

# 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.**

# SERVE

At ACF we define **serve** as learning to **live beyond ourselves**.

Someone once said that the opposite of love is not hate - it's apathy. We believe that a deep and growing relationship with God, will result in a passionate love for Him and for His people.

And, the more you learn to love God, the more you want to give yourself and all you have to His purposes in this world.

At ACF **servicing** begins and ends with **putting God and others first**.

This is somewhat counter-cultural in a world that encourages us to look out for ourselves first.

But scripture encourages,

*Matthew 6:33, But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

And,

*Philippians 2:3, Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.*

You and I were created to serve!

## SERVE Actions You Can Take

Now you may be asking the question, What does serving involve? Here are some **actions you can take** that can help you **serve** God more effectively:

**Volunteer** We want every member to become a contributor. Anyone can serve, and everyone can serve. This involves discovering who it is God made you to be and what He designed for you to do.

*1 Peter 4:10, Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.*

From greeting people on Sunday morning, to holding babies in Central America, there are multiple ways to volunteer your time and gifts.

**Give** At ACF we have a God-given vision to support ministries all over the world. We cannot do it apart from the faithful giving of our church body. That's why we ask every ACF member to excel in giving.

*2 Corinthians. 8:7, But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us— see that you also excel in this grace of giving.*

Giving of your time, talents, and resources is a biblical principle that we embrace wholeheartedly. and, the blessings for the giver are enormous!

**Live on Mission** We are called to be witnesses for Jesus in a world that largely rejects Him. That means looking for "right here, right now" opportunities to show others who God really is.

*Matthew 5:16, In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.*

As you and I press into our relationship with God, our lives will reflect his truth and grace. The result will be service and ministry to the broken, destitute, and hopeless in our world. Needs will be met and ultimately, God will be glorified!

## ACF SERVE Opportunities

There are multiple opportunities to **serve** at ACF:

**SHAPE** You can go online and do this study on your own or with someone else. You will discover both your design and your destiny - how God made you and what He's called you to do in His kingdom. Look for Discipleship Tools on our website.

There are multiple **Local Serving Opportunities** that we want you to plug into. We want to be a church that is willing to invest in our communities by caring for those in need. We desire to give back so that Jesus, not ACF, become famous.

Finally, you may want to participate in one of our regional or global **Mission trips**. We serve both regionally and globally because there is great need, and because God tells us to "go". But we also believe a cross cultural mission trip can be discipleship on "steroids". God can really stretch and grow you and when we step out of our comfort zones and address desperate needs of the broken and hopeless up close and personal.

In summary, **"serving" God means we are learning to live beyond ourselves.**

And as we do, the **KNOW, LOVE, SERVE** cycle is able to continue.

It is our prayer that you embrace the call to "live beyond yourself".