

# DISCIPLESHIP track

Gospel › Spiritual Growth

There is more to the Christian life than conversion and eternal life. Being a Christian is not simply about making a choice to trust in Jesus and then going to heaven when you die. To be a Christian includes those things, but it is also about becoming more like Jesus in every way. But what is Jesus like and what does he call me to be like? What does it look like to live and grow as a Christian in this life; and how do I know and do these things? All of that is what this track is designed to help you with. In short, this track is meant to help you understand, and by faith grow in, following Jesus—from the cross to glory.

## read.

- *Follow Me to Glory\** by David VanAcker
- *The Cross Centered Life* by C.J. Mahaney

## do.

- Spend some time each day reading the Bible, praying to God, and worshipping God.
- Make a plan to live out each of the seven qualities of a follower of Jesus.
- Find someone to help you make your plan and live it out.
- Memorize Colossians 2:6-7.
- Take someone else through this track when you are done.

# for Spiritual Growth

## consider.

- What does it mean to live out the Christian life? What does it mean to follow Jesus?
- Who is called to follow Jesus?
- What marks a mature Christian?
- How do we grow as Christians?

## pray.

### Ask God to...

- strengthen you to live the life He's called you to.
- encourage you to continue following Jesus in the ways you already are.
- show you the areas where you aren't following Jesus well.
- grant you repentance for your sins.
- give you courage to share the gospel with others.
- make you a blessing to the people around you as you work through this track.

### For Further Reading...

\* In *Follow Me to Glory*, 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: \_\_\_\_\_