

# DISGIPLESHIP GROUPS









RESTORATION CHURCH 2018

# **WELCOME**

Scripture sets the pattern that people are intended to live in relationship with one another, and the New Testament sets parameters for forming these relationships within the covenant community of the Church. Paul instructs the church in Crete to create relationships where young men learn from older men and young women learn from older women (Titus 2:1-7).

This guide is intended to help you form that kind of relationship with someone at Restoration Church. It will provide homework and discussion prompts to help you grow together into a deeper relationship with Christ.

Commitment, vulnerability and honesty will be keys to your success. Mentors should learn as much as they can about their partner's relationships, changes to life stage, Bible study habits, marriage, parenting, career, ministry, etc. Mentees should be ready to seek encouragement and accept godly counsel on these topics. As you open your lives to one another and humbly walk in newness of life together, be prepared to be both challenged and blessed.

#### **GETTING STARTED**

#### /// Needed Materials

- This Guide
- · A Bible
- Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life by Donald S. Whitney
- Transforming Grace: Living Confidently in God's Unfailing Love by Jerry Bridges
- Crazy Busy: A (Mercifully) Short Book about a (Really) Big Problem by Kevin DeYoung
- Jesus the Evangelist: Learning to Share the Gospel from the Book of John by Richard D. Phillips
- A journal or some other method to store your notes
- · A pen or highlighter to notate your reading

# /// Homework: What to Expect

This discipleship guide will walk you through each of our core values and discipleship outcomes. The homework will be a mix of Scripture memorization and reading from the above books, and it is intended to give you the tools you need to deepen your faith and strengthen your obedience.

You and your partner will set your own homework schedule. That means that you can decide what is a realistic amount of homework for each session. You will be challenged to push yourself but also be cautioned to set achievable goals.

# m Meetings: What to Expect

Commit to meeting together at least twice each month. During each meeting:

- · Pray together.
- · Discuss your homework.
- · Set a time and homework assignment for the next meeting.

#### DISCIPLESHIP COVENANT

#### /// What is a Covenant?

A covenant is a relationship where two people make binding promises to one another. It is different than a contract because a relationship is at the heart of a covenant. The purpose of covenanting with your discipleship partner is to demonstrate from the beginning that you value each other and commit to doing the work.

# /// Leaving the Covenant

After four sessions, you should assess your relationship and determine if you would like to continue the discipleship relationship. If for any reason, one partner would like to end the relationship, you should be able to lovingly end the formal partnership while keeping the unity of the body of Restoration Church intact. Here are some common reasons why you might determine to end the partnership:

- One or both parties are unable or unwilling to meet consistently.
- One or both parties are unable or unwilling to complete the assignments on the agreed upon schedule.
- One or both parties have entered a season of life which makes it difficult to maintain the partnership.

#### /// The Covenant

We agree to regularly meet for the purpose of growth and encouragement in our walk with Jesus Christ. We commit to faithful prayer, reading and Scripture memorization because we want to be better imitators of Christ. We will agree upon a reasonable schedule for meetings and assignments.

After four meetings, we will assess our consistency, and we will determine if we would both like to continue as discipleship partners or lovingly end the formal partnership.

Signature of Mentor:	Date:
	Data
Signature of Mentee:	Date:

# DISCIPLESHIP FAQS

# what is a Discipleship Partnership?

Something powerful happens when a spiritually mature believer comes alongside a younger, newer follower of Christ to guide them in wisdom and truth. A discipleship partnership is a group of two people who focus on growing together through accountability, prayer and mutual encouragement.

In this relationship, one person should be identified as a mentor. This person ought to be a few steps farther along in living out Restoration Church's discipleship outcomes.

# /// How do I find a Discipleship Partner?

Discipleship partners at Restoration Church should form organically. That means that you have the freedom to prayerfully consider and ask a partner of your choice.

This is a mentoring relationship, and you will benefit the most from partnering with someone who is not your peer. If you want to be mentored, look for someone who has greater spiritual maturity than you. If you are ready to be a mentor, look for someone whose faith is newer or less mature than your own. While you should always be ready to learn from each other, the mentor/mentee roles should be clearly defined.

