

Where am I on the Discipleship Pathway?

At Friendly Avenue Baptist Church we acknowledge that the ministry Jesus left the church to complete is making disciples. We also recognize that making disciples starts with evangelism, the verbal sharing of how, through repentance and faith, Jesus saves us from an eternal separation from God in hell. Following an individual's experience of receiving Jesus as Lord and Savior comes the second part of disciple-making. It's called "Discipleship", that time in a person's life that is meant to extend from conversion until they go home to be with the Lord in heaven. If you are reading this article and are a member of a GROW Group, you are in this epoch of life in Christ. For the rest of your life you are meant to be involved as one being equipped or as one equipping others to grow in Christ. There is no retirement from discipling; no sabbatical from following Jesus.

Saying we are disciples of Jesus and truly being a disciple of Jesus are often not one and the same. So how can you know that you are living life as a disciple of Jesus? Two important metrics should be considered. 1) You are in an accountable relationship with at least one other person who is willing to exhort you to obey the disciplines Jesus commanded we obey and who is capable and willing to teach and model those disciplines with you until you become competent at them. Or, you are in an accountable relationship with at least one other person and you are the person who is modeling those disciplines for them until they become competent. 2) Some of those you have invested in are now discipling others.

To help us stay the course as disciples of Jesus, you will hear us talk about our Discipleship Pathway. A pathway defines the steps we take to get to a destination. If you are on the pathway you are progressing through the process of connecting to the church through Jesus > joining a Sunday School class (community) > committing to a GROW Group (discipling) > discovering your spiritual gifts > using your spiritual gifts in service within the church > developing relationships with lost people outside the church > caring for their needs and sharing the Good News with them > and by accompanying them as they connect with Jesus and the church (bring them to the Pastor's connect class). The goal is for all members to progress along the Discipleship Pathway until they are connecting the lost to Jesus and the church and then beginning to disciple them as they become new believers. Why is the pathway presented as circular? Because you never stop connecting, growing, serving and reaching. Don't waste your life by getting sidelined! Let's all get on the pathway and follow Jesus together the rest of our days.

What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, commit to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

2 Tim. 2:2

Getting ready for the Lord's Day

WEEKLY READING AND MEMORY VERSE:

Monday through Friday:

- Deuteronomy 8-9
- Deuteronomy 30-31
- Deuteronomy 32:48-52, 34
- Joshua 1-2
- Joshua 3-4

Memorize: Joshua 24:14-15

Until the Covid-19 Pandemic subsides we will not be able to have our discussions of the reading in *The Practice of Godliness*.