

DISCIPLESHIP track

The good news of Jesus Christ is the most important thing in the world to understand and believe. Therefore, whether you are not a Christian, a new Christian or just new to Grace Church, we must begin with the gospel. For everything, in this life and the next, hinges on our response to it. This track is designed to help you understand, love, receive, and respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ unto eternal life—to follow Jesus to the cross.

the Gospel

consider.

- Do you believe in God? Why? How do you know what you know about God?
- What is a Christian? How does someone become a Christian?
- What is the gospel? Who is it for?
- Are you able to share the gospel with someone with clarity and confidence?

read.

- *What is the Gospel?*
by Greg Gilbert
or
- *Follow Me to the Cross*
by David VanAcker

do.

- Spend some time each day reading the Gospel of John, praying to God, and worshipping God.
- Memorize 1 John 4:9-10.
- Determine to continue turning away from your sin and find someone to help you do so.
- Commit to living your life with other Christians (participate in the worship service each week, come to Sunday school, take an active role in a discipleship group, become a member of Grace Church, take part in the ongoing social activities of the church, give generously, etc.)
- Practice saying the gospel in your own words.
- Share the gospel with a non-Christian.
- Take someone else through this track once you are done with it.

pray.

Ask God to...

- help you know and experience his glorious presence by believing the truth of the gospel.
- grant you new life in Jesus and repentance for your sins.
- strengthen you for the life He's called you to.
- make you a blessing to the people around you as you work through this discipleship track.

For Further Reading...

In *Follow Me*, Pastor Dave lists seven characteristics of a follower of Jesus.

Below is a list of recommended books for further exploring each of those seven aspects of Christlikeness.

- *How to Study the Bible*, John MacArthur (seeing God and his Word rightly)
- *Seeing and Savoring Jesus Christ*, John Piper (worshiper/lover of God)
- *The Gospel and Personal Evangelism*, Mark Dever (debtor/lover of people)
- *Humility, True Greatness*, C.J. Mahaney (suffering servant)
- *A Hunger for God*, John Piper (recognizing dependence on God)
- *The Hole in Our Holiness*, Kevin DeYoung (growing in godliness)
- *Loving the Church*, John Crotts (body of Christ)



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purpose.

The primary call on all our lives is to glorify God by following Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit. The desire and ability to live out this call are the result of a beautiful merging of God's sovereign grace and our dependent effort. At Grace Church we are committed to coming alongside anyone who is interested in examining and accepting this call. It is our joy to follow Jesus with you.

covenant.

One of the most popular and tragic counterfeit versions of Christianity in existence today is the one which suggests that people can choose to follow Jesus to some (or even most) of the places that he goes—that people can come to Jesus on their own terms. Throughout the time of his ministry, however, Jesus made it plain that people would follow him wherever he might lead them and whatever it might cost them or they would not follow him at all (i.e. Matthew 8:19-22; Luke 14:25-33). Jesus will meet us wherever we are but he alone determines where we're going. Indeed, the bible makes plain the fact that there is a high cost to following Jesus. But the bible also makes plain that the reward is incomparably greater (Matthew 13:44) and that the strength to do so comes ultimately from God (Philippians 2:12-13).

Consequently, we want to mutually enter into a covenant—an agreement that is serious and significant. Before agreeing to begin this discipleship track, know that it should only be entered into after much prayer (with your spouse if you are married), consideration, and with a whole heart. It may bring spiritual challenges but it will most certainly bring God's help and reward.

- I agree to finish this discipleship track. Given the significant investment that others are making in me I acknowledge the need for punctuality and uninterrupted attendance.
- I agree to be honest and forthright—speaking the truth in love and being willing to receive feedback, even if it hurts. We can only help each other if we are willing to be transparent and vulnerable.
- I commit to completing assignments and coming prepared to engage fully.
- I commit to consistent prayer for the person that I'm meeting with.
- I commit to the consistent disciplines of reading God's Word and prayer during this discipleship track.
- Finally, I commit to leading at least one other person through this discipleship track in the future.

In short, we're asking you to commit to taking this seriously and sharing it with at least one other person as an expression of your love for God and the calling He's placed on your life.

Signed: _____ Date: _____