Your partner should be:

- · Of the same gender as you
- · Committed to Restoration Church

#### When and where should we meet?

You are free to meet whenever and wherever is most convenient for you and your partner with the goal of meeting two times each month.

#### What will we do when we meet?

This guide will walk you through how to grow in Restoration Church's discipleship outcomes and values through reading and Scripture memorization. Use the questions provided here to guide your time together.

You should also use your meeting time to seek and give godly counsel, encouragement and admonishment; share prayer requests and pray together.

# m How long will it take to complete?

The homework is self-paced. Pick the amount of homework that is both achievable and challenging for you and your partner.

Below is a sample of how long it will take to complete the homework at two different paces.

To complete in 1 year:

Memorize 2 verses each week

Or

Read about 30 pages each week

To complete in 18 months:

Memorize 2 verses each week

Or

Read about 20 pages each week

You may find that you can read more but need to take more time to memorize. You might find that there are seasons of life where you need to work at a slower pace. You will probably find the right pace through some trial and error. Choose what works for you; commit to it and hold each other accountable.

#### But I can't memorize!

There are lots of resources and plans available to help you learn how to memorize Scripture. Here are two which you can search for and find available online.

- The Easiest Way to Memorize Scripture by Kenneth Berding
- An Approach to Extended Memorization of Scripture by Dr. Andrew Davis

Consistently reviewing the verses you have memorized will help you keep them in your heart. Review what you've memorized with your partner even when it is not your assignment for the week.

# Can the homework replace my daily habit of time in the Word and prayer?

If you do not already have a habit of Scripture reading and prayer, one of your first assignments, Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life, is designed to help you create that discipline. The Scripture memorization and life-long learning you will do as a part of this program can certainly be incorporated into your daily time with the Lord, but nothing can replace communing with God directly through Scripture reading and prayer.

#### FROM MISSION TO DISCIPLESHIP

#### /// Our Mission

God is on a mission! He is redeeming a people back to Himself (Genesis 12:3) through the person and work of Jesus Christ (Luke 24:46). His redeemed people will be from every tribe, tongue, and nation (Revelation 7:9-10), and He desires that every man, woman and child would have an opportunity to respond to His Gospel. Local congregations in neighborhoods, towns, cities, and regions across the world all play their part in accomplishing this great task as we proclaim the message.

Scripture states God is going to do his work through His people (Genesis 1:26-30, Genesis 12:1-3, Exodus 19:1-6; Matthew 28:18-20, 2 Corinthians 5:16-21, 1 Peter 2:1-12). For a congregation to successfully live on mission, individual members must take that mission to heart. We are His ambassadors through whom God makes His appeal (2 Corinthians 5:20). In both word and deed, Christ's people bring the Gospel to their families, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and others.

Therefore, everything we do as a congregation boils down to two fundamental tasks for the glory of God:

- Mission: Reaching every man, woman, and child.
- · Discipleship: The full mobilization of Christ's people.

#### From Mission to Vision

In response to what is seen throughout the Scriptures, our vision statement rises: Restoration Church exists to give every man, woman, and child repeated opportunities to experience the restoration of the Gospel.

But what does it mean to experience the restoration of the Gospel? Experiencing the restoration of the Gospel means living the life God intended: for His glory, in relationship with Him, and representing Him in the world. However, we are not able to live this way. Sin and rebellion have "inclined our hearts toward evil from our youth" (Genesis 8:21) causing relationship with God to be broken and our representation of Him to be irrevocably marred.

#### The Gospel is God's solution!

In Christ, through His life, death and resurrection, our relationship with God is reconciled and our representation of Him is restored (Romans 5:1-2; 6; Galatians 4:4-7; Ephesians 2:10; 4:23-24; 1 Peter 3:18). But how does one experience this?

# mm How to Experience the Restoration of the Gospel

#### 1. MAKE A CONFESSION OF REPENTANCE AND FAITH

The amazing gifts of the Gospel cannot be received by our own efforts but only by trusting in Christ alone for salvation and then following Him as His disciple (Mark 1:14-15; Luke 24:46-47; John 1:12; 3:16; 6:26-29; Acts 19:4).

