



Our Savior @ McCall

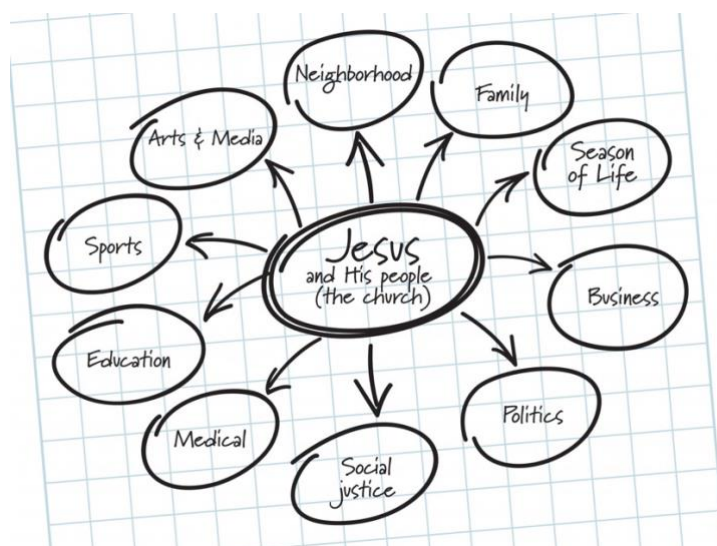
Worship, Community and Service in Christ

Comprehensive Discipleship Strategy Our Savior's @ McCall

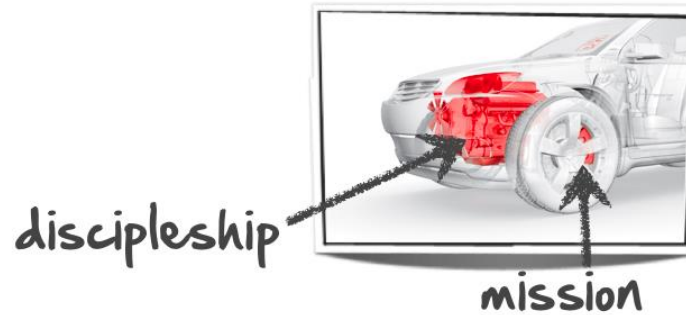
Discipleship Strategy – Definition and Implementation (**abbreviated version**)

Appendices (**not included with this packet**):

- A – Being a Disciple – Simple Way to Do It
- B – Ways of Being on a Mission
- C – Every Follower a Sacrament
- D – How a Disciple Lives
- E – Who a Disciple Is
- F – Discipleship Passages from the Bible
- G – Prayer-living and Prayer-Walking
- H – Summaries of Lifestyle Covenants
- I – Missional bible study
- J – How do we Define Church?
- K – Sacramental truths



