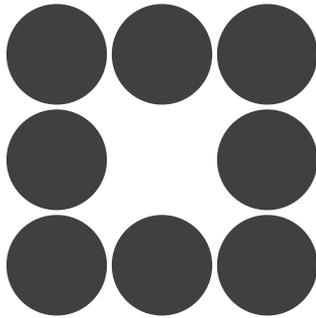


**the  
eight**

STUDY GUIDE



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eight**

STUDY GUIDE

By Bob Shirock

Oak Pointe Church  
Fall 2019

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# Introduction

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## What Is the Purpose of the Church?

It's good to know the purpose of things so that you can use them correctly. Have you ever noticed the little push-in tabs on the ends of an aluminum foil box? I didn't even know they were there until a couple of years ago. They serve a purpose. Push them in and the roll of foil won't come out when you pull on it! It sure makes using aluminum foil a lot easier.

So, what's the purpose of the church? Is it to provide a place for worship? An environment for learning about God? A great place for kids to have "the best hour of their week" in Adventureland? Is church the place where we find friends? Or is it an organization that helps us find ways to be involved in good works in our world?

Frankly, every church does most of the above, and these are all good things. But those are the programs of the church, not the purpose of the church. Jesus Himself, the Head of the church, gave us the purpose of the church right before He left to return to His Father. He said this to His disciples:

*Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:18-20).*

Jesus defined the purpose of the church with three very clear words: "Go make disciples." If a church is following the marching orders of Jesus, then it will be making disciples. That's the bottom line. That's what Jesus did – He made disciples. You can see that when you survey the four gospels. The early church also focused on making disciples. You can see that just by surveying the New Testament and seeing how often the word "disciple" is used.

Here are some fast facts about the word “disciple” in the New Testament:

**“Disciple” is found 250 times in the New Testament as the main title used to describe the followers of Jesus.**

- They weren't called members, or attenders, or converts. They were always called disciples.

**All Christ-followers were called disciples.**

- *So the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, “It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables” (Acts 6:2).*
- The terms “congregation” and “disciples” were the same group. The early church was not a congregation with some disciples in it, but it was a congregation of disciples.

**New believers were called disciples.**

- *The Word of God kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith (Acts 6:7).*
- The first Christians did not think of themselves as two different groups: believers and disciples. If you came into the fold and became a believer, you were immediately called a disciple. That was the norm.

That's a quick survey, but you get the basic idea. Making disciples was what Jesus and the early church were all about.

**The purpose of the church is to make disciples.**

## The Eight

What is a disciple? What does a disciple of Jesus look like? How do I know if I am becoming a disciple? How do disciples act? How do they live? How are they different from the person who is not a disciple of Jesus?

Welcome to The Eight—the eight traits of a growing disciple of Jesus. These are the eight things that we believe are most important for every disciple of Jesus at Oak Pointe Church to understand and strive for. These are the characteristics we want to cultivate in our lives as we journey together as a faith community. These are our team values. These make up our discipleship DNA. We are going to learn what each trait means, and talk about how to grow into this kind of disciple.

### A Starting-Point Definition of a Disciple

Becoming a disciple of Jesus is a lifelong process. Once you are “born into” God’s forever family, you begin to mature as a child of God. This maturation process is discipleship and is a cooperative effort between the Holy Spirit, who lives inside of the believer, and you. Here’s a key verse that pictures the process of maturing or becoming a disciple:

*Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:17, 18).*

**Disciple:** A person who is being transformed by the Spirit into the image of Christ.

Discipleship is the whole process of growing to look more and more like Jesus. The Spirit of God is the One who woos and draws a person toward accepting Jesus as Savior. The Spirit is also the one who takes up residence in our hearts the moment we accept Jesus as Savior. The Spirit gives us the new birth, making us alive to God. We become God’s child and then the Spirit begins the process of growing us up as children of God. It’s as if we are looking in a mirror, but instead of seeing our own face, we see the face of Jesus. Over time, the Spirit wants to transform

us to make us look more and more like Jesus. That is the process of discipleship.

What's our part in the process? We must learn to "walk in step with the Spirit" (Galatians 5:25) so that the fruit of the Spirit will become increasingly evident in our lives. Have you ever run in a three-legged race? That's a race where they tie one of your legs to one leg of a partner, and the two of you race together toward a finish line. It's a real challenge to "run in step" with another person if you've never done it before. But an interesting thing happens in a three-legged race. Once you take a few stumbling steps, you start to get in sync with your partner. You catch your stride together.

