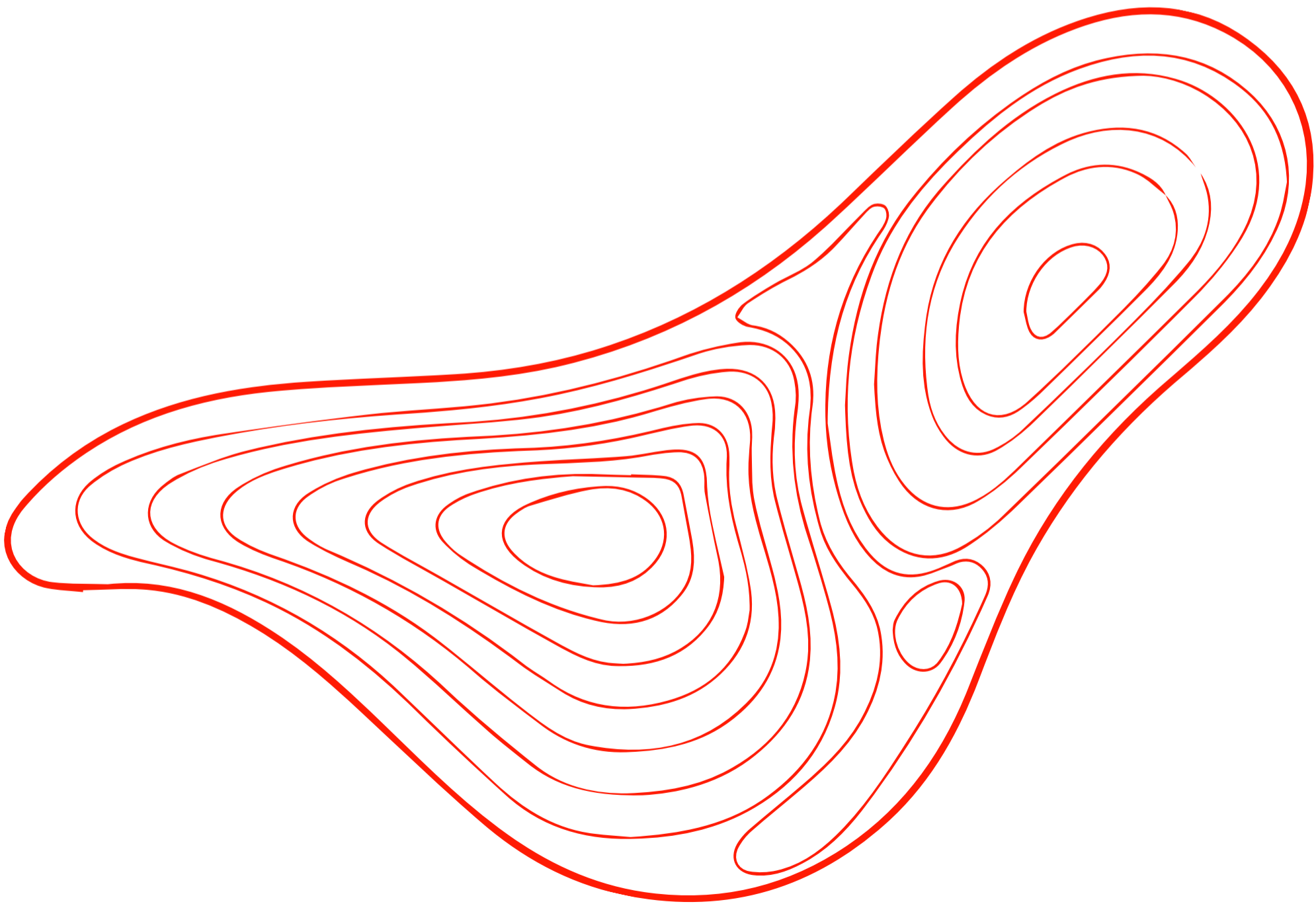


CityLife Church

WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?



INTRODUCTION

In this PDF you'll learn what it means to be a disciple and how to engage in the discipleship community of City Life Church.

Our goal as a church is not to build a big church, it's to build big Christians. What does that mean? It means that we want to help you to grow more deeply in your faith.

Our Vision for 2024 is to see a healthy church filled with healthy disciples.

What does this look like?

It looks like each of us one making the decision to not settle for just having Christian beliefs but that we keep actively following Jesus in tangible ways.

You see, Jesus never once led an altar call asking people to make a one time decision to believe in Him. Rather Jesus called people to actively follow Him.

Believing in Jesus needs to lead to becoming more like Jesus. This is discipleship.

Here's the problem, the modern church is facing a crisis of discipleship.

It's not that people don't **want** to become like Jesus, or that people aren't **trying** to become like Jesus. It's that we don't know **how** to become like Jesus.

Christian thinker and author Dallas Willard once wrote "The greatest need facing the world today is whether those who are Christians will become disciples."

