

Troy Christian Church

GROUPS

LEADER RESOURCE GUIDE



TABLE OF CONTENTS

TCC Mission / Process	pg. 1
What is a Disciple?	pg. 2
Defining Terms	pg. 3
Purpose of Small Groups	pg. 4
7 Ministry Essentials	pg. 5
The 5 Key Components	pg. 6
Group Leader Prep	pg. 7
Basic Group Guidelines	pg. 8
Storying Scriptures	pg. 9
Tips for Asking Good Questions	pg. 10
Stages of Spiritual Growth	pg. 11
Picture of Discipleship	pg. 12

TCC MISSION / PROCESS

MISSION

We will make disciples who make disciples.

(Acts 2:42-47)

PROCESS

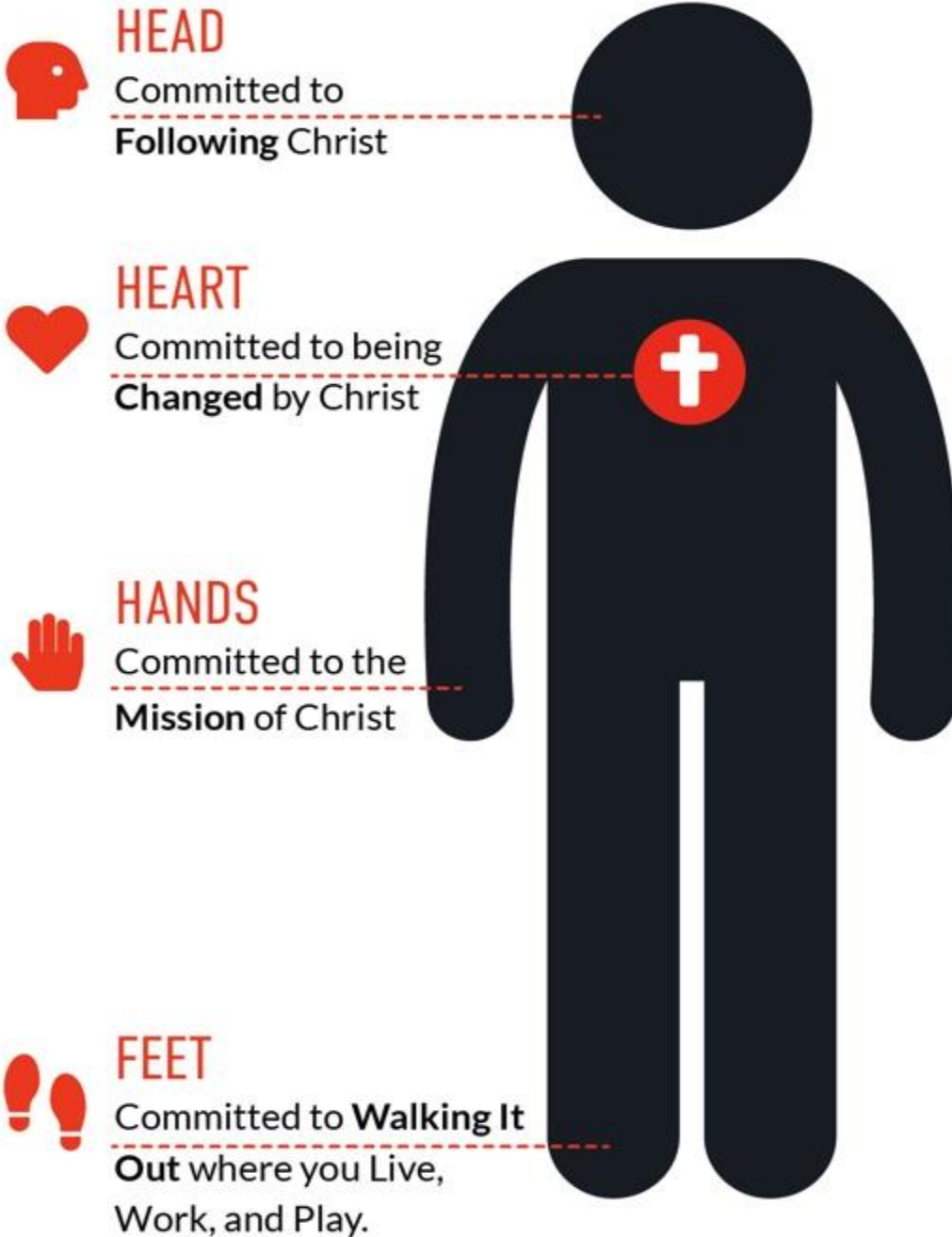
SHARE - CONNECT- MINISTER- DISCIPLE

We will create biblical disciples in relational environments.

