

The Way: Apprenticeship with Jesus

Thursdays 6:00-7:30 pm

1st, 2nd & 3rd Thursdays of the month



TRINITY
WELLSPRINGS
CHURCH

COMMUNITY OVERFLOWING

The Way: Apprenticeship with Jesus

"No one graduates from a life of discipleship."

Maturing & Equipping

OVERVIEW

1. Purpose

- Provide transformational knowledge & spiritual practices that **matures** and **equips** disciples and leaders of Jesus Christ in a life-on-life environment.

2. Who

- Overarching principle: "No one graduates from a life of discipleship."
- The targeted participants are believers who want to go deeper in their life of discipleship.
 - ✓ In addition: elders will be invited to participate during one of their three years on session, Life group leaders will be invited to participate (at least) once during their oversight of a small group, and future lay leaders and life group leaders will emerge and be trained through this maturing and equipping ministry of TWC.

3. What the Group is Not

- A big classroom environment – an effort will be made to keep the group intimate (no more than 15) so transformational knowledge and intimate relationships are fostered.
- It is not primarily designed to help you gain more knowledge (though knowledge is important).
- It is not primarily designed to be an accountability group (though accountability is important).

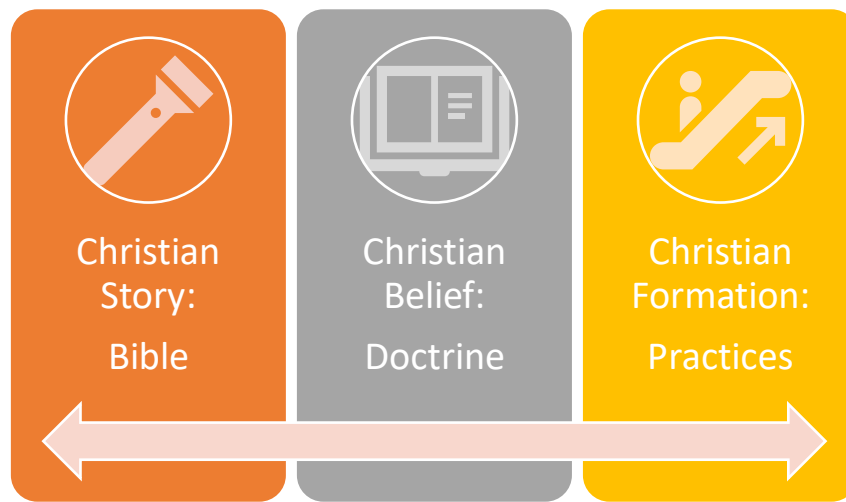
4. Commitment

- This is a one-year commitment (aka: 8-month ministry calendar year).
- We will ask participants to sign a commitment card to ensure full participation for the entirety of the journey.

5. Weekly Goals (ABCs)

- Accountability in spurring one another on
- Bible memory
- Content

6. Content: Three Building Blocks of Deep Discipleship



- **Christian Story:** 8 weeks that covers the basic storyline of Scripture. The goal is to help disciples understand, explain, and participate in the true story of the world in deeper and richer ways.
- **Christian Belief:** 7 weeks that covers the basic orthodox beliefs of Christianity. The goal is to help disciples understand, explain, and apply the basic confessions of Christianity.
- **Christian Formation:** 7 weeks that covers the basic habits and practices that shape the Christian life. The goal is to help disciples understand, value, and employ these practices in their daily lives as means of grace.

7. Yearly Schedule

- Meets 20-22 times a year from September through April.
- Meets the first three weeks of the month, taking the last week off.
- Meets for 90/105 minutes on Thursday nights, 6:00-7:30/45 pm.

8. Weekly Schedule

- The first 30-45 minutes is devoted to mutual spurring/biblical fellowship.
- The second 45-60 minutes is devoted to content and questions.