Becoming a disciple is like a three-legged race with the Holy Spirit. He takes the lead as He initiates steps to make us look more like Jesus. We learn to "walk in step with the Spirit," and as we do that, He transforms us little by little into the image of Christ. That's discipleship. It's growing up as children of God, to look more and more like Jesus. It's work the Spirit of God does as we cooperate with Him day by day.

## **One Final Thought**

We hope you'll do this study with a mentor. That's the ideal way for discipleship to take place – one person pouring into another person. Or do it in a life group. One way or another, don't do this study alone! It is meant to foster relationships of discipleship in our church.

Here's an overview of The Eight along with a simple diagnostic question for each trait.

### **1. Worship**

*How does my love for Jesus show?*

### **2. Listen**

*How am I living out God's Word today?*

### 3. Pray

*What am I talking to God about?*

### 4. Restore

*How am I facing things that hold me down?*

### 5. Connect

*Who are my 2 a.m. friends?*

### 6. Give

*Where am I serving and giving?*

### 7. Go

*Who is in my top 3?*

### 8. Multiply

*Who am I pouring into?*

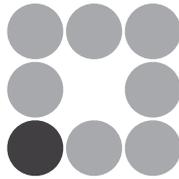


## Group Discussion

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1. What does the word “disciple” bring to mind?
2. How do the descriptions from the Introduction resonate with or reshape your understanding of what a disciple is?
3. How has God brought you to where you are spiritually? Would you describe yourself as a disciple, or are you still exploring the Christian faith?





# worship

How does my love for  
Jesus show?

# worship

**How does my love for Jesus show?** In my life? My work? My family? My neighborhood? And, yes, in my participation in corporate worship: singing, confession of sin, receiving God’s Word so that it might dwell richly in my life. To worship God is to love God more than anything or anyone else.



## Icebreaker

How do you express an outward passion or fandom for things you love (sports teams, brands, artists, groups, etc.)?

## Lesson #1: Worship (read together)

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### What is Worship?

The word “worship” comes from an old English word that means “to declare the worth” of someone or something. You could say we worship our favorite team when we act crazy about them during the season, wearing the team colors, celebrating every win with loud cheering, and boasting of their greatness over all the competitors.

We often think of worship as a specific activity in a specific place. For example, singing worship songs in a house of worship. But real worship is much broader than singing in church. True disciples of Jesus “declare His worth” in every aspect of their lives. It’s not just singing songs. It’s not just bowing in reverent prayer. It’s not just presenting our offerings to Him. It’s everything. Let’s call it way-of-life worship.

Worship is the subject of the first two of the 10 Commandments, so it's obviously of prime importance. Here's what God said in those first two commandments:

*"You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate me, but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments" (Exodus 20:3-6).*

*To worship  
God is to love  
God more than  
anything or  
anyone else.*

Here, worship is defined by its synonyms. To worship God is to serve Him exclusively. It is to love Him as our highest love. It is to keep in step with His commandments. If I were to boil it down from this passage it would be: to worship God is to love God more than anything or anyone else. It is a way of life that declares Jesus as my first love. It has less to do with activities in a building and more to do with the posture of my heart toward God.

## True Worship

Jesus was talking with a woman in Samaria. She wanted to debate where the true place of worship was – Samaria vs. Jerusalem (a long-standing debate in that day). Jesus responded by saying that worship wasn't an activity in a particular place:

*"But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:23, 24).*

In other words, true worship involves the heart (spirit) and the head (truth). It involves the emotions and the intellect. It's the thoughts we have

about God and the emotions we feel toward God. Basically, real worship is something like a love affair with God.

Spirit and truth worship might happen in your car on the way to work. It might happen in church. It might happen out in nature. It might happen listening to a song, or reading the Bible. It's not about a place or a ritual. It's about the posture of your mind and the passion of your heart toward Jesus. It's a way of life for a true disciple. It's being in love with Jesus.

One of God's ongoing complaints throughout the Bible was that people often perform religious rituals thinking they are worshiping, without ever truly worshiping Him.

*And so the Lord says, "These people say they are mine. They honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is nothing but man-made rules learned by rote" (Isaiah 29:13; cited by Jesus in Matthew 15:8, 9).*

*You can worship  
through your tears  
just as much as you  
can worship through  
joyful singing.*

That verse is from the Old Testament prophet Isaiah, 700 years before Jesus. Jesus quoted this verse when talking to the religious people of His day. It's a perpetual problem – religious activity without true worship. God sees when I'm "going through the motions" and my heart isn't really in it.

