



August 1 ..... Anyone - A  
August 8 ..... Big Group - B  
August 15 ..... Connect Group - C  
August 22 .. Discipleship Group - D  
August 29 .. Evangelism Teams - E



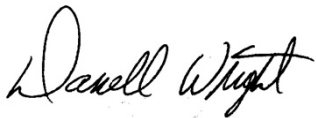
# Pastor's Introduction

Our Mission Statement is Be Disciples, Make Disciples.

The Discipleship Pathway is an intentional plan to help guide us on this Mission. The key to the success of our mission is greatly dependent on how many of us complete the pathway. The key difference in the steps of the pathway is the depth of the Gospel message in our lives at each stop. In our weekly discussion there is a statement of Gospel depth that asks you to read an appendix in the back of the guide in order to focus your discussion each week on the Gospel and how it transforms us at a deeper level each step of the pathway. Wherever you are in the discipleship journey is where the Gospel is in your Christian experience. If you stop short of completing the journey you have left the Gospel at an incomplete, less efficient place in your life and thus in our Mission.

Our hope is that throughout the next five weeks you examine and discover where you are in the journey and create a measurable, accountable plan to complete the pathway over the next few months and then begin reproducing it in the lives around you.

Our belief and expectation are that God will use our new level of spiritual maturity to transform us, our church, our community, our country and our world for the Kingdom's sake and for the Glory of Christ Jesus.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danell Wright". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

# Anyone - A

Romans 10:9-15

The Gospel is ABSENT

Read Appendix – Page 15

## Highlight

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

## Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:

## Apply

1. When you talk about the Gospel, it is important to understand its scope. When God is so specific with his words, we have no latitude with which to define the scope differently. Read the passage for today's message and talk about how far reaching the scope of the Gospel is.
2. Now that we understand that the Gospel is available to anyone/everyone who believes, let's make it personal. Take a moment and share when the Gospel became real to you.
3. In v. 11 the text says that "everyone who believes." The word for believes here is the word in the Greek, *pisteuon*, meaning: to believe **to the extent of complete trust and reliance**—'to believe in, to have confidence in, to have faith in, to trust.'<sup>1</sup> How does this word differ from the normal understanding of belief?

Read James 2:19 – here the word (from the same root) is different. This "believe" in the Greek is *pisteuousin* meaning: to believe something to be true and, hence, **worthy of being trusted**<sup>1</sup> There is an eternal difference between the 2 words. As we share the Gospel with the anyones of this world, why is it important to clearly explain the difference in these two definitions of belief?

4. V. 14-15 Why is it important to understand our role in reaching the anyones of this world? Does God leave any room for excuses as to why we do not personally share the gospel with the "Anyones?"

## Respond

→ **Challenge – Find someone this week to share the good news of the Gospel with and invite them to church this Sunday. Remember, to be obedient in our commission it is necessary to share the Good News, then leave it up to the Holy Spirit to work in the heart of those who hear.**

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<sup>1</sup> Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, [\*Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains\*](#) (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 375.

**Participant Guide for August 8, 2021**

## **Big Group - B**

Colossians 3:14-17

The Gospel is PREACHED

Read Appendix – Page 16

### **Highlight**

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

### **Explain**

Sermon and discussion notes:

## Apply

1. V.14 begins with the phrase “above all”. Back up and read v. 12-13 to see what he is elevating the next verses “above”. Don’t skip by this without discussing the stage that Paul is setting here and the importance he is giving what you are about to read.
2. After his opening emphasis of “above all” Paul begins to paint a picture of what the church of Christ should look like to a watching world and what our experience should be as we enter into the presence of God. Take a moment and discuss the elements he describes focusing on the actions(verbs).
3. Having visualized Paul’s picture of worship as a community of believers, reflect on our weekly worship gathering. What elements are present? Which are missing? What do we do well? What do we do poorly? What can we improve upon? How can you and/or your group actively strive to make our worship experience a likeness of what Paul describes here?
4. If we model this type of corporate worship experience in view of a lost and dying world, how do you think it might change their perception of the church and Christianity?