9. Bible Memorization

- “The Way must not be for me because I’m terrible at memorization.” The truth is that most of us are terrible at memorization! In The Way, we will come alongside one another in a gentle and loving fashion with a “give it a try” kind of attitude.
- Dallas Willard: “Bible memorization is absolutely fundamental to spiritual formation. If I had to choose between all the disciplines of the spiritual life, I would choose Bible memorization, because it is a fundamental way of filling our minds with what it needs. This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth. That’s where you need it! How does it get in your mouth? Memorization.”

10. Spiritual Retreat:

- Retreat may be planned (Friday Night thru Sat night)

SPURRING ONE ANOTHER ON: Suggested Weekly Fellowship Questions

(Pick Two Per Week)

1. What has God been teaching you through Bible reading, preaching, fellowship, or other material?
2. What are you encouraged about in your walk with God? (prayer answered, needs met, fruit in marriage or family, evangelism, etc...)
3. What attribute of God has been most sweet to you lately?
4. How have you been encouraged by being part of a local church?
5. Who in your life are you intentionally trying to reach out to?
6. What area of your life is causing the most stress? What has it exposed about your heart?
7. In what area of your life has God been convicting you? What is he calling you to put off and put on?
8. Are there any big decisions in your life where you could use some counsel?
9. How would you rate your practice of the spiritual disciplines this week?
10. How can we pray for you?

CONTENT & DISCUSSION: Typical Weekly Reading Questions

1. What was the main point of the reading?
2. How is the material going to help you grow in your relationship with God?
3. What were your favorite quotes?
4. Was there anything you didn't fully grasp or disagreed with in the reading?
5. How can you apply this material to your life this week?

TOPICS COVERED

Year 1

RED YEAR

BIBLE

The Story of Redemption: Paul and Romans

Description: *An overview of Paul's life and theology; the great story of redemption in the Book of Romans (chapters 1-8) is Taught, Explained, and Applied to our lives.*

Book: Douglas Moo, *Encountering the Book of Romans*

BELIEFS

Amazing Grace: Union with Christ & The Depths of Our Salvation

Description: *The great doctrine of salvation in all its rich dimensions are explained, enjoyed, and applied to our lives.*

Book: John Murray, *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*

PRACTICES

Living the Story: 7 Core Spiritual Practices of Healthy Disciples

Description: *Spiritual Practices explained, taught, and practiced together in the context of community. Every three weeks, a new spiritual practice is introduced with the purpose of living it out to grow more like Christ.*

Book: Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*

FUTURE | BLUE YEAR

BIBLE The Glorious Gospel: Jesus & the Kingdom

BELIEFS The Incomparable Christ: The Person & Work of Jesus

PRACTICES Praying the Story: Practicing Aspects of our Communion with God

FUTURE | GREEN YEAR

BIBLE The Bible Jesus Read: The Law & The Prophets

BELIEFS The Glory of the Triune God of Grace: Trinity, Attributes, & Holy Spirit

PRACTICES Saying Sorry in the Story: Growing through Killing Sin
(You be killing sin or sin be killing you)

Note on Content: The selected content has been purposely selected to be engaging and highly accessible for a wide variety of disciples. The readings are relevant and accessible rather than esoteric and impenetrable. THE WAY is designed specifically for the local church. While minimum-length readings (7-8 pages) and maximum-length readings (28-30 pages) occasionally pop up, most lessons are in the 15-18 page-range making the lesson highly achievable for even busy people.

MEETING DATES – RED YEAR

Week	Date	General Topic	Specific Topic	Reading	Scripture Memory
1	Oct 7	Spiritual Practice #1	Meditation on Scripture & Sharing Our Stories	Journey: Stories Handout: Deeper, Ortlund: 143-157 Supplemental Bonus Reading: Foster: 1-32	Matthew 5:2-12
2	Oct. 14	Christian Belief #1: "Amazing Grace"	Union with Christ	Handout: Deeper, Ortlund: 51-67	Matthew 5:2-12
3	Oct. 21	Christian Belief #2: "Amazing Grace"	Love of Christ & Adoption	Handout: Deeper, Ortlund: 69-83; Supplemental: Murray: 132-140	Matthew 5:2-12
4	Nov. 4	Spiritual Practice #2	Sabbath	Listen to Youtube Sermon Tim Keller: "Work and Rest" (length: 41:45) & Handout: Sacred Rhythms: 130-145	Matthew 5:2-12
5	Nov. 11	Christian Belief #3: "Amazing Grace"	Election & Regeneration	Murray: 95-105	Matthew 5:2-12
6	Nov. 18	Christian Belief #4: "Amazing Grace"	Conversion: Faith & Repentance	Murray: 106-116	Matthew 5:2-12