#### 2. GO THROUGH THE WATERS OF BAPTISM

Baptism is the God appointed sign by which we publicly identify and are visibly united with the person, work, and family of Jesus Christ through faith (Acts 2:37-38; Romans 6:1-4).

#### 3. BECOME A COVENANT MEMBER OF A LOCAL BODY

Being committed to a local body of believers is an important aspect of growing in our faith (Acts 2:42-47; 1 Corinthians 5:1-12; 1 Timothy 5:3-16; Hebrews 10:19-25; 13:17).

Though not necessary for salvation and being a part of the Church universal, it is important to be committed to a particular body for the following reasons:

It is a statement of belief in Christ and His Gospel.

It places one under the care of qualified elders.

It protects from self-deception.

It provides the environment to richly live out the "oneanother" passages in the Scriptures.

It provides encouragement and accountability in living out the life of faith.

# 4. FOLLOW JESUS AS HIS DISCIPLE THROUGHOUT ALL OF LIFE WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF BIBLICAL COMMUNITY

Here at Restoration Church, a disciple is defined as one who is embodying the four core values, growing in the five outcomes, and teaching others to do the same (John 13:12-15; 31-35; Romans 12:9-21; Ephesians 4:1-6; Philippians 1:27-2:4; 1 John 2:6)



#### my The Values and Outcomes

The core values are who God has made us to be in Christ, and the five outcomes are what we do in light of who we are.

The values and outcomes do not provide for us a way to earn our salvation. Nor are they a path to ease a guilty conscience before God. Only a true understanding and embracing of the Gospel can provide those things. However, the Gospel does make us new!

Embodying the core values and living out the outcomes is doing what Scripture calls putting on the new self (Romans 12:1-3; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 4:17-24; Colossians 3:1-17; Philippians 2:12-18). In Christ we are born again, sealed by the Holy Spirit to be children of God. As God's child, the Holy Spirit is shaping us into the image of Jesus in both heart and conduct for His glory and our good (Romans. 8:1-11; Galatians 5:16-26; 1 Thessalonians. 5:23-24).

# m The Discipleship Guide

Following Jesus for the whole of life as His disciple is how we express our faith and live repentantly. To do this, we need other followers of Christ to help, encourage, correct, and love us along the way. In turn, we do the same for others. In other words, disciples give generously to others of their faith to help them follow Christ as we do.

Everything in this Discipleship Guide is meant to help you embody the core values, grow in the five outcomes, and teach others to do the same. This is not just about completing a course or simply gaining knowledge for its own sake. This is about participating in what God desires to be done in you, His people, and His world, soli deo gloria... for the glory of God alone!

God is moving history toward a fixed point where every knee will bow and tongue will confess Jesus is Lord (Philippians 2:10-11). As you and a partner walk the following journey, you are not only living out the vision of Restoration Church by growing as a disciple who is experiencing the restoration of the Gospel, but you are also a tangible example and participant in the mission God is doing around the world!

"Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the Great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen." Hebrews 13:20-21

#### **AGENDA**

During this partnership you will complete homework designed to help you grow in your understanding of the Core Values and Discipleship Outcomes of Restoration Church.

#### **VALUE OR OUTCOME**

#### **TASK**

#### Core Value

Worship

Discipleship Outcome Communing with God

Core Value

Wisdom

Discipleship Outcome

Living by the Spirit

**Core Value** Relationship

Discipleship Outcome

Stewarding Life Generously

Core Value

Empowerment

Discipleship Outcome

Serving with Spiritual Gifts

**Discipleship Outcome** 

Sharing God's Grace

Memorize

Psalm 29:1-11

**Read** Spiritual Disciplines for a

Christian Life by Donald S. Whitney

Memorize

Psalm 119:9-16

**Read** Transforming Grace: Living Confidently in God's Unfailing Love by Jerry Bridges

Memorize

Philippians 2:1-7

**Read** Crazy Busy: A (Mercifully) Short Book about a (Really) Big Problem by Kevin Deyoung

Memorize

Romans 6:1-11

Complete

Uniquely You Combined Profile

**Read** Jesus the Evangelist: Learning to Share the Gospel from the Book of John

by Richard D. Phillips

By the end, you will have memorized 37 verses and read over 900 pages of content. Be prepared to grow in God's grace together! Ready to start?