## Respond

- **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**
- Discuss as a family your attitude and attention during our Big Group worship experience. Talk about suggestions you can do to make it more like Paul describes here.

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Participant Guide for August 15, 2021

## Connect Group - C

2 Timothy 3:16-17

The Gospel is FAMILIARIZED

Read Appendix – Page 17

### Highlight

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

### Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:



## Apply

1. Paul again begins his thought with an all-inclusive word “all.” This leaves nothing out of the discussion of the frame he is about to wrap the Gospel in, “inspired by God.” Given the fact that the Bible was written by around forty men but having one author, what does this phrase mean? Why is this paramount in our study of the scriptures?
2. Profitable for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness. Refer to the picture “The Road to Right Living” on page 15. Discuss all these functions of the inspired Word of God. Discuss the importance of making sure the Word of God is the center of our framework for life. How do we know we are off track? How far off track will you be without the Bible as your plumbline? How could this verse be used to explain the state of the church today? Do you think people hunger and thirst for righteousness? Why? Why Not?
3. Why are these functions critical in our study of the word in our Connect time? Hint: Paul’s next transitional phrase, “so that”.
4. Connect time is not just meant for education, but for completion of our maturity and equipping for the mission. Education is meant to be informational while discipleship is meant to be transformational. Why is education alone not enough to complete us or our mission?
5. What can we do in our Connect time to make sure we are transforming and not merely informing ourselves?

## Respond

- **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**
- Discuss with your family how effective you think your Connect time is? How can you invest in the process to make it better and more effective?

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**Participant Guide for August 22, 2021**

## **Discipleship Group - D**

2 Timothy 2:2

The Gospel is INTERNALIZED

Read Appendix – Page 18

### **Highlight**

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

### **Explain**

Sermon and discussion notes:

## Apply

1. When most people are asked if anyone has ever disciplined them, with extremely few exceptions, the answer is NO. When the same group is asked if they have ever disciplined anyone, the answer is a bigger level of NO. Read 2 Timothy 2:2. Why do you think Christians are so grossly negligent in this clear scriptural imperative? Whose fault is it? Church, Pastor, you? There is plenty of room to assign fault, but ultimately, we are responsible for our own discipleship. Today focus your discussions on how you can correct this negligence in your own spiritual development.
2. As you read 2 Timothy 2:2, is there anything that is instantly clear?

Potential discussion points: Commitment, replication

3. The imperative that the Gospel be replicated from Timothy to others who will teach others is the prescribed pattern of discipleship according to Paul's encouragement. What would have happened in the 1<sup>st</sup> century if they treated the teaching of God's Word the way the contemporary church of today treats it? (education vs. transformation) Would we even be sitting here discussing it?
4. What will happen to the future generations if we continue to treat God's Word as education and not replicational discipleship?
5. The missing link in a purely educational approach to discipleship is accountability to respond to and obey what is learned. Discipleship Groups should always be focused on accountability and response to what God speaks into our lives. Who do you have that holds you accountable to what you learn from the Word each week? If the answer is no one, your maturity is not as transformational as it needs to be to change the world. If we are not transformed into faithful followers of Christ, the church becomes increasingly impotent in its Gospel mission. How does this fact necessitate taking your discipleship journey to the next step of a D-Group?

## Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**

Suggestions: Commit to reading the Book *Growing Up*, available in the Source.

Click this link or type it into your browser <https://bit.ly/DiscipleshipBootcamp> and watch the 3 video sessions of the Discipleship Bootcamp.

Pray towards joining or starting your own D-Group.