(Matthew 28:18-20)

WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?

*And he said to them, "Follow me,
and I will make you fishers of men."
Matthew 4:19*



DEFINING TERMS

We believe definitions are vitally important. Our definitions are in agreement with the following and where possible, we will use these definitions.

DISCIPLESHIP – is simply the state of being a disciple. This word (like the word evangelism) is not in the Bible.

Unfortunately, in the North American church, discipleship is typically seen as an educational process designed to orient new believers to the biblical and everyday practices of our churches – and so we often prefer disciple making.

DISCIPLE – someone who is following Jesus, being changed by Jesus & committed to the mission of Jesus (Matt. 4:19).

DISCIPLE MAKING – is entering into relationships to intentionally help people follow Jesus, be changed by Jesus, and join the mission of Jesus (Matt. 28:18-20).

DISCIPLE MAKER – a disciple of Jesus who enters into relationships with people to intentionally help them follow Jesus, be changed by Jesus, and join the mission of Jesus.

CHURCH – A spiritual family growing in surrendered obedience to all the teachings of Jesus Christ who gather together regularly under Biblically recognized leadership for the purpose of fulfilling the great commission (making disciples) with a Great Commandment heart (loving God, loving people).

DISCIPLE MAKING CULTURE – The beliefs, habits, and narrative of a church constantly repeated with congruence and intentionality, that make it clear to almost everyone, all the time, including newcomers, that disciple making is what everyone does in this church.

DISCIPLE MAKING CHURCH (Level 5) – is a church where disciple making is the core DNA and culture of the church, where the average church member makes disciples to the fourth generation and this disciple making activity is regularly produced in significant and diverse streams within the church and these streams multiply consistently into new churches.

DISCIPLE MAKING MOVEMENT (DMM) – A disciple making movement exists when churches plant multiple churches (within a few short years), through gospel activity, that has abundant fruit among the lost, that multiplies these disciples (people growing in obedience to all of Jesus' commands), who in turn replicate themselves in others, so that we can see at least four generations regularly produced in multiple streams of disciple making activity and these streams multiply consistently into churches.

PURPOSE OF SMALL GROUPS

The purpose of a Small Group is to create an environment and relationships that help people mature as disciples of Christ.

Below is a word picture of a disciple of Christ that will help us to grow as we help others:

DEFINITION OF A DISCIPLE *Matt. 4:19*

One who is committed to **FOLLOWING** Christ - **HEAD** level

- Accepting and acknowledging Christ as both Lord and Savior
- **ABIDE** with God through time in prayer and the Word
- Placing ourselves under the authority of Christ
- Being obedient to what God's Word and the Holy Spirit tell us

One who is committed to being **CHANGED** by Christ - **HEART** level

- **ABIDE** in Christ by bearing fruit (John 15:5, 8; Galatians 5:22-23)
- Giving up old habits
- Re-prioritizing one's life
- Seeing myself and others more and more through the eyes of Christ Jesus

One who is committed to the **MISSION** of Christ - **HANDS** level

- **SHARE**: sharing the gospel with the lost and sharing our lives with others
 - **REACHING THE LOST**: Pursuing opportunities to share the Gospel
 - Listening and asking questions in order to hear their story
 - A willingness to invest time in another's life
- **CONNECT**: connecting believers with God and other believers
 - **CONNECTING THE UNCONNECTED**
 - Inviting others to church, to group, or to meet one-on-one
 - Inviting them into your life, home, etc.
 - Investing in their life
 - **CHASING THE STRAYS**: pursuing those that are missing
- **MINISTER**: shepherding and caring for people, and training others to do the same
 - Ministering and caring for those in need
 - Inviting someone to join you as you help others
 - **SHEPHERD PEOPLE TO SPIRITUAL MATURITY**
- **DISCIPLE**: disciple others by identifying, equipping, encouraging, and releasing them to make disciples that make disciples of Jesus
 - **IDENTIFY, EQUIP, AND RELEASE DISCIPLES/LEADERS**
 - Encourage people to use and grow in their God given gifts and talents
 - Intentionally equip and develop others to use their gifts & talents
 - Empower and release them to do the same with others
 - Constantly encourage unity and help others **FUNCTION AS A TEAM**

DISCIPLESHIP PROCESS *Matt. 28:19-21*

*The words in **RED** are "7 Ministry Essentials". These are essential as we encourage & equip our people in living out the Mission and Process as they mature as a disciple of Christ. See next page for a greater understanding of these.*

7 GROUP MINISTRY ESSENTIALS

1. Abiding in Christ

Our Goal is that every person in our church will have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ that transforms the way they live in the church, home, and world. This is a commitment to minister out of the overflow of a life abiding in Jesus.