Let me give you an example. Let's say that I call myself a "huge Michigan State Spartan fan." Now let's say I'm at an MSU football game, dressed in green and white, holding my Spartan flag, acting like I'm really into the game. On the surface you would probably conclude that I am a Spartan fanatic. But while my body is at the game, in my mind I'm really thinking about how I'm going to birdie the 17th hole at Northville Hills. I'm dreaming of hitting the perfect nine iron, with just a slight draw, to within three feet of the cup.

Just because I put my body in a seat and go through the motions doesn't mean my head and heart are there. Worship is a posture of the heart

toward God. It's not about putting my body in a building on Sundays and making sure I stand and sit on cue.

Way-of-life worship happens in different ways. The way we give to Jesus' mission. The way we live for Jesus. The way we talk about Jesus. The way we make sacrifices for Jesus. The way we sing during a worship segment. Even the way we suffer and go through trials trusting in Jesus.

Worship is not always upbeat and joyful. Take Job for example. When he learned that his ten children had died in a windstorm, look what he did:

*Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head, and he fell to the ground and worshiped. He said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I shall return there. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord" (Job 1:20, 21).*

You can worship through your tears just as much as you can worship through joyful singing. It's a posture of the heart toward God.

I think the one verse that best sums up way-of-life worship of God is Romans 12:1, 2 (interesting, because it has nothing to do with singing). Paul is at the turning point of his letter. He has explained for 11 chapters all that God has done for us through Jesus. Then he tells the disciples how they can honor God back:

*"Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect" (Romans 12:1, 2).*

When you wake up each day, and you present your body to Jesus as a living sacrifice to be used for His purposes, that is your spiritual service of worship. When you say, "Here am I, Lord. Let's do this day together, for your glory," that's way-of-life worship.

We have designed a question for each of our eight traits on which we want you to reflect. We are hoping these questions will begin to stick around here, and that we can use them to challenge one another in our discipleship process. We'd like these eight questions to become part of the environment we live in, together, as growing disciples of Jesus. The questions aren't meant to shame us. They are meant to call us upward as disciples of Jesus and challenge us to grow.

## Question #1: How does my love for Jesus show?

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If an observer were to follow you around for a week, what would they point to that convinces them that Jesus is the greatest love of your life?

- **When they go with you to work and see you allowing God to use you for His purposes?** *That's way-of-life worship.*
- **When they watch you at home, raising a family and seeking to please God?** *That's way-of-life worship.*
- **When they sit in nature with you and hear you marveling at the wisdom and power of God?** *That's way-of-life worship.*
- **When they visit you in the hospital and hear you honor God through your tears?** *That's way-of-life worship.*
- **When they stand next to you in church and hear you singing at the top of your lungs?** *That's way-of-life worship.*

If you are growing as a disciple of Jesus, then your love for Him will increasingly show in every aspect of your life through way-of-life worship. Worship is a way of life that declares, "Jesus is my first love."



## Group Discussion

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1. Read Romans 12:1, 2 together. What does this passage tell us about worship? What might it look like to worship God this way?
2. How has the posture of your heart toward God changed since coming to Oak Pointe? If you're a Christian, then how has your heart's posture changed since God's grace in Christ entered your life?
3. In what ways has worship become a way of life for you?
4. What are some areas where you struggle to practice worship as a way of life (work, family, etc.)?



## Application (pick 1-2)

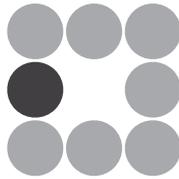
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1. Carve out a few times this week to read the Bible and pray for others.
2. Find a secluded place. Read a Psalm and then put on your favorite worship song. Sing to the Lord without hindrance.
3. Take a hike in a nearby state park. Read Psalm 19 and look in wonder at our Creator's creation.
4. In the spirit of Romans 12:1, 2 (presenting your body as a living sacrifice to God), when waking up in the morning, try saying this prayer: "Here I am God, a living sacrifice. Use me today for whatever you want me to do. This is my worship offering!" Do this every day for a week.

### Recommended Resources

True Worshipers, Bob Kauflin  
 Work: Its Purpose, Dignity, and Transformation, Dan Doriani  
 Sing!, Keith and Kristen Getty  
 Rhythms of Grace, Mike Cosper  
 Family Worship, Donald Whitney  
 Unceasing Worship, Harold M. Best  
 Unquenchable Worshiper, Matt Redman





**listen**

How am I living out  
God's Word today?

# listen

**How am I living out God's Word today?** Listening is hearing and doing the words of God. A real disciple not only hears what Jesus says, but takes it to heart and lives it out. This requires you to be reading it daily (even if only in bite-sized portions) and to know what His Word says, which will require study and meditation through prayer.



## Icebreaker

Think of a time when you forgot to listen well. What was the result? Humorous stories are always encouraged!