**Participant Guide for August 29, 2021**

## **Evangelism Team - E**

Luke 10:1-2

The Gospel is LIVED OUT

Read Appendix – Page 19

### **Highlight**

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

### **Explain**

Sermon and discussion notes:

## Apply

1. We have come to the ultimate purpose of our Discipleship pathway. E-Teams. Until we reach this point our personal and corporate discipleship journey, we leave the most important element of the Gospel on the table. It comparable to a football team huddling up to call the play and everyone agree understands the play, everyone agrees it is the right play, everyone can't wait to see the play executed, but then the team never leaves the huddle. Pretty lame huh? Even more lame when the salvation of the world is at stake! Today focus your discussion as a group on how you can form your own E-Team to reach a geographical area or a language or people group in our community.
2. We tend to spend a lot of time in the huddle. Why do you think that is true?  
Read v.1. What is the process the Lord used to reach the area with the Gospel?  
What can your group do to model/encourage others in our church to break the huddle and run the play in order to advance the ball (Gospel) down the field?
3. Read v. 2. How does Jesus describe the playing field? What does He describe as the problem? What is His answer to the problem?  
Clue: He doesn't say we should sit around praying and hoping the harvest will gather itself, or that the harvest will come to us so we can harvest it.
4. Ed Stetser shared the following statement at the SBC Annual meeting a few years ago in St. Louis:  
Statistics say that Americans when asked by a friend or neighbor if they would attend church, they, to a very large degree said, that they would. When the average church member was asked if they regularly invited people to church, the answer was overwhelmingly NO.  
He then made this statement, "It seems we have a country of open hearts and a church of closed mouths!"  
Discuss your initial feelings about that statement.  
What you will do as an individual and a group this week to change this condemning reality regarding the church?

## Respond

### → Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?

- ◆ Pray for the workers to answer the call to the harvest fields. Jesus has called, will you go?  
Confess and repent, as I am, that we have not been faithful in sharing the Gospel with our "Anybody".  
Commit to an accountable plan to move through the Discipleship Pathway and Be Disciples who Make Disciples!
- ◆ For a list of current E-Teams contact Kristi Spencer – [kspencer@wmbc.net](mailto:kspencer@wmbc.net)

## What Is A Disciple of Jesus?

In order to be clear on what it means to be a member of Wallace Memorial Baptist Church I would like to submit the following description of our understanding of what a biblical disciple of Jesus Christ is:

A Disciple of Christ is one who is:

1. a **follower** of Jesus Christ
2. being **transformed** by Christ
3. fully **committed** to the mission of Christ

Before we unpack this statement, it is necessary to define some terms that we will be using in our explanation. This is necessary in order that we might clearly articulate what you are being called to. This is too important/eternal a matter to leave anything in doubt.

**Follower** – One who has experienced conversion through repentance of sin and receipt of Grace through Faith in Jesus Christ.

**Transformed** – One who lives a lifestyle of repentance of sin and allows the Holy Spirit to transform them into the likeness of Jesus Christ through instruction in God’s Word, obedience to His Word, and a life lived in response to His Word. This involves living life in close relationship to Christ and other followers for the sake of accountability and growth.

**Committed**– One who is committed to living out the Great Commission and the Great Commandment of Jesus Christ and teaching others to do the same.

One Who Makes Disciples Who Makes Disciples – 2 Timothy 2:2.

One who is a **follower** of Jesus Christ – conversion.

One who is being **transformed** by Jesus Christ – Spiritual Formation, Discipleship.

One who is fully **committed** to the Mission of Jesus Christ – Great Commission living with replicational purpose.

As you can see, there is nothing passive about the decision to follow Christ. It is an intentional, loving, obedient life lives for the sake of Christ and for others. The Bible teaches clearly that to live for Christ we must die to ourselves. This is the path of a disciple! Matthew 16:24-27

I hope you will spend time learning this definition of a disciple in order that you may clearly communicate to anyone who asks what a disciple of Jesus is. This description would obviously need a longer period of time to discuss, maybe over coffee or lunch.

If you find yourself in a situation where you only have time to introduce the concept of what a disciple is you may use this definition.

A disciple of Christ is someone who learns to live and love like Jesus

This principal is found in 2 Timothy 2:2

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

# A-Group - Anyone

The “anyones” are our **Community**

The “anyones” are those people that are not part of our family – YET!