2. Reach The Lost

Our goal –every person in our church can and does share their faith with those who do not know Jesus. In order to accomplish this we understand it must start with us as leaders.

3. Connect the Unconnected

Our goal --every person will be connected to Jesus in relationship, to an intentional relational environment for the purpose of becoming a disciple of Jesus, and they will be connected to the congregation as a whole as they consistently worship together on the weekend.

4. Chase The Strays

Our goal is that every person who is straying from Christ, from their relational environment, and from the weekend services will be valued, noticed, and pursued.

5. Intentionally Shepherd Our People Towards Spiritual Maturity

Shepherding does not mean only that we chase the strays. It also means we feed the sheep and care for them in a way that enables them to be all they were created and saved to be. Not everyone is an organizational leader but every person is a disciple and should be a disciple maker. Our desire is to intentionally help our people learn to feed themselves so that their individual needs are met (Jude 20-21), and so they can learn to feed those they disciple until they reach maturity and so on.

6. Identify, Equip, & Release Leaders

Everyone is a Minister – We believe that every person is saved for a reason. Our role as disciple makers is to help them figure out what gift God has given them to use in the church and to help them start to use it effectively. Everyone is a disciple, but not everyone has the gift of leadership. As we disciple everyone; leaders will emerge and are developed and placed in a position on the team.

7. Function As A Team

We will work with and under God's appointed leadership and collaborate with other ministries. As staff members, we recognize the need and value of every part of the overall team. We are a church of many ministries that do different things and every part is important and must be supported and protected.

THE 5 KEY COMPONENTS

5 Key Components of a Disciple-Making Church

The Bible alone gives a clear and complete picture of what God wants done (His mission) and how He wants it done (His methods). The following five key components of a disciple-maker are built on a biblical foundation. These are applied as we lead in our HOME, GROUPS/CLASSES, and CHURCH.

1. BIBLICAL FOUNDATION:

Our Vision, Mission, Process, and desire to impact the world is rooted in what Jesus did and how God has revealed himself through his Word, the Bible. It is on this foundation that we want to base everything we do. It is through this filter that we want to evaluate what we are to do.

2 Timothy 3:16, 17 (NIV) *All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

2. INTENTIONAL LEADER:

An intentional leader understands that part of their role is to reach the lost, make disciples of Jesus, and create Christ-centered environments where disciple-making can happen. They understand where a person is spiritually and what is needed to help them grow.

3. RELATIONAL ENVIRONMENT:

We believe in the biblical foundation that we are designed to be in relationship with God first and foremost, and secondly we are designed to be in relationship with others.

This is a group of 3-18 people facilitated by a leader who is intentionally modeling spiritual fruit (love, joy, etc.). The people involved are doing life together with a kingdom mindset. The relationships go beyond just the group time. They move from strangers to friendship. These relationships press into areas of privacy, transparency, and vulnerability.

4. REPRODUCIBLE DISCIPLE-MAKING PROCESS:

This is the process for developing people towards Christ likeness. This includes three parts. "MY PART" (the disciple), "THEIR PART" (the disciples), and "GOD'S PART". Leaders understand the 5 stages of spiritual growth. They can identify where a person is spiritually and help them mature and grow at each stage of the spiritual growth process.

5. CHURCH ALIGNMENT:

There are 4 key areas of alignment to equip the Church in its purpose of making disciples of Jesus:

- **Relational Alignment**
- **Philosophical Alignment**
- **Theological Alignment**
- **Organizational Alignment**

GROUP LEADER PREP

BEFORE GROUP: Your role as a leader before group starts

- Read through the curriculum and discussion passages.
- Be aware of what God is showing you personally.
- Pray for your group members. What do you see God doing in each of them?
 - **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Check your email for the weekly update (typically sent on Thursdays) for announcements that may apply to people in your group.
 - **MEN/WOMEN BREAKOUT:** At least once a month, break out into same gender groups. Communicate with your men and women breakout leaders ahead of time when you are planning to do a breakout during Group time so that they are prepared.

DURING GROUP: Your role as a leader during your group meetings

- WELCOME- Fellowship/Food?
- PRAYER- opening prayer, group guidelines reminder, announcements
- STUDY- story-telling, group curriculum
- QUESTIONS- Head/Heart/Hands
- PRAYER- requests
- REMINDERS- topic for next week, logistics for next meeting

AFTER LIFE GROUP: Your role as a leader after group

- Fill out the weekly group report emailed to you from ChurchTeams.
- Who am I intentionally praying for this week?
- What needs can I or others meet?
- Do I need to have a follow up conversation with someone from group this week?
- Who was absent from group or from service?
- Where are your people at in the Stages of Growth?