## Lesson #2: Listen (read together)

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"Bob, I want you to read Romans 50 times." When my first spiritual mentor gave me that challenge, my first thought was: "What's Romans?" Frankly, I was biblically illiterate. I didn't read the Bible, didn't own a Bible, didn't like the Bible, and for that matter, didn't even like reading. Yet, as a brand new follower of Jesus, I was committed to doing what my "spiritual trainer" told me to do. So, I read Romans. It took me at least two hours the first time through. I didn't even know what half of the big words meant. Then I read it some more, and some more, and some more. One day, after a game of basketball, I sat in the locker room cooling off. I had my Bible in my backpack, so I started reading Romans. Before I knew it, I was at the end.

## Transformed by God's Word

Over those few months, I read Romans 50 times. What happened? I was changed; radically and permanently changed. The apostle Paul put it this way:

*"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2).*

That's what happened to me. I was transformed, and my entire life had been changed by that challenge to listen to God's voice. It's been over 40 years since that challenge to read Romans 50 times, and I would still say it was the most life-changing challenge that anyone has ever given to me. When you get right down to it, this trait of a disciple that we call listen is all about followers of Jesus being transformed by God's Word, as we let it permeate every aspect of our being. It's about letting God's voice become the loudest voice in our lives. It's about letting God shape us and direct us through His Word.

Jesus said that listening to His Word was a key trait of a true disciple:

*Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free" (John 8:31, 32).*

When we say "listen," we're not just talking about "hearing" God's Word. Remember that Jesus said, *"If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine..."*

The word "continue" in the Greek text means to "live in" or "to remain in." To "settle down and plant yourself in." Sort of like living in the book of Romans for half a year (and letting Romans live in you for half a year!).

The point is that a real disciple not only hears what Jesus is saying, but takes it to heart and lives it out. True disciples of Jesus take His every word very seriously. They live in His Word. They abide in it. They soak in it. They used to call the Jews the "people of the Book" because of their devotion to the Old Testament writings. Modern-day disciples should be just that – people of the Book.

Jesus emphasized the importance of listening to and living in His Word at the end of His earliest and greatest sermon, the Sermon on the Mount:

*Therefore, everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall (Matthew 7:24-27).*

There were two kinds of people both then and now. One person listens to God's Word and doesn't do anything with it. The other person listens to God's Word and acts on it.

Listening is hearing and doing the words of God. A true disciple absorbs a sermon deeply. A true disciple opens his/her Bible to read and ponder regularly. A true disciple listens for the whisper of the Spirit in moments of prayer. A true disciple listens for God's encouragement or correction through the voice of a friend.

*Listening is  
hearing and  
doing the  
words of God.*

One of the most powerful pictures of a true listening disciple comes in Mary, a follower of Jesus. Every time she appears in the life of Jesus, she is at His feet hanging upon His every word. For example, take this occasion when Jesus came to her home:

*Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home. She had a sister called Mary, who was seated at the Lord's feet, listening to His word. But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to Him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me." But the Lord answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her" (Luke 10:38-42).*

We all get distracted with the busyness of life. We all have a lot going on, and a lot to do. We all have devices that are constantly distracting us. According to recent research:

- The average person spends two hours a day on social media and three hours a day watching TV.
- YouTube = 40 minutes/day
- Facebook = 35 minutes/day
- Snapchat = 25 minutes/day
- Instagram = 15 minutes/day

We are shaped by the voices we listen to. Someone once put it to me this way:

**Sow a thought - reap an act.**

**Sow an act - reap a habit.**

**Sow a habit - reap a character.**

**Sow a character - reap a destiny.**

It all gets back to that first little step: sowing a thought. What kinds of words and thoughts are you sowing in the soil of your mind today? In the long run, your character and your destiny will be shaped by what's going into your mind today.

What if we spent 30 minutes a day reading and soaking in God's Word? What if we spent 30 minutes of "face-time" with Jesus every day? What if we were listening to His voice constantly? What if we were sowing God's words in the soil of our minds day after day after day? Our growth as disciples would soar! The apostle Paul wrote:

*Let the Word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God (Colossians 3:16).*

If you are doing that—letting the word of Christ richly dwell within you, then you are a growing disciple of Jesus. I like to say it this way: The Spirit of God uses the Word of God to transform the child of God.

## Question #2: How am I living out God's Word today?

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Just think about being asked that question. You're standing with a friend talking about... whatever. And then they ask you, "Hey, how are you living out God's Word today?" That question is designed to poke around a bit in your mind and heart. It's designed to hold us all accountable. Because if I know people are going to be asking me about my interactions with God's words, then I'm probably going to be ready with something. I'm going to spend some time listening so that I can tell you what I've been hearing and how His words are making a difference in my life!