Discipleship Strategy – Our Savior’s @ McCall

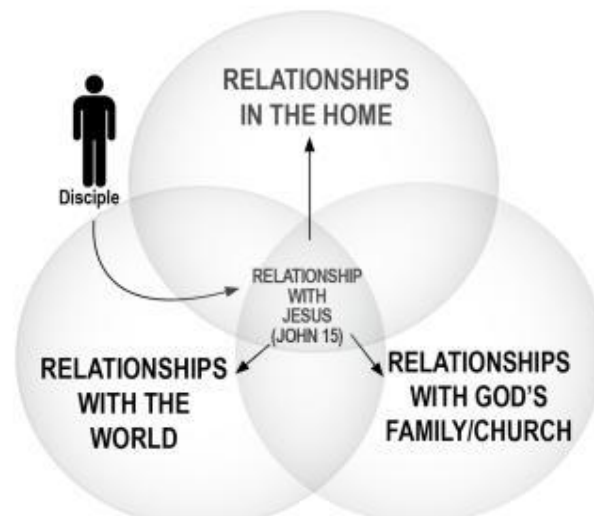


Discipleship – Definition

Being a disciple is being a follower and student of Jesus. Jesus Christ is MORE than our Savior and God...Jesus is our teacher, leader and Lord. Being a disciple is best defined as being an apprentice of Jesus. That must be a definite and obvious kind of thing. To make a mystery of it is to misunderstand it. There is no good reason why people should ever be in doubt as to whether they themselves are his students or not. Anyone who actually is an apprentice and co-laborer with Jesus in his or her daily existence is living out or putting into action what it means to be a "Christian" in every sense of the word. We are not only SAVED by Grace but we LIVE by Grace. Living by Grace is what it means to be a Disciple of Jesus. I am learning from Jesus to live my life as he would live life if he were I. I am not necessarily learning to do everything he did, but I am learning how to do everything I do in the manner in which he did all that he did. Disciples have PURPOSE and a MISSION. Discipleship is the ENGINE that drives mission.

How does one “lean into” discipleship?

- 1 - First thing we should do is emphatically and repeatedly express to Jesus our desire to see him more fully as he really is. Remember, the rule of the kingdom is to ask.
- 2 - Second, we should use every means at our disposal to come to see him more fully. Jesus wants you, empowers you through the Holy Spirit to grow!
- 3 - Seriously look at the lives of others who truly have apprenticed themselves to him. Often his radiance in such people gives us very bright and strong impressions of his own greatness.
- 4 - But the final step in becoming a disciple is decision. We become a life student of Jesus by deciding.

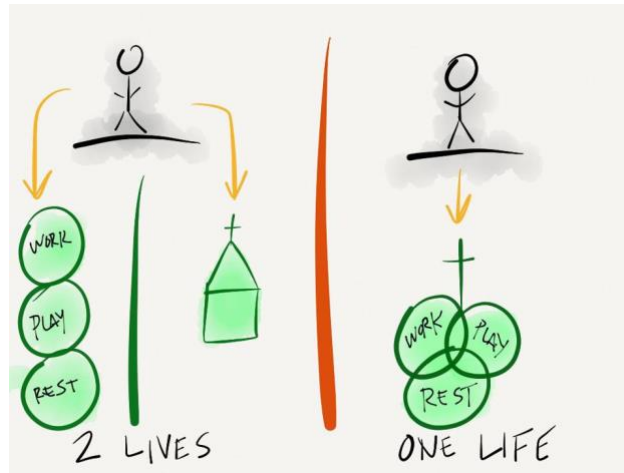


Discipleship and Jesus as Lord - Non-Dualism

When you say, “Jesus is Lord” you are saying a mouthful! Why? Because there are vast implications of the Lordship of Christ in your life.

First of all, you can’t say “Jesus is Lord” without the Holy Spirit.

Secondly, there is no such thing as “dualistic Lordship.” Jesus will not be shared with another as Lord of your life. Ask yourself, “who leads, directs, guides, and holds me accountable for my life day by day? Who is it that guides me and my decisions and leads me through the hours that I live?” Jesus directs my ONE Life in Him!



How OSLC is going to Simplify Discipleship

Here are two keys:

1. Discipleship can and should be **discovery-based**. This means that we can actually discover what we need to know about God by opening the Word of God **ourselves** while the Spirit leads and teaches us.
2. The second key is “obedience-based discipleship.” A disciple is one who loves and obeys. Therefore obedience-based discipleship (or surrender-based discipleship) focuses on becoming one who follows, one who lives out what God has shown, one who consistently steps into the place of “your will not my will be done.”

The bottom line here is that a disciple is one who is coming to know God himself through personal experience (followership) NOT merely a bunch of knowledge ABOUT God..

The Discipleship Mission, Vision and Strategy

The Mission and Vision of this Discipleship Strategy, Core Values, Strategic Overview

Vision – Our Preferred Future

The Vision of this Discipleship Strategy is to build a movement of like-minded followers of Jesus for the purpose of actualizing the Great Commission of God (Matthew 28:16ff).

The Vision is simple – Let us venture in a discipleship partnership to take the Great Commission seriously in a creative manner. In a consensual partnership, let us commit to building the Kingdom of God through the intentional building of redemptive discipling relationships wherever the Holy Spirit may lead.

