



Hi Small Group Leader,

We are so excited to have you onboard. As a small group leader you play an important role in the disciple making process at Stafford Crossing. I'm sure you have heard the expression that good leaders are lifelong learners. Therefore, small group huddles and training sessions are a normal part of our leader development process.

In the fall of 2017 Stafford Crossing updated their mission statement from: "We exist to turn unbelievers in to believers and believers into fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ." to: "We exist to help people trust and follow Jesus." Our mission didn't change, just the mission statement. Since the formation of our church it has always been the desire of the leadership to make disciples. The new mission statement was simply less "churchy" and easier for everyone to understand. For a couple years our small group leader training focused on the disciple making process. We also had a five-part Sunday morning sermon series called "Driven By Mission" focusing on the discipleship process.

Now that you are a small group leader at Stafford Crossing we'd like to provide you with access to the same training. To start the process we have created five videos that will take you through the original sermon series in an abbreviated format. Who better to cast vision for our discipleship process than our own pastors? The training will consist of excerpts from each of the five sermons and note sheets for you to complete as you listen. There are separate videos for each segment. The videos should be watched in order, you can choose to watch them all at once or take them one at a time. Please print all pages of this PDF document as well as the "Life Growth Plan."

Please notify me when you have finished your discipleship orientation so we can make plans for an in-person training session with other new leaders. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Serving Him together,

**Debi**

Debi Schuster  
540-842-3209



**Excerpted from: “Driven By Mission” - Part 1 of 5  
“Our Relentless Passion ”**

Our first segment includes the introduction of Stafford Crossing’s new mission statement and breaks it down based on the scripture it is based on (Matthew 28:19-20.)

This segment also explores and debunks some myths about discipleship and encourages everyone to be growing as a disciple regardless of where they are in the journey.

**New mission statement**

We exist to help people \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus.

**Big idea**

Our relentless passion is unchanging and it is driven by Jesus’ Great Commission, to help people trust and follow Jesus.

**Discipleship** (what we are doing)  
Matthew 28:19-20

1. \_\_\_\_\_ - we have to initiate and be intentional because we are to “go” and “make” disciples (v.19)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ - discipleship is about repentance and conversion with the accent on grace, “baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (v.19)

3. \_\_\_\_\_ - discipleship is about obedience and sanctification, which is best thought of in terms of increasing holiness, “teaching them to obey everything I commanded you” (v. 20)
4. \_\_\_\_\_ - He is the object and focus in discipleship; disciples are to become His apprentices and live life as He would so we “make disciples” (v. 19)

**Discipleship** is helping people \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus.

**Myths of spiritual development**

1. Spiritual growth is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. All spiritual growth takes is \_\_\_\_\_.
3. All spiritual growth takes is \_\_\_\_\_.

**Please continue to the next video:**

**Driven by Mission, Part 2 of 5**

**The Heart of It All**

*We exist to help people trust and follow Jesus.*



**Excerpted from: "Driven By Mission" - Part 2 of 5  
"The Heart Of It All"**

This segment unpacks the word disciple and lays out what a disciple should look like. The framework is introduced that a disciple has a mind that is being transformed, a heart that is being changed, and a commitment to the mission of Jesus. (The information from the pamphlet Pastor Darryl refers to in the message is included on the following page.)

At Stafford Crossing it is our desire for Small Groups to provide an environment and opportunity for disciples to grow. Small groups are a great place for people to gain knowledge and learn to love and serve others.

**Key text:** Matthew 4:19

**Big idea**

Being a growing disciple is a thrilling journey and is at the very heart of our mission.

**Discipleship (what we are doing)**

Discipleship is helping people trust and follow Jesus.

**Disciple (what we will produce)**

What is at the heart of a disciple?

1. "Follow me" = A disciple is \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus.  
Romans 12:2
2. "Make you" = A disciple is being \_\_\_\_\_ by Jesus.  
Ezekiel 36:26-27
3. "Fishers of men" = A disciple is committed to the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus.  
Micah 6:8

A disciple is \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus, being \_\_\_\_\_ by Jesus, and committed to the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus.

**2 questions to drive us to be a disciple**

1. What is Jesus \_\_\_\_\_?
2. What am I doing \_\_\_\_\_?

**Please continue to the next video:**

**Driven by Mission, Part 3 of 5**

**Intentional Living—Part 1**

*We exist to help people trust and follow Jesus.*

# TRUST & FOLLOW JESUS

Our purpose and passion at Stafford Crossing Community Church is helping people trust and follow Jesus. We believe this is the heart of Jesus' desire for all believers. Matthew 28:19 - 20 says:

*<sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*

## Helping people trust Jesus

- Accept people where they are on their spiritual journey
- Build genuine friendships with unbelievers
- Invite people to church and share the message of Jesus with them



## Helping people follow Jesus



### Following Jesus

- Increase my understanding of God's Word
- Conform my thinking to God's ways
- Participate in Christ-centered community



### Being changed by Jesus

- Increase my love for others
- Submit my life to the direction of the Holy Spirit
- Replace my attitudes and values with Jesus'



### Committed to the mission of Jesus

- Regularly serve others
- Initiate spiritual conversations with unbelievers
- Contribute to taking the gospel of Jesus to the "ends of the world"





**Excerpted from: “Driven By Mission” - Part 3 of 5  
“Intentional Living - Part 1”**

In this third segment Pastor Darryl breaks down what it looks like to trust and follow Jesus and begins to explore the core elements of discipleship. To grow as a disciple requires focusing on Jesus and using the Bible as a guidebook for life. A disciple must be intentional to both learn and to put into practice what they are learning. A disciple must trust AND follow.