There are other ways that we, as disciples, can listen to God. The clearest and most obvious way is through the voice of His inspired Word, the sacred Scriptures. Spending time in the Bible should be the bread and butter of our listening to God. Paul put it this way to his young disciple, Timothy:

*"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16, 17).*

Spending consistent time in the Word of God, the Bible, should be the primary way that we listen to the voice of God. At the same time, God's voice is not limited to Scripture. God has chosen to reveal Himself to us in other ways. Here are 5 Cs that capture how God speaks:

### The 5 Cs

**Creation:** The created world of God's handiwork.

Creation reveals to every living person messages about the power, grandeur, wisdom, and creativity of God (Romans 1:19, 20; Psalm 19:1-6). We can listen to God by observing aspects of His character revealed through the created order. Yet, while creation can tell us much about God's character, it cannot reveal to us the specifics of His will for our lives.

Watch a hawk fly through the sky and be amazed at God's creativity; but don't watch the hawk flying west and decide that God is telling you to move west!

**Conscience:** The internal testimony of right and wrong.

Conscience gives every living person signals about what is good and what is evil (like warning lights on the dashboard of a car). When it is working properly, the justice and morality of God is revealed in the human conscience (Romans 2:14, 15). At the same time, the Bible tells us that the conscience can become calloused (insensitive) and even seared (burnt beyond feeling). Thus, conscience is sometimes a reliable guide, and sometimes it is off. Listen to your conscience when some action feels wrong (or right), but don't expect your conscience to be a complete and reliable guide to God's heart and will for your life.

**Christ:** The person of Christ as revealed in Scripture.

Jesus reveals to us God in person. He said, "If you have seen Me you have seen the Father" (John 14:9). The Son of God reveals the nature of God to humanity (John 1:18). One of the most important ways that you will hear the voice of God, throughout your lifetime, is to get to know the person and work of Jesus Christ. Of course, all we know about Jesus has been recorded for us in the Bible, so that makes the next form of God's speech of prime importance. Get to know Jesus intimately; listen to His words and watch His actions.

**Canon:** The 66 books of Scripture.

The Latin word "canon" means "yardstick." As it pertains to the Bible, the word "canon" signifies the 66 books that were accepted as the inspired Word of God. The inspired Word of God gives us accurate, propositional revelation of the nature of God, the plan of God, the wisdom of God, and the person of God. The Bible is fundamental to us being able to put together the other forms of divine revelation into a consistent, coherent, and complete picture (Psalm 19:7-13; 2 Timothy 3:16, 17). Spend as much time reading, studying, and meditating on God's Word as you can.

**Community:** The Christian community - in the form of teachers, mentors, friends, and counselors.

God uses people, not to reveal new truth, but to apply existing truth to our lives (Ephesians 5:19). Teachers, mentors, and friends will often be used by God to “speak a word” of encouragement or correction into your heart. Remain open and humble as God uses other people to remind you of something in His Word, as it pertains to your own life.

The 5 Cs help us understand all the ways that God’s “voice” comes to us. The Holy Spirit will use the 5 Cs to shape us as growing disciples of Jesus. Jesus made it clear that the Spirit would “guide us into the truth” (John 14:26 and 16:13). Thus, when you pick up your Bible and read it, you are giving the Holy Spirit His favorite tool to do His transforming work in your life.

At the same time, the Holy Spirit also speaks in more mystical, hard-to-discern ways. This is because the Holy Spirit is a person who lives inside of us. The Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. He is God, just as much as the Father and Son are God. The Spirit living within us might give us an impression or a prompting. He might also send us a rebuke, warning, or correction. We may also feel a leading or a direction that comes from Him. He may come to us through circumstances that encourage us or warn us. He may speak to us in a moment of healing prayer.

It is often difficult to discern the internal voice of the Spirit (although it does become easier the longer you walk with Him). If the Holy Spirit is truly speaking to you, His voice will be confirmed by other forms of divine revelation, especially the Bible and the wisdom provided by spiritual mentors. Be careful about taking impressions and making them your primary source for hearing from God. It is better to make the clear, inspired Word of God your primary source, and allow impressions to remain subject to God’s Word.



## Group Discussion

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1. **Read** Romans 12:1, 2 and Matthew 7:24-27 together. What do these passages tell us about God? What do these passages tell us about listening to God?
2. **Read** Colossians 3:16 (or Colossians 3:1-17, if time allows). What does it mean for the Word of Christ to richly dwell within you? How might that look on an ordinary day for you?
3. By what “voices” are you being shaped? How would you like to see this change in the coming year?
4. Which of the “5 Cs” (Creation, Conscience, Christ, Canon, or Community) do you resonate with most? Which one do you find most challenging?