Mission – What we do

The mission is to make disciples of all nations – to love God, love others and live for Jesus. Our mission is evangelizing the lost and unchurched, making disciples intentionally, teaching all to faithfully respond to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, and building up people of faith so that each is exercising their giftedness in the context of loving, supportive, and challenging community.

Philosophy – Why we do it

The DNA of growth and fulfilling the great commission lies in the heart/life of every follower of Jesus.

We adhere to the belief that God works through His people. To be a follower of Jesus is to understand that mission is the heartbeat of God.

These challenging times call for an uncompromising, courageous, and brave new action that spurs the community of Christ as well as individual Christ-followers to renewed faithfulness.

Our lifestyles must be steeped in belief that the character and life of Jesus must be freshly incarnated in the lives we live.

The Church, any church, exists to participate in God's redemptive work in the world NOT primarily to enhance our private lives, self-esteem, or self-directed purpose.

Gift-based ministry is the foundation of a community that is alive and faithful.

We align ourselves with God's missionary purposes in the world and are "sent" to be live the life and values of Jesus.

Mission is defined not by what a faith community DOES but by its very IDENTITY...followers of Jesus are daily on a mission.

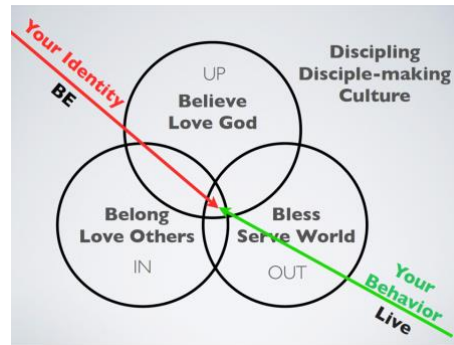
Core Values – What We Adhere to in Discipleship

1. **The primacy of Scripture as our story of living.**
2. **The indispensable role of the Holy Spirit as equipper and empowerer.**
3. **The role of community:** We aim to both learn and do in the context of community.
4. **Theological praxis:** We aim to always both learn and do; to never divorce hearing from obedience. Nothing has been learned in a life in Jesus until it can be "done."
5. **Spiritual transformation:** The goal is spiritual transformation into Christlikeness for the sake of the world.
6. **Missional focus:** We are called to go to the world after we come to Christ. We ARE a mission.
7. **A commitment to the whole church:** We love and seek to bless the whole Church...that is our deep desire. Our focus is not to demean, bad mouth, or become arrogant.

The Discipleship Strategy – How we do it

At Our Savior's, our values shape our commitment to making/shaping disciples. That strategy is symbolized in three small circles and two lines. We affectionately call them the "In, Out, and Up" of Our Savior's. They remind us not only of what we are doing and how we are living as members of Jesus' body in this place but they also remind us to pray that these dynamics will be alive in each and every one of our lives.

What will be the CONTENT of the Discipleship Strategy?



The “UP” Value - *Communion/Worship/Believing/Love God* – represents those things that help us connect with God – we would normally define those activities and practices that deepen devotional living, love of God, and “fuel” (that being, that which feeds the heart and spirit of those who follow Jesus to live with and for Him on a day to day basis) discipleship...for example, prayer, worship, the sacraments, scripture reading, biblical teaching and encouragement, all in a miraculous, Holy Spirit enabled environment.

- This value holds dearly what our lives would look like if we were to love our God with all our mind, heart, strength (relationship, is it deepening), transformation (how are you changing), responsiveness (are you listening).
- This is the realm of sermons, worship, bible studies, etc. - those things that make up our communal connection to God and help us reinforce our identity in Christ and train and equip us for faithful and reproductive/redemptive living.