7	Dec. 2	Spiritual Practice #3	Witness & Hospitality	Handout, The Simplest Way to Change the World, 17-43	Matthew 5:2-12
8	Dec. 9	Christian Belief #5: "Amazing Grace"	Justification	Handout: Luther's Preface to Galatians (pp. 1-3) Murray: 117-131	1 Cor. 13:1-7
9	Dec. 16	Christian Belief #6: "Amazing Grace"	Sanctification	Murray: 141-150	1 Cor. 13:1-7
Christmas	Break	<u>Optional</u> Readings:	Murray: 79-94 The Order of Application Effectual Calling	Foster: 62-95 Study & Simplicity	
10	Jan 6	Spiritual Practice #4	Experiments in Prayer: Journaling Prayer of Examen	Foster: 33-46 Rumford Handout: 72-79	1 Cor. 13:1-7
11	Jan. 13	Christian Belief #7 "Amazing Grace"	Perseverance & Glorification	Murray: 151-160; 174-182	1 Cor. 13:1-7
12	Jan. 20	Bible #1: "Story of Redemption"	The Apostle Paul & Romans 1:1-17	Moo: 3-34	1 Cor. 13:1-7
13	Feb. 3	Spiritual Practice #5	Solitude and Silence	Foster: 96-109	Psalm 23
14	Feb. 10	Bible #2: "Story of Redemption"	Romans 1:18-3:20	Moo: 37-61.	Psalm 23
15	Feb. 17	Bible #3: "Story of Redemption"	Romans 3:21-31	Moo: 65-72.	Psalm 23
16	March 3	Spiritual Practice #6	Fasting	Foster: 47-61	Psalm 23
17	March 10	Bible #4: "Story of Redemption"	Romans 4	Moo: 73-80.	Psalm 23
	March 17	(Spring Break-No Meeting)			
18	March 24	Bible #5: "Story of Redemption"	Romans 5	Moo: 83-92.	Eph. 3:14-21
19	April 7	Bible #6: "Story of Redemption"	Romans 6	Moo: 93-101.	Eph. 3:14-21
	April 14	Maundy Thursday			
20	April 21	Bible #7: "Story of Redemption"	Romans 7	Moo: 103-113.	Eph. 3:14-21
21	May 5	Bible #8: "Story of Redemption"	Romans 8	Moo: 115-126.	Eph 3:14-21
22	May 12	Spiritual Practice #7: ТВА			Eph. 3:14-21; Review all

BOOKS NEEDED for RED YEAR: Douglas Moo, *Encountering the Book of Romans* | Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline* | John Murray, *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*. (Books supplied by TWC.)

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Member Covenant

In order to grow in godliness as a disciple of Jesus Christ, I agree, by the grace of God, to the following commitments:

- 1. To attend all of the meetings, unless I'm sick, out of town, or facing a genuine crisis.** If I can't attend, I will notify the leader and do my best to complete the assignments.
- 2. To be on time for each meeting.** I acknowledge that this group meets each _____ (day of the week) from _____ (start time) until _____ (end time).
- 3. To complete all assignments to the best of my ability.** This includes scripture memory and the assigned readings.
- 4. To fully participate in group discussions with transparency and integrity.**
- 5. To protect the confidentiality of my group.** I pledge to keep whatever is shared in the group confidential to as to encourage trust, openness, and honesty.
- 6. To engage in daily personal worship.** This includes a commitment to spend time in prayer and Bible reading in order to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.
- 7. To pray for the nonbelievers that God has placed in my life.**
- 8. To faithfully attend worship services at church on the Lord's day.**

I understand that this group will meet for one ministry year.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____