## Application (pick 1-2)

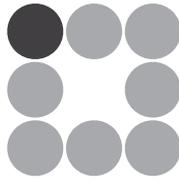
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1. **Read** through the section on the 5 Cs. Identify a C that you would like to grow in understanding in the coming year. Talk to your group leader about how that might look for you.
2. **Plan** to read Psalms 1 & 2 this week. Ask God to help you live out His Word in the places He has called you this week (home, work, neighborhood, relationships).

### Recommended Resources

Habits of Grace, David Mathis  
 One to One Bible Reading, David Helm  
 Women of the Word, Jen Wilkin  
 Dinner Table Devotions, Nancy Guthrie





**pray**

What am I talking to  
God about?

# pray

**What am I talking to God about?** Prayer is an ongoing conversation with God about anything and everything. It allows us to honestly confess our sin before Him without fear on a daily basis. Prayer also leads us to ask God to restore His good design for us and our lives, rather than our own designs.



## Icebreaker

Who in your life do you talk with the most? Why do you make that relationship a priority?

## Lesson #3: Pray (read together)

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"Hello! Are you there?" Have you ever been on the phone, talking away, but there is this strange silence on the other end? Suddenly, you wonder if the connection was lost, if the other person drifted off to sleep, or if they are busy working on their computer and not paying attention. So, you say, "Hello! Are you there?"

Sometimes I wonder if God is sitting in heaven saying, "Hello! Are you there?" Our relationship with God involves an ongoing, two-way conversation. God speaks to us as we listen to His Word and His Spirit. But then God waits for us to speak back to Him through prayer. Prayer is our way of speaking to God about anything and everything that is on our heart. God earnestly desires to hear our prayers, because our prayers reveal our heart toward Him. When we fail to pray, God must be wondering, "Hello! Are you there?"

## A Guide for Prayer

Jesus taught His first group of disciples how to pray:

*It happened that while Jesus was praying in a certain place, after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples" (Luke 11:1).*

John the Baptist had taught his disciples how to pray. Some time later, Jesus' disciples wanted Him to teach them how to pray. They probably knew some "formal" prayers from their Jewish background. But when they heard Jesus pray, it was different. It was personal, real, heartfelt, not scripted. So, in response to their request, Jesus taught them "The Lord's Prayer" as a kind of guide for their praying. The gospel of Luke gives us the short version of The Lord's Prayer (See Matthew 6 for the full version):

*And He said to them, "When you pray, say: 'Father, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation'" (Luke 11:1-4).*

That's a fairly simple guide, right? There are just six parts:

1. Tell God that He is the most honored (hallowed) person in your life.
2. Tell Him that your greatest desire is to see His kingdom built in your life and in your world.
3. Tell Him your basic needs (for bread, provisions, etc.).
4. Confess your sins and ask for His forgiveness.
5. Commit to forgiving others, as He has forgiven you.
6. Pray for protection from temptation.

Remember, The Lord's Prayer was not meant to be a formula or a rote-memory set of words. It was meant to be a guide to genuine conversation with your Father in heaven.

Jesus not only taught His disciples how to pray, He modeled it by going out early every morning for times of prayer:

*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. Simon and his companions went to look for Him, and when they found Him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for You!" Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come" (Mark 1:35-38).*

*Prayer is an ongoing conversation with God about anything and everything.*

That must have been hard for Peter to swallow. They were in his hometown. People were being healed in droves from morning to night. Then Jesus goes away and prays. When He returns from prayer, He has His marching orders from His Father: It's time to leave this town.

Peter must have questioned this move. Many of Peter's friends were probably standing in line waiting for their turn to see Jesus and to be healed. The only reason Peter could accept those marching orders away from a crowd in need in his hometown was because he knew Jesus was praying and taking His marching orders from the Father. Prayer was the key.

## **Commands to Pray**

The first disciples never forgot Jesus' example. Throughout the rest of the New Testament there are commands to pray everywhere:

*Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving (Colossians 4:2).*

*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:6, 7).*

One of the shortest verses in the Bible says it all. Literally translated from the Greek it says:

*Unceasingly pray! (1 Thessalonians 5:17).*

Without stopping, pray. Without letting up, pray. How can I pray without stopping? I can't turn my entire life into a prayer meeting. No, but I can turn my whole life into a conversation with God. Prayer is an ongoing conversation with God about anything and everything.