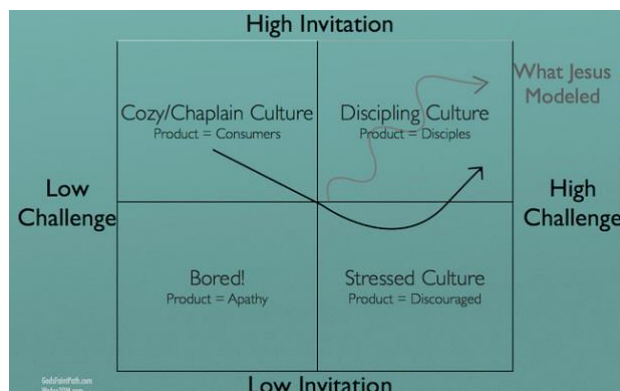
The “Out” Value - *Mission/Blessing/Go-being Sent/Make Disciples/Live like Jesus* – this realm is the realm of blessing others in the name and love of Jesus. It is the “pure religion” that is defined in the words of James. We attempt to love others and serve others (and watching people’s lives transform), blessing people (the tangible touch of God – peace of God – shalom - on every part of your life). We ask everyone the question, “how do we make mission personal?”.

- This is the realm of service projects, causes, serving others, and living generously.

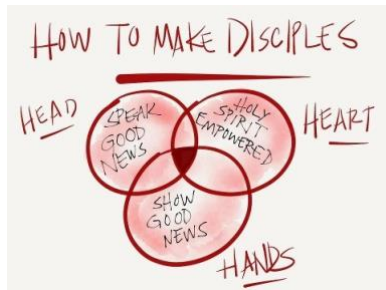
The “In” Value - *Inclusive community/Relationship/Disciple-making/Love Others* – This is a value that includes the purposes of building God-honoring community and relationships where Christ followers have the opportunity to encourage each other and challenge each other to grow to be all that Jesus calls each of us to be.

- This is the distinct TOGETHERNESS value – and it includes those things that we do together that shape our lives together – where we love other people, “do life” with other people, team with others to get involved in Body Life (see Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4).
- This is the realm of group retreats, fellowship activities, fun times together which build a sense of “togetherness” and oneness in the congregation. These are things that shape the heart

What will be the Delivery Mechanism for Training and Equipping Disciples?



Introduction – We believe that Discipleship Training MUST be intentional. There is an inherent “fear” or apprehension in many church communities to make “demands” on people who live in the 21st century. Busy and indulgent cultural lifestyles keep people’s schedules full. Even so, we take the call to Discipleship seriously and trust that providing a HIGH CHALLENGE AND HIGH INVITATION environment in our congregation for the training, equipping and releasing of disciples of Jesus who will impact our church and the Long Valley community. In light of that commitment, the following are “steps” of discipleship training based upon the philosophy and teaching above. We will strive to make each strategic implementation one that impacts the whole person/disciple in their lives:



Boot Camp for Disciples – This “twice a year” class will provide the following – an overview of the Basics of the Faith or, in other words, the essentials of faith that starts a disciple’s journey. We will review in this ½ day course the core teachings of Christianity, what it means to be a part of the OSLC family, and some essential “habits” of a growing disciple – including prayer, worship, gift-based service and bible study.

Training and Follow up in the “IN, OUT, and UP”:

1. Yearly Sermon series on the “In, Out and Up” values and strategy – Discipleship training
2. Classes in each “In, Out, and Up” Values provided on yearly basis – Discipleship training
3. Personal and Small Group Bible studies provided to every member of the congregation that gives a thorough look at each of the In, Out and Up lifestyle markers. These studies are part of the “Discipleship Tree” that includes studies on Generous Living, Sacrificial Service, Disciple-making, Authentic Relationships, Personal Transformation, Responsiveness, Experiencing God and Community Transformation.
 - In – Sacrificial Service, Disciple-making, Authentic Relationships
 - Out – Community Transformation, Generous and Sacrificial Living
 - Up – Responsiveness, Experiencing God, Personal Transformation
4. Follow up with the Elders on how people are growing as disciples. Tracking of individual members in our congregation of the ‘steps’ they’ve made in the training strategy listed above as well as personal follow up on personal life implementation (including involvement in the overall ministry of OSLC).