BASIC GROUP GUIDELINES

Though we call these Basic Group Guidelines, these are also essential in all relationships and environments. These should be observed whether in a 1-on-1 conversation or in a group discussion.

- *Guidelines give boundaries for people to operate within.*
- *They help with the flow and pace of the discussions.*
- *The help us value one another.*
- *They help people to be more comfortable sharing deep and meaningful things.*

THIS IS A SAFE GROUP

Confidentiality is key, what is said in the group stays in the group. Be aware how you are affecting the environment: words, actions, and non-verbal communication. This needs to be a place where people feel comfortable opening up and sharing.

NO CROSSTALK

Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations, checking phone, responding to text or email, etc.

LISTEN

Let's value one another by listening to what is being shared. Allow a pause after someone shares to allow them to finish and others to consider what was said. Eye contact and body posture play key roles in creating a positive or negative group environment.

NO RESCUING OR FIXING

We are not here to fix each other, Jesus does that part. Avoid the tendency to rescue when someone is struggling to get the words out or shares a struggle or conviction.

USE "I" STATEMENTS

It's easy to talk about the issues of other or respond with "we", "us", "the church". But for us to grow as disciples and build relationship we want to use "I" statements.

DON'T OVER-TALK

We want to create time for all members of the group to participate in the discussion. Be careful not to always be the first responder or regularly give long responses.

FIGHT FOR RELATIONSHIP

It's not 'if' conflict or hurt feelings will happen, but 'when'. We commit to fight for relationship with each other. Go to that person and share your struggle or seek wise advice if you are not sure how to handle the conflict

STORYING SCRIPTURES

This is not an exhaustive list, but rather a list of great stories from the New Testament to start storying with.

1. Discovering Jesus - John 1:19-51
2. Call to Discipleship - Luke 5:1-11
3. Jesus Casts out an Evil Spirit - Mark 1:21-39
4. Jesus Chooses the Twelve - Luke 6:12-23
5. Sermon on the Mount (A) - Luke 6:27-36
6. Sermon on the Mount (B) - Luke 6:37-49
7. Farmer Scattering Seed - Matt. 13:1-23
8. Jesus Heals a Demon-Possessed Man- Mark 5:21-43
9. Jesus Sends out the Twelve- Matt. 9:35 - 10:22
10. Jesus Feeds 5000; Walks on Water - Matt 14:13-33
11. Jesus, the Bread of Life - John 6:22-69
12. Peter's Confession of Christ Matt 16:13-27
13. Transfiguration - Matt. 17:1-21
14. Forgiving a Brother Matt. 18:15-35
15. Cost of Following Jesus- Luke 9:57-10:1
16. The Lord's Prayer - Luke 11:1-13
17. Cost of being a Disciple- Luke 14:25-35
18. Sheep, Silver, Prodigal - Luke 15:1-32
19. Lazarus is raised From The Dead - John 11:1-49
20. Serving Others - Mark 10:31-45
21. Triumphal Entry - Luke 19:28-48
22. Jesus Washes the Disciples Feet - John 13:1-26
23. Jesus- Way to the Father- John 14:1-18
24. Jesus, the True Vine - John 15:1-17
25. Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial - Luke 22:31-62
26. Jesus Crucified - Mark 15:1-39
27. He Is Alive! - Luke 24:1-49
28. Jesus Restores Peter - John 21:1-23
29. Promise of the Holy Spirit- Acts 1:1-10
30. Pentecost - Acts 2
31. Peter - Acts 3-4:31
32. On Fire - Acts 8:1-25
33. No One Left Out - Acts 10
34. Barnabas and Saul - Acts 13:1-12

TIPS FOR ASKING GOOD QUESTIONS

GENERAL QUESTIONS: The following questions are examples that will help you have a base to begin with and will give you ideas for developing your own questions.

Be intentional to ask all three types of questions (head, heart and hand) as you lead your discussion.

HEAD: These questions help us to examine what the word shows.

- What do you see god doing, saying, or showing about himself?
- Who are the people and what is going on with them?
- What stands out to you in this passage?
- What do you think the main point is?
- What does this show us about? (you can fill in the blank with - God/man/?, or the topic of discussion such as worship)

HEART: These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.

- What do you see about yourself?
- Have you known anyone who is an example of this?
- What has it looked like when you have/ have not known/believed/lived this in your life?
- What questions does this raise for you?