Sure, it will include special times for more formal prayer: praying with other people in a prayer meeting, Ezra 8 Days of prayer as a church family, Leadership Prayer gatherings, maybe even a region-wide prayer walk in the city, or special times of transformational prayer. But, the bigger issue for a disciple of Jesus is this idea of ongoing conversational prayer with God, all through the day, about everything.

Just as the first disciples learned from Jesus how to pray, we believe that modern-day disciples of Jesus will also be learning from Jesus how to pray.

## Question #3: What am I talking to God about?

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This question is a window into the soul. I hope as we ask each other this question, it's not used to condemn. Not: "Are you talking to God?" Instead, I hope it becomes a window into soul talk, with curiosity: "What are you talking to God about? What's most important to you right now? What's bothering you the most? What's great? What's not so great?" This might be one of the most important questions because it will help us get beneath the iceberg, the veneer, with each other. It will help us to know one another, to care for one another, to pray for one another.

Would you like to peer through a window into Jesus' soul? Then kneel beside Him and listen to Him pray. Get alone and quietly read John 17, Jesus' prayer on the last night of His life. It is sacred ground, and you will see what was important to Jesus on that night.

## ACTS Prayer

If you don't have much experience with prayer, you can start with the ACTS model of prayer: Adore God for who He is. Confess your sins to Him. Thank Him for the ways He has been faithful to you. Supplicate (ask) Him to meet your needs.

### Adoration

When you adore God, you appreciate Him for who He is and not for what He has done for you. Meditating on the attributes of God or the names of God helps you in prayers of adoration. Look at these Psalms of adoration: Psalm 18, 103, 139. You can Google the names of God, or the attributes of God.

### Confession

Read through these Psalms of confession to see how David and other writers confessed their sins to God: Psalm 6, 25, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, and 143. Invite the Holy Spirit to search your heart and reveal any offensive ways. Keep "short accounts" with God throughout the day. Don't let unconfessed sin pile up and hinder your fellowship with God.

### Thanksgiving

This is a time in prayer when you thank God for what He has done in your life. Thank Him by faith for the things He has yet to do, or the things to which He has answered "No." It is easy to get adoration and thanksgiving confused. Remember—Adoration is about who God is. Thanksgiving is about what God is doing.

### Supplication

That's a fancy word that means "to supply." You are asking God to supply your needs and the needs of those for whom you are praying.

**Note:** Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings to pray. It has been said that prayer is like a communication circle. The Holy Spirit lays it on our hearts to pray about something, and we complete the circle by lifting that issue up to God.



## Group Discussion

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1. **Read** Luke 11:1-4 together. Spend a few minutes quietly observing what this passage tells us about God and what it tells us about ourselves. Then discuss.
2. How would you describe your prayer habits? What are you talking to God about?
3. **Read** Philippians 4:6, 7, Colossians 4:2, and 1 Thessalonians 5:17 together. Then summarize each in your own words. What might it look like to begin talking with God in this way?
4. Write out the words adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication in the Notes section. Start by spending a few minutes writing out the things you adore about who God is. Follow this process during the week as you use the ACTS model of prayer.



## Application

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1. **Read** John 17 slowly. This is Jesus' prayer on the last night of His life. It is sacred ground, and you will see what was important to Jesus on that night. Plan to spend some time alone in silence and solitude this week reading this chapter.
2. **Plan** to use the ACTS model of prayer this week. Read a couple of the Psalms listed below and look to incorporate God's words to you into your prayer:

Adoration: Psalm 18, 103, 139

Confession: Psalm 6, 25, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, and 143

### Recommended Resources

Answering God, Eugene Peterson

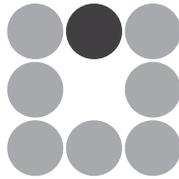
Every Season Prayers, Scotty Smith

Prayer, Timothy Keller

Prayers of the Bible, Susan Hunt

Prone to Wander: Prayers of Confession and Celebration, Barbara Duguid





**restore**

How am I facing things  
that hold me down?

# restore

**How am I facing things that hold me down?** Am I honestly facing the things that are preventing me from growing in Christ? Am I in relationship with others who can help me see my blind spots? To be restored means allowing God, by His Word and Spirit, to heal us at the deepest levels. While professional counseling is needed in some cases, we believe a lot of this work can be done by you, with the right set of tools, in community with other people.



## Icebreaker

Share about a time when your feelings were hurt. Was the hurt healed? Does it linger?

## Lesson #4: Restore (read together)

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I have a really old car—a 1963 Austin Healey. When I found it, it was dead. I mean dead. It was a complete mess sitting in a guy's warehouse. I asked his mechanic about the car. He said, "You don't want this car!" So, I bought it.

