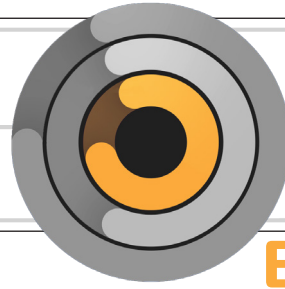




DR. CODY McQUEEN
OCTOBER 13, 2024



BE A DISCIPLE

A Disciple Connects

1 JOHN 4:7-12

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone ..." Genesis 2:18a

I. A disciple connects to other Christians to _____ God's love to one another.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ... No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. 1 John 4:7, 12

Ways to express God's love to one another ...

1. _____ it.
2. _____ it.
3. _____ for it.

Connect with other Christians to _____ Christ's love.

II. A disciple connects to other Christians to _____ God's love themselves.

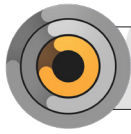
Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Connect with other Christians to _____ Christ's love.

III. A disciple connects to other Christians to _____ God's love to others.

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35

Connect with other Christians to _____ others with Christ's love.



Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal His truth and wisdom as you go through this lesson.

1. Read 1 John 4: 7, 12. How is Christian fellowship different from relationships with unbelievers? (See also Jn 13:34-35, 17:23, 18:36; 1 Jn 1:3.)
2. How have your expectations of what Christian community should look like influenced how you relate to other believers?
3. What would you say to someone who avoids Christian fellowship or worship due to hurts they've experienced before?
4. How do our pride and preferences cause disunity in Christ's body, especially today? How can you contribute humbly toward harmony on the midst of differences? What can you give up for others in this regard (Phil 2:3; 1 Cor 8:9)?
5. Why must we grasp that loving God can't be practiced apart from loving for His children? Why does this matter, especially in relation to outsiders?
6. How can you be more intentional in showing love to other believers? Write down the name of a person you have been neglecting to treat as a sibling in Christ. How can you focus more on them this week?

RESOURCES ON CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

True Community: The Biblical Practice of Koinonia by Jerry Bridges Dig deeper into what Christian community in the 21st century should look like and come away with a new appreciation for fellowship, the church and God's intention for the body of Christ

Why We Love the Church by Kevin DeYoung and Ted Kluck Refutes our culture's idea of "spirituality" by showing how being part of the church and learning to love it is good for your soul, biblically responsible and pleasing to God

31 Ways to Be a "One-Another" Christian: Loving Others with the Love of Jesus by Stuart Scott with S. Andrew Jin. Examines the "one another" commands in Scripture, providing a Word-based understanding of what God intends for Christian relationships

Connecting: Healing for Ourselves and Our Relationships by Larry Crabb. A biblical approach by a Christian psychologist to healing the deep wounds of the soul that centers around building intimate, healing mini-communities in our lives and churches

BIBLE STUDIES FOR GROUPS

Caring for One Another: 8 Ways to Cultivate Meaningful Relationships by Edward Welch. Guides small groups through eight lessons that show what it looks like when ordinary, needy people care for other ordinary, needy people in everyday life

Christian Community: A Bible Study on Being Part of God's Family (The Navigators Life Change series). Teaches what life is supposed to be like in God's family, patterned after the eternal relationship between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

FOR LEADERS

Making Small Groups Work: What Every Small Group Leader Needs to Know by Henry Cloud and John Townsend. Leaders learn skills and biblical processes for how to lead any group in realizing its life-changing potential

Leading Small Groups with Purpose: Everything You Need to Lead a Healthy Group by Steve Gladen. A road map taking small group leaders toward a healthy, dynamic group with focus and purpose

"Fellowship with the body of Christ is God's great classroom of the development of Christian character. We are benefitted by both the strengths and weaknesses of the fellowship. The mature ones help to strengthen and encourage us, while the weaknesses in the less mature give us the opportunity to practice our spiritual growth. Get involved and stay in faithful fellowship with the body of Christ! Don't run off if something disappoints you or you get your feelings hurt—this only demonstrates immaturity and places you in further danger of losing out with God."