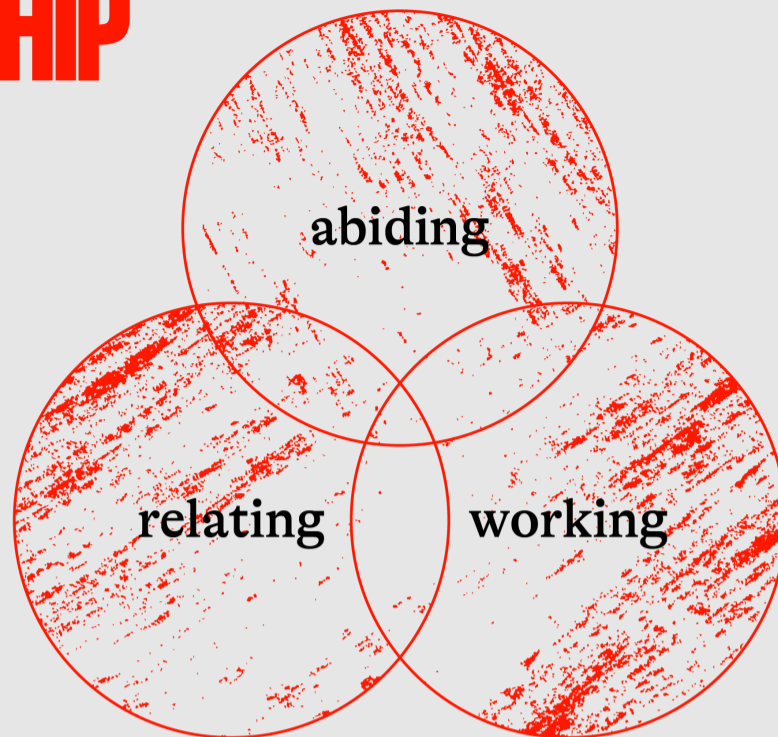
So how do we practically become disciples? What do disciples do?

Disciples do their stretches.

They don't settle. They keep stretching. They keep exercising faith and trust in God in tangible ways. ***In what ways do you need to stretch?***

Below is an image that help us consider how we can grow in our discipleship to Christ.

DISCIPLESHIP



Let's look break these areas down a little.

1: ABIDING (BEING WITH JESUS)

These are the stretches we do to grow in Christ. This is about being with Jesus.

The question isn't, are you abiding? It's, what are you abiding in

All of us live somewhere physically. The same is true about our interior life. If we are making making our emotional and mental home our social media feed or our streaming services, they will form us into people who are lustful, restless and board. But if abide in Jesus, that will also form us.

John Mark Comer asks this question: "Where is your emotional home? What do you return to in your quiet moments? Where do you go to find solace and joy? What would it look like for you to make your home inside God?"

What discipleship stretch can you do every day that enables you to abide in Christ?

Take a moment to answer that question before moving on.

2: RELATING (LOVING LIKE JESUS)

These are the stretches we make to show love to those in our lives. We start by loving our own household and family, then extend that love to the household of faith (church family), and finally to everyone else.

Galatians 5:6 ESV

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, **but only faith working through love.**

The ultimate mark of a disciple is becoming a more loving person.

In what ways can you become a more loving person to your spouse, children, church family and those who don't know Jesus?

3: WORKING (DOING WHAT JESUS DID)

These are the stretches we do live out our calling.

Here's what we need to recapture: that everyone believer, every disciple has a ministry.

Paul the Apostle gives us a word picture to remind us of this truth. He called the church "the body of Christ".

Saint Teresa of Avila put it this way: "Christ has no body on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassionately on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world. Christ has no body now on earth but yours."

This may all sound overwhelming but here's the thing: No one person can do all this.

I love this from Thomas Kelly: "God does not burden us equally with all things, but considerately puts upon each of us just a few central tasks, as emphatic responsibilities. For each of us these special undertakings are our share in the joyous burdens of love. We cannot die on every cross, nor are we expected to."

We are all finite. But upon each of us, Jesus will lay one small part of His heart on ours. We will find our hearts drawn to particular issues, people groups and lines of work. This is your particular set of ministry opportunities.

The question is are we going to serve in the way God is calling us to serve?

Now, very practically, let's explore what it means to engage in the discipleship community of City Life Church.

Being part of our discipleship community is about active engagement not about signing up for something.

Here are the eight tangible ways you can actively engage in our discipleship community. They all begin with the letter 't'. You're welcome ;-)

01 TIME

We spend **time** with God everyday through bible reading and prayer.
If we miss a day, we start again the next.

02 TRUTH

We live our lives under the authority and **truth** of Gods word. We invite Gods truth to teach us, challenge us and change us.

03 TABLES

We gather around **tables** with other disciples to encourage one another in following Jesus more faithfully.

04 TALKING WITH JESUS

We devote ourselves to prayer both individually and corporately. This includes engaging in prayer services and special seasons of prayer and fasting.

05 TALENT

We utilise our **talent** to exalt God, equip the saints and reach the lost.

Servant leadership is not about possessing a title but about picking up a towel.

06 TREASURE

We invest our **treasure** in resourcing the vision, mission and ministry of the local church.

07 TELLING OTHERS

Our faith is too good to keep private. We live our lives as a witness to the good news of Jesus. This means living a life that honours God and telling people about Christ.

08 TRAINING

We keep growing and keep going. There is more that God wants to do. Therefore we commit to ongoing learning and **training**.

WHAT IS YOUR NEXT STEP AS A DISCIPLE?

BEFORE YOU MOVE ONTO SOMETHING ELSE, TAKE A MOMENT TO PRAY, CONSIDER AND REFLECT UPON A NEXT STEP YOU CAN TAKE TO GROW AS A DISCIPLE. WHICH 'T' DO YOU NEED TO TANGIBLE PURSUE MORE INTENTIONALLY?

A CONCRETE STEP YOU CAN TAKE TODAY WOULD BE TO SIGN UP FOR A DISCIPLESHIP GROUP. HERE'S THE LINK

WWW.CITYLIFEUK.ONLINE/DISCIPLESHIP