



*step***TWO**



VINEYARD
COMMUNITY CHURCH

VCCINDY.ORG



Vineyard Growth Track

*step***ONE: BECOME A MEMBER**

Know Jesus by completely trusting in Him & loving His church.

*step***TWO: GROW YOUR FAITH**

Grow spiritually through reflective bible reading, prayer, generosity, and community.

*step***THREE: DEVELOP YOUR CALLING**

Develop my spiritual gifts and give my time and abilities to God's cause.

*step***FOUR: SHARE YOUR STORY**

Reproduce myself by investing in others and sharing my faith.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

THE PURPOSE OF THIS CLASS

1. To become _____ in Christ.

**THE JOURNEY OF DISCIPLESHIP IS A
“RIGHT FOOT, LEFT FOOT” PROCESS.**

WHAT IS SPIRITUAL MATURITY

To equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

EPHESIANS 4:12-13

Maturing as a disciple means:

For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son... **ROMANS 8:29**

THE FOCUS OF MATURITY AT THE VINEYARD

1. **Maturing as a disciple** is part of our _____.

MISSION STATEMENT

To love people into a growing relationship with Jesus.

2. Maturing as a disciple:

The _____ and _____.

- ▶ What God _____ done (the already).

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

EPHESIANS 2:8-9

- ▶ What God _____ do (the not yet).

In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

PHILIPPIANS 1:4-6

- ▶ What God _____ doing (a mix of the already-not yet).

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18

3. **Maturing as a disciple** is getting to know _____.

THE NEED AND IMPORTANCE OF MATURITY.

1. Maturing as a disciple is _____
for every Christian.

Discipleship is not for “super” Christians. Discipleship is the expected way of life of anyone who wants to follow Jesus.

God’s will is for you to be holy... **1 THESSALONIANS 4:3**

2. Maturing as a disciple is not _____.

We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teacher, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

HEBREWS 5:11-14

3. Maturing as a disciple is a _____.

And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

2 CORINTHIANS 3:18

4. Maturing as a disciple requires _____.

...Train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

1 TIMOTHY 4:7-8

CLASS OUTLINE

- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ Habit #1: A life in community
- ▶ Habit #2: A daily time with God
- ▶ Habit #3: A life of stewardship
- ▶ Next steps

THREE KEY HABITS OF A MATURING DISCIPLE

PRACTICE #1: A LIFE IN COMMUNITY

"Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage each other."

HEBREWS 10:25

What we mean by a life in community.

- ▶ When you become a Christian, you join a _____.

...so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

ROMANS 12:5

For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body...

1 CORINTHIANS 12:13

Community is not optional for a Christian.

Through scripture the Holy Spirit encourages us to . . .

BIBLICAL PASSAGES ON LIFE IN COMMUNITY

<i>. . . serve one another in love.</i>	GALATIANS 5:13B
<i>Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.</i>	ROMANS 15:7
<i>Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.</i>	COLOSSIANS 3:13
<i>Greet one another with a holy kiss.</i>	ROMANS 16:16
<i>Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.</i>	GALATIANS 6:2
<i>Honor one another above yourselves.</i>	ROMANS 12:10B
<i>Be devoted to one another in brotherly love.</i>	ROMANS 12:10A
<i>I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another.</i>	ROMANS 15:14
<i>Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.</i>	EPHESIANS 5:21
<i>Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.</i>	1 THESSALONIANS 5:11
<i>Live in harmony with one another.</i>	ROMANS 12:16
<i>Be kind and compassionate to one another.</i>	EPHESIANS 4:32A
<i>By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.</i>	JOHN 13:35
<i>Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.</i>	1 JOHN 4:7A
<i>Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.</i>	1 JOHN 4:8
<i>If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar.</i>	1 JOHN 4:20A

Why Community Is So Important

- ▶ Community is the _____ and _____ of God.
- ▶ Community is the _____ context for spiritual growth.
- ▶ Community is a _____ to the world.
- ▶ Community also has _____ benefits.