HANDS: These questions help us bring truth and beliefs into our everyday realities

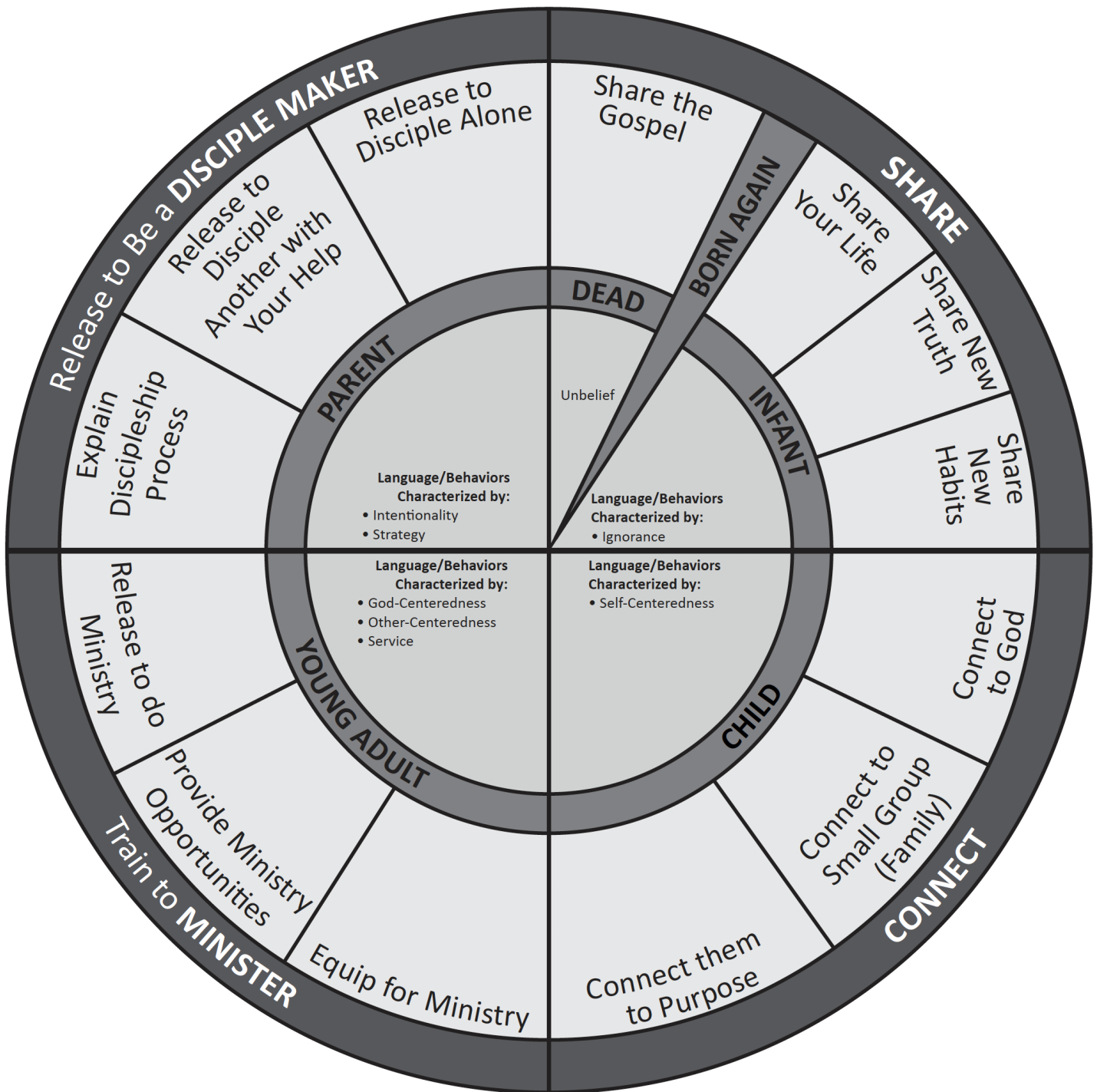
- What is one way you can apply this truth to your life this week?
- What are you challenged to think/believe/do differently because of this passage and our discussion?
- How can you use this to disciple others?
- How does this impact you? Your relationship with? (Fill in with - family, fellow believers, work-place or community)

FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS: Asking a question after hearing someone's response helps people process and gives everyone better understanding.

Follow up questions come from a heart of being interested, curious and seeking to understand and draw out. They are not intended to grill or corner people.

- What has brought you to that understanding?
- What would be an example?
- Explain a little more.
- What might be another way to look at it?
- How does _____ affect _____ ?
- What does _____ mean?
- How does _____ apply to everyday life?

STAGES OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH



PICTURE OF DISCIPLESHIP

