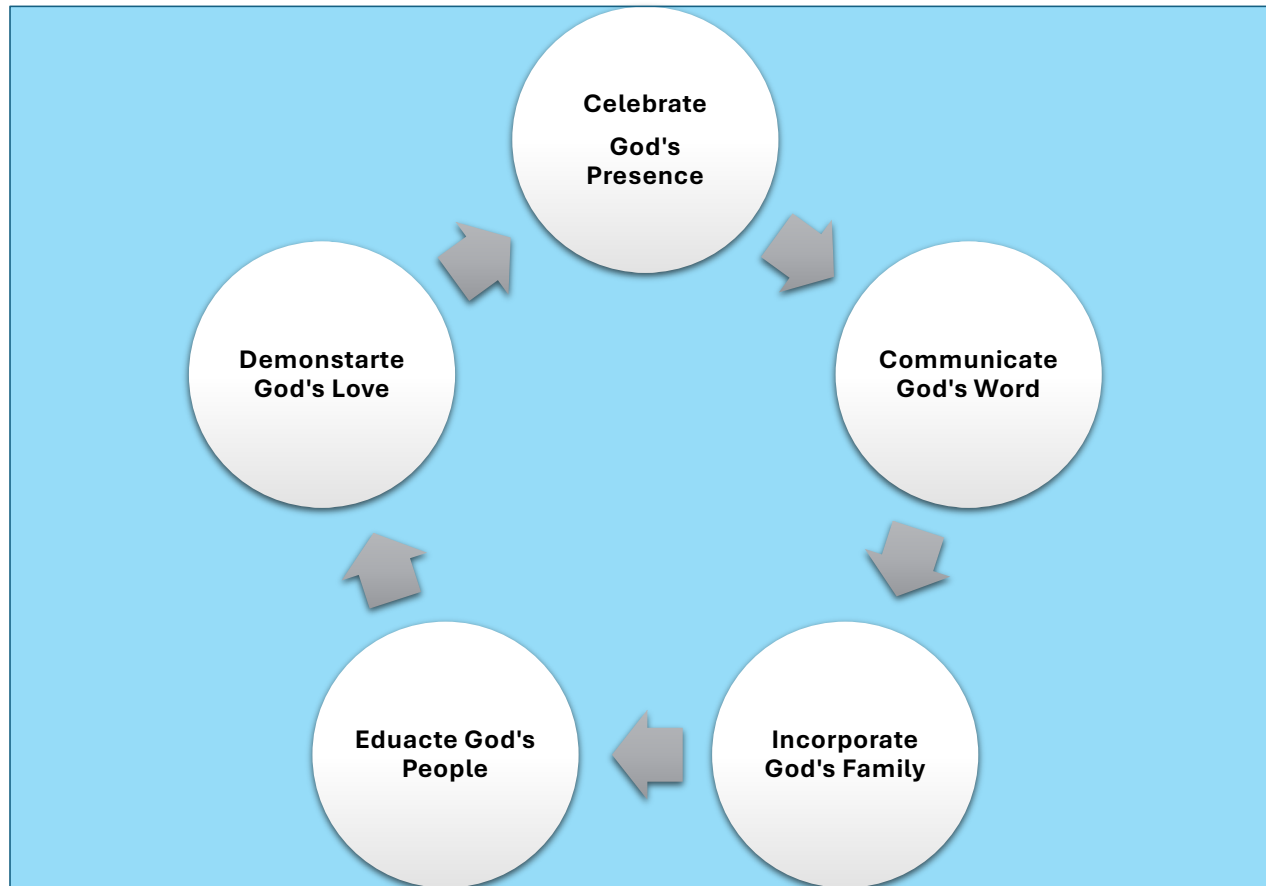
- **Disciple:**

- You are a dedicated follower, committed to His teachings and way of life (Matthew 28:19).

- **Branch:**

- You are connected directly to Jesus (the Vine) to bear spiritual fruit (John 15:5)

Step 2: Recognize your Life's Purpose



Great Commandment and Commission

- Great Commandment (Matthew 22:36-40)
 - 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' And 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'
- Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20)
 - Go, 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.