#### CORE VALUE: WORSHIP

All my life for the glory of God

# ## Homework Assignment: Memorize Psalm 29:1-11

Commit to memorizing these verses on your own over the coming weeks.

HELPFUL HINT: agree to memorize from the same version as your discipleship partner.

# when You Meet: Recite the Passage

Each of you should recite the passage to one another. Every time, start reciting at the beginning of the passage and add any newly mastered verses until you have memorized the entire passage.

Agree upon which verses you will memorize before your next meeting.

# when You Meet: Discuss the Core Value of Worship

As you work on memorizing this passage discuss these questions:

- Describe how your life is best lived in service to God. Be specific and personal. What are the attitudes or actions you embrace when moments of your life are marked by worship?
- What are the things that hinder you from worshipping God? What types of things most easily draw your heart away from worship?
- Continue talking about and encouraging one another in these things throughout your partnership.

# OUTCOME: COMMUNING WITH GOD

"You have said, 'Seek my face.' My heart says to you, 'Your face, LORD, do I seek.' Hide not your face from me."

Psalm 27:8

# /// Homework: Take Inventory

On your own, consider how you are communing with God. Place a check in the box that best describes you.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
I allow God to communicate with me daily through the reading of His Word.					
I communicate with God daily through prayer.					
I daily give thanksgiving to God for his gifts.					
My communion with God permeates every part of my life, no matter what I am doing.					-

# when You Meet: Discuss Your Inventory

- What are some of the greatest joys you find when you commune with God?
- What are your greatest opportunities to grow in communing with God?
- What habits do you have in place to commune daily with God? Describe when and where you commune daily with God and plans or patterns you follow.
- What are your biggest hindrances to communing with God?

# Homework: Read Spiritual Disciplines for a Godly Life by Donald S. Whitney

Over the next few meetings read this book in its entirety. Agree upon how much you will read before each meeting with your discipleship partner.

# www. When You Meet: Discuss Your Reading

Use these questions to guide your discussion for each chapter you have read:

- Identify ONE statement from this chapter that challenged you the most. Discuss how this statement challenged you.
- · What questions did you have about this chapter?
- Review the final section of the chapter called "More Application."
- What action steps are you already taking to cultivate this discipline in your life? Celebrate those together.
- What new action steps will you take to cultivate this discipline in your life? Make a plan together.

#### /// Homework: When You Finish the Book

Write out your plan to daily commune with God. What will you read? How will you pray? When and where will you pray and read? What other spiritual disciplines will you commit to?

#### www. When You Meet: Share Your Plan

Discuss this plan with your partner and check in during future meetings.

IMPORTANT NOTE: the work you are doing during discipleship partnering should never take the place of communing directly with God through Scripture and prayer.

#### CORE VALUE: WISDOM

Building all of life on God's Word.

# ## Homework Assignment: Memorize Psalm 119:9-16

Commit to memorizing these verses on your own over the coming weeks.

HELPFUL HINT: agree to memorize from the same version as your discipleship partner.

# www. When You Meet: Recite the Passage

Each of you should recite the passage to one another. Every time, start reciting at the beginning of the passage and add any newly mastered verses until you have memorized the entire passage.

Agree upon which verses you will memorize before your next meeting.

#### When You Meet: Discuss the Core Value of Wisdom

- Share what you are learning in personal time in God's Word.
- Discuss the ways that you need wisdom right now.
   Pray for wisdom together and offer godly counsel.

#### OUTCOME: LIVING BY THE SPIRIT

"If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with Spirit."

Galatians 5:25

#### /// Homework: Take Inventory

On your own, consider if you are living by the Spirit. Place a check in the box that best describes you.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
I respond in obedience to what I have received from God in his Word.	-				-
I am aware of the top two or three sins that most frequently entangle me.					
I have a plan in place to overcome those sins through the power of the Holy Spirit.					

# when You Meet: Discuss Your Inventory

- What are some of the greatest joys you find when are living in the Spirit?
- What are your greatest opportunities to grow in living by the Spirit?
- What are the top two or three sins that most frequently entangle you?
- What is your plan to overcome those sins by the power of the Holy Spirit?