D. A. ROBBINS

"To say it quite simply: God suffers because of us, for He wants to suffer us. This is more than a word play. Indeed, everything may be at stake in this saying: He wants to suffer us, and we are indeed suffered by Him. Can we suffer those who are different from us? May the others suffer us? Can we suffer ourselves? Whom can we 'not endure'? We are always causing suffering for each other: siblings, husbands and wives, parents and children, neighbors and colleagues. These spheres of suffering are deeply implicated in the church and politics. If we ourselves are not able to suffer, then nothing can possibly please us. But if we are able to suffer, then we take nothing amiss. The love of God which is infinitely capable of suffering reaches us in Christ."

JÜRGEN MOLTMANN

"Conducting our lives on a daily basis in close proximity to others guarantees that there will be tensions, misunderstandings, individual subjectivities, struggles and differences of opinion. Our disrespect for one another, our rebellion toward authority, our innate selfishness and insidious self-justifications are revealed. It is a painful but necessary revelation of our hearts. We have to pass through a valley of disillusionment with what we think true fellowship is, what we as God's people are, and not the least, what we ourselves are capable of. In fact, the most painful revelation we need to face is the truth of our own condition. True fellowship is the courage and the willingness to be with one another and bear with one another in all of the above conditions."

ARTHUR KATZ

A WONDERFUL OFFER

Being a Christian isn't based on membership in a local church or keeping a set of rules. It involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of who He is and what He has done to provide man with a way to experience God's love for us. Here's how to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior:

1. Realize that you are sinful and separated from God. (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6)
2. Recognize that the penalty for your sin is death—eternal separation from God and all that is good. (Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27)
3. Understand that Jesus Christ took the penalty for your sin by dying in your place and that He rose again. (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
4. Receive the free gift of salvation by trusting in Christ alone as your Savior. (Romans 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9)

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16 NASB) You can use this prayer to express your decision to God:

"Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I trust in Him alone as the only way to get right with You. Thank You for the forgiveness of sins and the eternal life I now have. Amen."

COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week at Christ Chapel. If you'd like to find out even more, visit www.ccbcfamily.org/events.



LOOKING FOR THE CONNECT CARD? Scan the QR code here to fill out a Connect Card. Our team will reach out this week to answer your questions and tell you more about Christ Chapel.



DISASTER RELIEF In response to the devastating impacts of Hurricane Helene and Milton, we are taking action. Because of your faithful giving, we were able to quickly send \$25,000 to Samaritan's Purse last week followed by an additional \$50,000 this week to support their response in the regions affected by these disasters. Thank you, church! If you would like to contribute toward Christ Chapel's Disaster Relief Ministry, you can scan the QR Code here or visit www.ccbcfamily.org/give.

ELDER PRAYER The elders and their wives would love to spend time with you and pray for any encouragement or healing you need in your life right now. God does extraordinary things when we go to Him, and we're excited to do this together next Sunday, Oct. 20, at 12:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Learn more at www.ccbcfamily.org/elderprayer.

RELATIONAL WISDOM Being a disciple of Jesus is relational! On Sunday, Oct. 20, here at the Fort Worth Campus, we'll begin our Relational Wisdom class, focusing on how we can cultivate authentic, enjoyable and lasting relationships centered on God's glory. Learn more at www.ccbcfamily.org/wisdom.

A NIGHT OF WORSHIP WITH STEVE GREEN Alongside Christ Chapel's choir and orchestra, legendary artist Steve Green will be a part of leading us in a beautiful night of worship that's sure to encourage and inspire. We'll see you at the Fort Worth Campus on Friday, Oct. 25 at 7 P.M. for an incredible evening together!

WOMEN'S DAY OF PRAYER Set aside time to be in God's presence on Saturday, Oct. 19, by coming to the Women's Day of Prayer! Hosted at the Fort Worth Campus, it will offer an opportunity for solo prayer, praying over each other and sharing in communion. We're looking forward to being together and hope you can join us! Register at www.ccbcfamily.org/dayofprayer.

MSM GIRLS NIGHT We are excited to offer our MSM Girls Night at the Fort Worth Campus! Join in on the fun, grow in God's Word and build community. Join us Friday, Nov. 8, at 6:30 p.m. through Saturday, Nov. 9, at 11:30 a.m. Learn more and register by visiting www.ccbcfamily.org/girlsnight.



IF YOU'D LIKE TO GIVE AN OFFERING TODAY, YOU CAN DO SO STRAIGHT FROM YOUR PHONE The process is quick and easy—scan the QR Code to start.