5 Purposes

- To celebrate God's presence (**Worship**)
 - Love God with all your heart
- To demonstrate God's love through **ministry**
 - Love your neighbor as yourself
- To communicate God's Word by evangelism
 - Go and make disciples of all nations
- To incorporate God's people into His family (**Fellowship**)
 - Baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit
- To educate God's people (**Discipleship**)
 - Teaching them to do everything...

Step 3: Remain in Community

- We are a spiritual family.
 - Christians are all related together and this family will actually outlast the blood family that we have here on earth.
- We are a fellowship community.
 - We are headed in the same direction. God asks us to keep the unity of the Spirit (Ephesians 4:3)
- We are a body.
 - The church functions on the basis of spiritual gifts so that the body of Christ may be built up (Ephesians 4:12)
- We are a flock of Jesus.
 - The church is cared for and led by shepherds.

Step 4: Rebuild Spiritual Habits

- Spiritual maturity is being like Jesus.
 - For from the very beginning God decided that those who came to him . . . should become like his Son (Romans 8:29, TLB).
 - Mature believers are called disciples.
- It is not automatic (It's a process)
 - You have been Christians a long time now....you need someone to teach you...When a person is still living on milk it shows he isn't very far along in the Christian life...He is still a baby Christian! (Hebrew 5:12-13).
- It takes time
 - Take time and trouble to keep yourself spiritually fit (1 Timothy 4:7, Ph).
- It takes discipline
 - Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness (1 Timothy 4:7, NASB).
- Four habits are necessary to develop spiritual disciplines
 - Read the Bible; Prayer; Tithing; and Worship

Habit 1: Read the Bible

- Daily Time: In God's Word
 - If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free (John 8:31-32, RSV).
- Six ways to get a grasp of the Bible
 - Hear God's Word
 - Read the Bible
 - Study God's Word
 - Memorize God's Word
 - Meditate on God's Word
 - Apply God's Word

Habit 2: Prayer

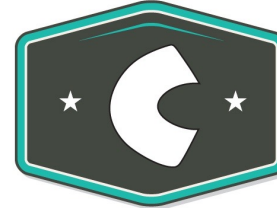
- Prayer: Talking with God
 - If you remain in me, and my words remain in you, then you will ask for anything you wish, and you shall have it...In this way you become my disciples (John 15:7-8, GNT).

ACTS

MODEL PRAYER



ADORATION



CONFESSION



THANKSGIVING



SUPPLICATION

Habit 3: Tithing

- Tithing: Giving Back to God
 - The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your lives (Deut. 14:23, TLB).
- What is tithing?
 - It means a tenth part; Giving first 10% of my income to God.
- Why should I tithe?
 - Because God and Jesus command it.
 - Ten percent of everything you harvest is holy and belongs to me (Leviticus 27:30)
 - You should tithe, but you shouldn't leave the more important things undone (Matt 23:23, TLB)
 - It demonstrates that God has first place in my life.
 - It gives God a chance to prove He exists and wants to bless me.
 - Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse... Test me in this and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit" (Malachi 3:10-11).

Habit 4: Worship

- Worship: We were planned for God's pleasure
- Bringing pleasure to God is called worship
 - All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, Lord; they will bring glory to your name. For you are great and do marvelous deeds; you alone are God (Psalm 86:9-10).
- What worship is (or is not)
 - Worship is far more than music.
 - Worship is not your benefit.
 - Worship is not a part of your life; it is your life.
 - God asks you to worship him in Spirit and truth.

Following His Steps: 4 Stages of Growth



God calls you now

- Remember what God asks you to do
 - ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ And ‘Love your neighbor as yourself (Matthew 22:36-40)
 - Go, 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 (Matthew 28:19-20)
- What is your response to God’s calling? 3 options.
 - Moses (Am I the person? Will I do that?)
 - Jonah (Not me! Send other person.)
 - Isaiah (Yes, I will. Send me now!)