# Homework: Read Transforming Grace: Living Confidently in God's Unfailing Love by Jerry Bridges

Over the next few meetings read this book in its entirety. Agree upon how much you will read before each meeting with your discipleship partner.

# when You Meet: Discuss Your Reading

Use these questions to guide your discussion:

- Identify ONE statement from this chapter that challenged you the most. Discuss how this statement challenged you.
- · What questions did you have about this chapter?
- How can these chapters help you overcome the sins that most frequently entangle you?

#### /// When You Meet: Make a Plan

Work with your mentor to create a plan that will help you overcome the sins that most frequently entangle you. Here are some questions to consider:

- Are there activities or places that frequently make provision for those sins?
- Do you need to learn more about what Scripture has to say about those sins?
- · How will prayer impact your plan?
- · How will grace impact your plan?

Check in during future meetings and offer continued encouragement.

# CORE VALUE: RELATIONSHIP

Loving others in light of the Gospel.

# /// Homework Assignment: Memorize Philippians 2:1-7

Commit to memorizing these verses on your own over the coming weeks.

HELPFUL HINT: agree to memorize from the same version as your discipleship partner.

# when You Meet: Recite the Passage

Each of you should recite the passage to one another. Every time, start reciting at the beginning of the passage and add any newly mastered verses until you have memorized the entire passage.

Agree upon which verses you will memorize before your next meeting.

# www. When You Meet: Discuss the Core Value of Relationship

As you work on memorizing this passage, discuss these questions.

- Describe the relationships that are most important to you. Consider spouses, children, grandchildren, parents, close friends.
  - ▶ What are some of your greatest struggles in these relationships?
  - ▶ What are some of your sweetest treasures of these relationships?
- Are there relationships which you should pursue but aren't? What is holding you back?
- Over the coming weeks encourage each other toward greater love for the people around you.

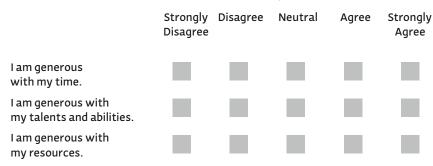
# OUTCOME: STEWARDING LIFE GENEROUSLY

"You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God."

2 Corinthians 9:12

# /// Take Inventory

On your own, consider if you are stewarding your life generously. Place a check in the box that best describes you.



# Homework: Crazy Busy: A (Mercifully) Short Book about a (Really) Big Problem by Kevin DeYoung

Over the next few meetings read this book in its entirety. Agree upon how much you will read before each meeting with your discipleship partner.

# www. When You Meet: Discuss Your Reading

Use these questions to guide your discussion for each chapter you have read:

- Identify ONE statement from this chapter that challenged you the most. Discuss how this statement challenged you.
- · What questions did you have about this chapter?
- Did this chapter help you identify any habits you need to put off?
   What are they? Make a plan with your mentor to put off these habits.
- Did this chapter help you identify any new habits you need to put on? What are they? Make a plan with your mentor to begin these habits.

#### CORE VALUE: EMPOWERMENT

Living out God's purpose faithfully.

# /// Homework Assignment: Memorize Romans 6:1-11

Commit to memorizing these verses on your own over the coming weeks.

Helpful hint: agree to memorize from the same version as your discipleship partner.

# www. When You Meet: Recite the Passage

Each of you should recite the passage to one another. Every time, start reciting at the beginning of the passage and add any newly mastered verses until you have memorized the entire passage.

Agree upon which verses you will memorize before your next meeting.

# OUTCOME: SERVING WITH SPIRITUAL GIFTS

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

## /// Homework: Take Inventory

On your own, consider if you are living by the Spirit. Place a check in the box that best describes you.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
I know what my spiritual gifts are.					
I am using my spiritual gifts to benefit the church.					
I am using my spiritual gifts to benefit the community.					

## when You Meet: Discuss Your Inventory

- Do you know what your spiritual gifts are?
   Or what do you think they might be?
- What gifts are you using to benefit the church?
   How are you using them?
- What gifts are you using to benefit the community?
   How are you using them?

# m Homework: Complete the Uniquely You Profile

Access the profile on uniquelyyou.org. Select the Combined Profiles to discover your top three spiritual gifts and DISC personality profile.