The “anyones” are the people we are called to reach with the Gospel.

## The Word of God is Absent

Our plan must be simple and reproducible. It must communicate in any and every community at home and around the world.

Our plan is driven by the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) and the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:37-40).

Our plan is...

Learn simple, thorough, effective ways to share the good News of Jesus Christ through His word, our testimony and through relationships.

Then, as we go, share it with everyone we encounter where we live, work and play.

Methods:

Three Circles illustration  
Share Jesus Without Fear  
Roman Road

Means:

Neighborhood discussion groups  
Coffee Shop Conversations  
Intentional Relationship Building in your home, workplace and marketplace  
Mission Trips with Gospel engagement  
Random Acts of Kindness in our neighborhoods and communities

The only wrong way to do it is to NOT do it!

This is how we grow the church from the outside - in.

# B-Group – Corporate Worship

This Is our **Crowd**

These are the people that have been invited or drawn into our facility during one of our weekly services.

B-Group is where God's family gathers to worship Him.

**The Word of God is Preached**

We praise in spoken word and in spiritual songs and hymns.

We fellowship together and enjoy one another's friendship and encouragement.

We pray together and celebrate what God is doing in our family.

We teach our family what it means to be a part of the body by serving together.



# C-Group – Connect Group

This is our **Congregation**

C-Group is where the family unites.

This is our family. This is where people become more committed to our purpose and our journey together.

## The Word of God is Familiarized

### The Word of God is made Known

This is where we grow together.

Connect Groups meet weekly for specific purposes:

To study God's Word together.

To fellowship together.

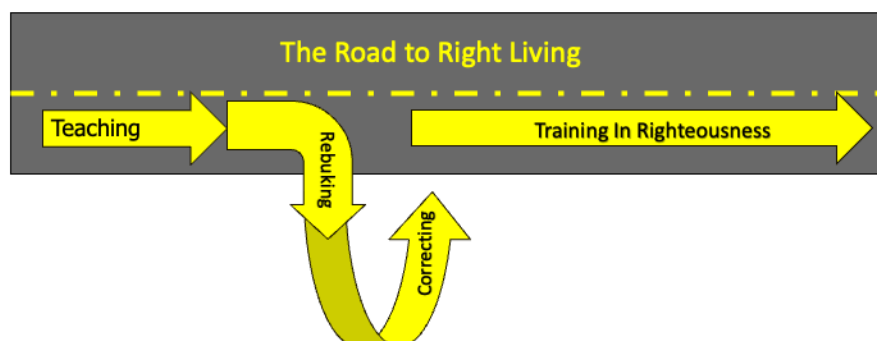
To pray together.

To challenge and encourage each other.

To minister to each other's needs.

To be on mission together.

2 Timothy 3:16



# D-Group – Discipleship Group

This is our **Core**

**The Word of God is Internalized**

D-Group is where spiritual replication happens.

**The Word moves from what you know to who you are!**

This is the Great Commission engine of the church.

This is where Disciples make disciple makers.

We meet to pray.

We meet to minister to each other's household.

We meet to dive deeply into God's Word.

We meet to hold each other accountable to God's Word and His command to be Holy as He is Holy!

We quickly replicate to make other disciples.

We turn the world upside down!

# E-Group – Evangelism Group

This is our private **army**

These are disciple makers who know it is our commission and command to reach the world beginning with those closest to us.

This group surveys their immediate neighborhood and finds creative ways to bring them to the table for a Gospel conversation.

**The Word of God is LIVED!**

**The Audience is reached.**

This begins with a sincere desire to build relationships with the people in your neighborhood (Jerusalem). No strings attached. These are people, not projects.

This can take many forms:

Picnic table painted a bright color in your FRONT yard so that you can invite people for coffee and relationship building.

Coaching community sports leagues for the privilege of influencing families.

Outreach to the Merchant Road population.

(Insert your idea)

◆ For a list of current E-Teams contact Kristi Spencer – [kspencer@wmbc.net](mailto:kspencer@wmbc.net)