What Does Community Look Like?

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

ACTS 2:42-47

How Can the Members of a Large Church Maintain Close Friendships?

- At The Vineyard, we want to grow both: _____ and _____.

GROWING BIGGER

We are committed to church growth for one special reason—as long as there is one person who doesn't know Jesus within traveling distance of the church, there will be room for at least one more.

GROWING SMALLER

Every member needs to be a part of a small group, which is a more intimate community.

[They met] day after day in the Temple court and from house to house.

ACTS 5:42

- Two types of church _____ :

LARGE GROUP

Corporate worship celebrations—celebration, exaltation, hearing God's Word.

SMALL GROUP

Groups, fellowship, relationships, intimacy.

Greet the church that meets in their home.

ROMANS 16:5

Also See: Acts 2:46, 8:3, 16:40, 20:20, 1 Corinthians 16:19, Colossians 4:15.

Six Practical Reasons To Join A Group

1. Small groups are your first line of care when life breaks down.
2. Small groups help you develop life-giving relationships.
3. Small groups help you grow through serving together.
4. Small groups help develop your gifts and practice your gifts.
5. Small groups help see God's kingdom advance in you and through you.
6. Small groups help you walk out what you're learning in God's word.

PRACTICE #2:

A DAILY TIME WITH GOD

What is a daily time with God?

- ▶ A daily time with God is time that we set aside every day to be alone with God where we _____.

Why is a daily time with God so important?

- ▶ We were created to _____.

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

- ▶ Jesus has made a way for us to have a _____ with God.

*He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. **1 THESSALONIANS 5:10***

- ▶ Jesus took _____ with God.

*Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. **MARK 1:35***

- ▶ You cannot _____ as a disciple without spending time in God's word and in prayer each day!

*Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" **MATTHEW 4:4***

The Purpose of a Daily Time with God

- ▶ To devote ourselves to God
- ▶ To get direction from God
- ▶ To delight in God
- ▶ To grow spiritually

How to Schedule a Daily Time with God: Some Practical Tips

- ▶ Set a _____.
- ▶ Find a _____.
- ▶ Get the right _____.
 - 1. Invest in a Bible
 - 2. Find a reading guide
 - 3. Invest in a solid devotional
- ▶ Create a _____.
 - 1. Relax
 - 2. Read
 - 3. Reflect
 - 4. Record
 - 5. Request

Learning to Pray

1. What is Prayer?

► Prayer is _____.

► Prayer is _____.

*Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. **JAMES 5:13-16***

► Prayer is _____.

*Pray continually! **1 THESSALONIANS 5:17***

► Prayer _____.

I love the Lord, because He hears my prayers and answers them; because He bends down and listens, I will pray as long as I live!
PSALM 116:1-2 (PARAPHRASE)

When You Pray...

*And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. **MATTHEW 6:5-8***

- ▶ Be _____
- ▶ Be _____
- ▶ Be _____
- ▶ Be _____

A Model for How to Pray:

*This, then, is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. **MATTHEW 6:9-13***

- ▶ The Lord's Prayer is not _____ but _____.

PRACTICE #3:

A LIFE IN STEWARDSHIP

*Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. **2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-7***

What is Stewardship?

- ▶ Stewardship is the _____ of a generous life.
- ▶ Stewardship acknowledges that _____ we have God owns.

*The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. **PSALM 24:1***

- ▶ Stewardship means we are temporary stewards of what God _____.
- ▶ Stewardship recognizes we will be called to give _____ before God.
- ▶ Stewardship means _____ of our resources and trusting in God.

*No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money. **MATTHEW 6:24***

- ▶ Stewardship is a _____ of Christian maturity.

Stewardship produces:

- Contentment (1 Timothy 6:6)
- Obedience (2 John 6)
- Faithfulness (1 Corinthians 4:2)

What is a Tithe?