Note: there is a cost to complete this profile.

# when You Meet: Discuss Your Uniquely You Profile

- What are your spiritual gifts according to this profile?
   What surprised you about your spiritual gifts profile?
- What is your DISC profile? What did you learn about yourself from this profile?
- How can this profile help you find new ways to serve with spiritual gifts?
- Work together to create a plan to begin using your spiritual gifts.

# OUTCOME: SHARING GOD'S GRACE

"And he said to them, 'Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation."

Mark 16:15

# /// Homework: Take Inventory

On your own, consider if you are sharing God's grace. Place a check in the box that best describes you.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
I have identified My Circle of accountability.					
I am praying for at least one person who needs the Gospel.					
I am engaging at least one person each week in My Circle of accountability.					
I am seeking to share the Gospel at least once a month with someone in My Circle of accountability.					

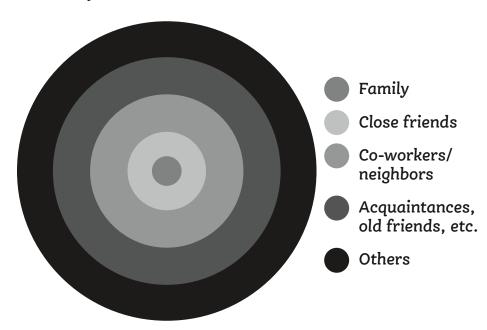
# /// Homework: Identify My Circle of Accountability

Use the guide on the next two pages taken from the My Circle Training Workbook by Jim Murphy to identify your circle of accountability.



# ACTIVITY: SPHERES OF INFLUENCE

This activity will help you identify your Circle of Accountability. Think about each of your Spheres of Influence. Take note of the non-believers with whom you can build intentional relationships. Get to know them, pray for them, serve them, and find opportunities to share your grace story and Gospel. Are ther any other believers in your spheres? If so, ask them to live missionally with you in your shared sphere.





	FAMILY	
NON BELIEVERS	OTHER BELIEVERS	
	CLOSE FRIENDS	
NON BELIEVERS	OTHER BELIEVERS	
	CO-WORKERS/NEIGHBORS	
NON BELIEVERS	OTHER BELIEVERS	
	ACQUAINTANCES/OLD FRIENDS	
NON BELIEVERS	OTHER BELIEVERS	
	OTHERS	
NON BELIEVERS	OTHER BELIEVERS	
		I
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# www. When You Meet: Discuss Your Inventory and Your Circle

- · Which two or three people do you have the greatest burden for?
- Who on your list seems to be the most open to the Gospel? What makes you sense they are open?
- · How will you pray daily for one person?
- · How will you build time to engage at least one person per week?
- · Do you feel comfortable with sharing your own grace story?
- · Do you feel comfortable articulating the Gospel to someone else?

# Homework: Read Jesus the Evangelist: Learning to Share the Gospel from the Book of John by Richard D. Phillips.

Over the next few meetings, read this book in its entirety. Agree upon how much you will read before each meeting with your discipleship partner.

# www. When You Meet: Discuss Your Reading

Use these questions to guide your discussion for each chapter you have read:

- Identify ONE statement from this chapter that challenged you the most. Discuss how this statement challenged you.
- · What questions did you have about this chapter?
- Discuss the Questions for Reflection and Discussion at the end of each chapter.

#### WHAT NEXT?

#### /// Celebrate

Congratulations! You have completed the Discipleship Guide! Celebrate your accomplishment!

#### /// Evaluate

Evaluate your growth. Flip back through the pages of this guide.

- Review the inventories you have taken. Would you change any of your answers?
- Review the plans you have created for growth. Are you successfully following those plans? If not, what changes do you need to make?

# /// Decide on Next Steps

You're probably wondering what you should do next. Here are a few ideas:

- Continue memorizing Scripture, learning from great books, praying and encouraging one another on a regular basis.
- Agree to meet on a more occasional basis for encouragement and prayer.
- Evaluate if the mentee is ready to walk someone else through the same Discipleship Guide as a mentor.

Above all, keep pursuing Christ and growing in the grace and knowledge of Him!