**Big idea**

There is no other example than Jesus and no other framework than the Bible that will grow us into healthy, mature disciples.

**Ways to be intentional**

1. We must focus on \_\_\_\_\_ as He is the centerpiece of discipleship.
  - A. What it means to trust Jesus (Romans 3:20-24)
    - i. The purpose of the law is not to bring \_\_\_\_\_ but to make us aware of our \_\_\_\_\_.
    - ii. The righteousness required to live up to God’s standard is not \_\_\_\_\_.
    - iii. The way to be made right in God’s sight is through \_\_\_\_\_ to take away our sins.

B. What it means to follow Jesus (James 2:20-26)

- i. Faith that does not result in good deeds is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ii. A person receives salvation by \_\_\_\_\_, not by doing works of obedience; but a saved person does \_\_\_\_\_ because of that faith.
2. The Bible is the Word of God and by it we \_\_\_\_\_ and learn to form our lives around Him. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
  - A. We view the Bible with a \_\_\_\_\_ on Jesus and His ways.
  - B. We read the Bible with an earnest commitment to personal \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

**Please continue to the next video:**

**Driven by Mission, Part 4 of 5  
Intentional Living—Part 2**

*We exist to help people trust and follow Jesus.*



**Excerpted from: “Driven By Mission” - Part 4 of 5  
“Intentional Living - Part 2”**

In this segment Pastor Dave identifies two more of the core elements of discipleship. He explains how intentionality and relationships impact growth as a disciple. (Please print the @Home Life Growth Plan to use as your Spiritual Growth Plan.)

Small Groups provide an environment that motivates people to be intentional in their spiritual practices and cultivate relationships that help them grow as disciples. Growing not just in knowledge but in having a changed heart that desires to trust and follow Jesus in their daily lives.

**Big idea**

Growing as a disciple requires intentionality and happens best in the context of relationships.

**Core Element of Discipleship:** \_\_\_\_\_

The only thing that happens *on its own* is \_\_\_\_\_.

Progress and growth require \_\_\_\_\_.

**Core Element of Discipleship:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Relationships give us the opportunity**

1. to \_\_\_\_\_ for one another.  
*Acts 4:22 (NIV)*
2. to \_\_\_\_\_ one another.  
*Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV)*
3. to \_\_\_\_\_ with one another.  
*Romans 12:4-6 (NIV)*
4. to \_\_\_\_\_ God's love to a lost world .  
*John 13:34-35 , Acts 2:46-47 (NIV)*

**Finding Great Relationships at SCCC**

1. Focus on \_\_\_\_\_ over \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Minimize your \_\_\_\_\_ of relationships.

**Please continue to the next video:**

**Driven by Mission, Part 5 of 5**

**Intentional Living—Part 3**

*We exist to help people trust and follow Jesus.*



**Excerpted from: “Driven By Mission” - Part 5 of 5  
“Intentional Living - Part 3”**

In this last segment Pastor Darryl focuses on our final two core elements of discipleship. He explains the stages of the discipleship journey and the important role that multiplying disciples plays in being a disciple of Jesus.

As a small group leader you are an important part of multiplying disciples at Stafford Crossing. For some people joining a small group may be their first step toward growing as a disciple. For others small group is a place to further their growth by being intentional and relational about helping others grow.

**Big idea**

The life of a disciple is a journey and we are to engage and help others on their path to trust and follow Jesus.

**Core Element of Discipleship:** Scripture is clear that discipleship happens best in the context of authentic biblical community.

*We exist to help people trust and follow Jesus.*

**Journey**

The Holy Spirit leads us on a \_\_\_\_\_ to trust and follow Jesus.

A. \_\_\_\_\_ - Ephesians 2:1-5

B. \_\_\_\_\_ - Hebrews 5:12-14

C. \_\_\_\_\_ - 1 Thessalonians 2:10-12

D. \_\_\_\_\_ - 1 John 2:13-14

E. \_\_\_\_\_ - 2 Timothy 2:1-2

**Multiply**

Every disciple is to be a disciple maker, \_\_\_\_\_ the discipleship process.

A. Helping lost people trust Jesus - Luke 15

B. Helping believers trust and follow Jesus

**Thank you for investing in yourself as  
a leader and disciple maker.**

**Please contact Debi Schuster and let her know you  
have completed the New Small Group Leader  
Discipleship Orientation.**

**[debi@staffordcrossing.org](mailto:debi@staffordcrossing.org)**