- ▶ Tithing is an act of _____.
- ▶ Tithing is _____ of our incomes.
- ▶ Tithing is bringing _____ of what God has given us back to him.

“Our attitude toward money is an external indicator of an internal spiritual condition!” – Larry Burkett

When I Tithe . . .

- ▶ I reveal what is _____.

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

MATTHEW 6:21

• Our _____ and our _____ are the greatest indicators of our priorities.

- ▶ I choose to _____.

“So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” **MATTHEW 6:31-33**

- ▶ I become more _____.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” **JOHN 3:16**

But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? 1 **JOHN 3:17**

- I experience God's _____ in my life.

And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.” **MATTHEW 10:24**

One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered. **PROVERBS 11:24-25**

A lifestyle of _____ and _____
is commonplace for people who follow Jesus.

“The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” **2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-7**

GENEROSITY LADDER



Tithing Principles

- ▶ GIVE _____.

For if the willingness is there, your gift is acceptable according to what you have not according to what you don't have.

2 CORINTHIANS 8:12

- ▶ GIVE _____.

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:7

- ▶ GIVE _____.

They gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service. **2 CORINTHIANS 8:3-4**

- ▶ GIVE _____.

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6

- ▶ GIVE _____.

On the first day of every week, set aside some of what you have earned and give it as an offering. The amount depends on how much the Lord has helped you earn. **1 CORINTHIANS 16:2**

FOUR EASY WAYS TO GIVE:



AUTOMATED



ONLINE



CASH



CHECK

Misconceptions about tithing:

1. It's only for people in the Old Testament.

"Yes, you should tithe, and you shouldn't leave the more important things undone either." **MATTHEW 23:23**

2. It's only for people with stable incomes.
3. It's only for wealthy people.
4. It's only for those who have extra.

One last word to the wise

As you would any other matter relating to spiritual maturity, teach your children to tithe.

Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it. **PROVERBS 22:6**

Three easy steps:

- ▶ _____ evaluation.

If inconvenient, do it anyway. Sometimes doing the right thing isn't always easiest.

- ▶ _____.

Resolve the problem quickly; make yourself a plan to begin 3% to 6% to 10%.

- ▶ _____ begin doing what you can.

MY PRAYER OF COMMITMENT TO STEWARDSHIP

*Father, I know you love me and want what's best for me. I recognize that all I have, or will ever have, comes from you. I truly want to be a steward who pleases you. Therefore I am willing to begin tithing as you have directed me to. I want to give you my first and my best. I commit myself to returning at least the first ten percent of all I earn back to you. Help me to remain faithful to this commitment. And help me, Lord, to be generous with my offerings. In Jesus' name, **Amen.***

Vineyard Growth Track

*step***ONE**

Vineyard Membership and Core Beliefs

*step***TWO**

3 Key Practices of Spiritual Growth

*step***THREE**

The Holy Spirit and Service

*step***FOUR**

Giving Your Faith Away

TAKING INVENTORY

GENERAL INFORMATION & DISCIPLESHIP

1. I feel confident of my adoption as God's son/daughter and rarely, if ever, question his acceptance of me. 1 2 3 4

2. I love to worship God by myself as well as with others. 1 2 3 4

3. I spend quality, regular time in the word of God and in prayer 1 2 3 4

4. I sense the unique ways God has gifted me individually and am actively using my spiritual gifts for his service. 1 2 3 4

5. I am a vital participant in a community with other believers. 1 2 3 4

6. It is clear that my money, gifts, time and abilities are completely at God's disposal and not my own. 1 2 3 4

7. I consistently integrate my faith in the marketplace and the world. 1 2 3 4

Total: _____

stepTWO

stepTWO FEEDBACK

What was the highlight of Step Two for you?

What would you recommend we do differently?

What questions do you have (if any) that were left unanswered?

Have any other feedback? Please write it on the lines below.
