

The Journey

Week of January 22, 2017 | Lesson 3 | Ephesians 4:11-16



For the Disciplemaker

What is a discipleship pathway? It is the route a follower of Christ intentionally takes in order to grow toward spiritual maturity. It is characterized by scriptural and developmental milestones and spiritual disciplines that help one become more and more like Jesus.

The first step (milestone) along the 4D Discipleship Pathway is DISCOVER. To become a disciple or follower of Jesus, one must discover new life in Him. Remember, the growing disciple is *always* discovering new things from God about how to live his/her life for Christ.

The Previous Step

Use the first third of *Group Time* to build relationships and review the previous lesson.

- **Care and Share**
Greet participants as they arrive. Invite them to enjoy refreshments and tell about their week. Move into a period of prayer after prayer requests have been shared.
- **Check-Up**
Read the memory passage, Philippians 3:12-14, aloud and ask for volunteers to quote verses 12-13 from memory. Assign verse 14 to be learned by next session. Next, call on a few people to work together to retell the story from 1 Samuel 17:1-52. Revisit the next steps (spiritual action goals) that each participant has recently shared by asking them to describe any progress they have made.
- **Cast Vision**
Ask: When you think of a path, what comes to mind? How is life as a follower of Jesus like walking a path? If someone asked you to define "discipleship pathway" what would you say? According to the 4D Discipleship Pathway, what step is first?

Bible Study and Discussion

Use the second third of *Group Time* to **discover** and **deepen** in the Word.

- **Read the Word**
In advance, prayerfully read Ephesians 4:11-16 multiple times and personally respond to the discussion questions. Develop additional questions as needed.

Invite a participant to read aloud Ephesians 4:11-16 while others follow in their own Bibles. Next, direct the participants to silently reread the verses and attempt to identify the author's main point. Now ask the discussion questions and encourage note-taking on the *newly updated* "Home Group Bible Study Discussion Guide."

Teaching (DISCOVER the basic teaching):

- What is the main point of this passage?
 - According to verses 11-13, what has God purposed for you?
 - How would you define/describe spiritual growth?

- How can you tell that a person is growing spiritually?
 - What is the standard for measuring spiritual growth? (v. 13)
- What key truths does God want you to believe and understand?
 - If a pastor is to train church members, what is the members' function?
 - What is the main goal of all ministry?

Rebuking (DEEPEN my understanding):

- According to this passage, what is the "wrong" that God is opposing?
 - Why shouldn't a Christian remain immature like a child?
- What sin, temptation, or false belief should be avoided?
 - How can you tell if someone is deceptive in his/her teaching?
- How does your life compare to what God has said is right or wrong?
 - What are the typical characteristics of a young child?
 - Would you (or others) say you that you are still a spiritual child? Why?
 - Is spiritual growth just for children, why or why not?

Correcting (DO make changes):

- In light of this passage, what changes does God want you to make?
- What do you need to stop doing?
- What do you need to start doing?

Training (God is preparing you as a disciple to DISCIPLE others):

- What Christ-like character and habits does God want you to develop and demonstrate?
 - How can you become more like Jesus?
- For what is God preparing and equipping you?
 - When in your life have you spiritual grown the most? What difference is it making now?

The Next Step

Use the final third of *Group Time* to prepare to **do** and **disciple**.



- Identifying My Next Step
 Guide participants to ask God, in a time of silent and individual prayer, to help them DISCOVER what they should DO differently this week as a result of the Bible study. Following the prayer time, ask each participant to write down and share his/her next step (spiritual action goal). Also ask, "Whom do you know that would benefit from hearing the truths from today's Bible study? Share it with him/her this week."
- Partnering
 Participants should not go at it alone. In the remaining time, instruct them to partner with another person or two to plan ways each one can move toward accomplishing his/her next step. They should also practice retelling the lesson's key truths in a conversational manner--as if they were telling it to someone outside the group. Finally, practice reciting Philippians 3:12-14. Each set of partners should close *Group Time* by praying for one another with respect to their individual next steps.