

Know. Love. Serve. How We Grow Disciples

So let's begin by defining our terms. What is a disciple? A disciple is a learner. In biblical times, a disciple would attach himself to a rabbi or teacher. The disciple would focus solely on learning from that teacher. He would follow the teacher, interact with him, and do whatever he instructed. **The measure of success** for that disciple was based on how much he became like his teacher.

Luke 6:40, A student is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher.

Therefore, **A Christian disciple is someone who is learning to live like Jesus.**

Our goal as a church is to have frequent and meaningful encounters with Jesus, so that we begin to look like him, think like Him, and act like him. We want to help you on that journey.

Colossians 2:6, So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him.

At ACF, our number one priority is to make disciples.

We exist, in partnership with the Holy Spirit, to help people become more like Jesus.

At ACF our Discipleship Strategy was birthed out of our Mission Statement.

We make disciples by enabling people to know, love, and serve Jesus Christ. That has become our all-consuming mission.

Our strategy is illustrated here:



Discipleship is an ongoing process that results in a reflection of **God's love and grace**, and of the heart and character of Jesus.

Let's now get into the specifics of what we mean by **KNOW-LOVE-SERVE.**

KNOW

We define **know** as **learning to trust God**.

People first connect with God in many ways – through a friend, a service, an experience, even a tragedy. But when it's all said and done, people must enter in to a personal relationship with Him through Christ.

John 17:3, Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

So at ACF we try to provide many entrances into faith while keeping the distractions and challenges to meeting Christ at a minimum.

Acts 15:19, "It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.

KNOW Actions You Can Take

Here are some **actions you can take that will help you** to **KNOW** God more:

Worship. Worship is anything I do or think that gives God the credit He deserves. It can be a song, an attitude or a sacrificial act. We try to teach and model worship that involves every part of life from singing to serving, from giving to glorifying. Worship happens as much during the week as it does the weekend.

John 4:24, God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.

Prayer. Prayer is mainly a conversation with God. It can be a praise, a confession, thanksgiving or a request. We want people to learn that prayer matters, that it is powerful and life changing for us as individuals and for our church. We want to help one another to speak with God and listen to Him.

Col. 4:2, Devote yourselves to prayer.

Bible study. The Word of God is exactly what we need to penetrate who we really are and show us how to live for God. The Bible has many descriptions but it's helpful to think of it as our owner's manual for life, a love letter from God and a revelation of who God is. It explains why we're here and where life is headed.

Hebrews 4:12, For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

You and I can do all these things in personal time alone or publically with other Christians, when we do so we learn who He is and that He can be taken at His word. It's important to participate with others, meeting with other Christians is like spending time with your family.

SPECIAL ACF KNOW Offerings

Here are some **ways in which ACF will help you** to **KNOW** God better:

Weekend worship events Each week we offer contemporary, impacting music, creative elements with applicable and relevant messages.

Daily connection tools We offer a number of tools on our website to help you spend time alone with God. [www.acfellowship.org]

Baptism services We offer believers the opportunity to be baptized out of obedience to Christ.

Special/additional events We regularly share in communion where we remember the body and blood of Christ given for our salvation.

In summary, **knowing** God means we are learning to trust Him. As we get to know God, we find that He is trustworthy. And we get to express this trust in how we respond to Him.