Then I set to work restoring it, little by little. A new paint job. A new engine. A new transmission. New wheels and tires. New seats. New carpet. New top. I could go on and on, but you get the idea. The bottom line is that now this car that "you don't want" is back on the road, racking up miles faster than it ever did before. And, quite frankly, it looks beautiful.

I wish I could track down that mechanic. He'd probably say, "I want that car!"

The Christian life begins when God "buys us" for Himself. Satan may have said, "You don't want this one." But God said, "I'll take him. I'll take her." Through the death of Jesus, the price was paid to forgive our sins and bring us back into a relationship with God. Once we are His, we are forever His!

*To be restored means allowing the Spirit to heal us at the deepest levels.*

Then, God starts restoring us. The technical word is "sanctification," which basically means that He cleans us up, gradually, and sets us back on the path we were originally meant for. Sanctification, or restoration, is a lifelong process. The apostle Paul pictured it as taking off an old set of clothes and putting on a new set.

*Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy (Ephesians 4:21-24).*

Here's the thing about the restoration work God wants to do in our lives, it's deep restoration. It's not about surface work just to make us look good on the outside. It's about deep work in our hearts so that old lies are uprooted and replaced with truth. Old patterns are replaced by walking in step with the Spirit.

That's the way the Apostle Paul described it in Galatians 5. He was talking to a group of Christians who had slipped into the false idea that they had to fix up their own broken lives by a lot of self effort and rule keeping. Paul says the sanctification process is work that the Spirit of God wants to do inside of us, as we "walk by the Spirit."

*So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is*

## THE EIGHT: STUDY GUIDE

*contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit (Galatians 5:16-25).*

To be restored means allowing the Spirit to heal us at the deepest levels.

Here's a prayer that King David gave us in Psalm 139:

*Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxious thoughts; and see if there be any way of pain in me, and lead me in the everlasting way (Psalm 139:23, 24).*

That last verse of Psalm 139, "see if there be any way of pain in me," is so fascinating to me because the very first verse of the Psalm declares, "You have searched me and known me." Then it goes on to say that God knows every little detail about our lives from even before we were born!

So, if God already knows everything about me, why does David end with a prayer for God to "search out his heart and know it?" Because David doesn't know what God knows about the deep things in his heart. David was asking God to bring to the surface the deep, hidden, unknown things (the blind spots) that could cause him pain in life. That's what we mean when we talk about this value, restore. We are inviting God to search us deeply and reveal what needs to be healed, and then to restore us by the power of His Spirit.

As growing disciples of Christ, the Spirit of God is transforming us from glory to glory, into the image of Christ. And that means He needs to do some deep work in us. Not just above-the-surface stuff, but deep work.

## Question #4: How am I facing things that hold me down?

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When it comes to deep issues that hinder our growth, we have a few options. We can deny these issues and continue to let them impact our lives. We can rationalize these issues and say that we are justified to have them in our lives. We can blame everyone around us for our life and relational difficulties, saying that it's everyone else that needs help and not us. Or we can humbly acknowledge that we need God to do some deep, restorative work in our lives.

We believe everyone is in need of some deep work, some going back to go forward, some healing of wounds from the past. And while we believe professional counseling is needed in some cases, we also believe that a lot of this work can be done by you, with the right set of tools, in community with other people. This is why we have three special studies to help people begin to do some restorative work: Living Well, Listening Well, and Loving Well. These aren't just classes. They are tools to help us learn how to keep in step with the Spirit, to restore at a deeper level. This is also why we have a Transforming Prayer Ministry – so people can invite the Spirit to work on those deeper issues.

I hope you will take part in the deep discipleship paths we are providing at Oak Pointe Church. It's all about your restoration. No shame, no same. No shame for where you've been or where you're at. No same a year from now. We are all on this journey of restoration together.

And if you see a guy flying down the road in a sky-blue metallic '63 Healey, don't bother stopping me. It's not for sale!



## Group Discussion

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1. **Read** Ephesians 4:21-24. What do you think the Apostle Paul means when he says, “let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes” and to “put on your new nature?”
2. **Read** Psalm 139:23-24 together. What does this passage tell us about God? What does it say about us as people?
3. What “ways of pain” have you seen renewed by God’s grace?
4. Have you talked with God like David did in Psalm 139? If you have, what do you think God might identify as an area to be restored?



## Application

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1. **Read** Psalm 139:1-18, 23, 24 this week. Ask God to help you see your blindspots. Ask Him for wisdom in dealing with the areas that are keeping you from moving forward in your relationship with Christ.
2. **Plan** a little extra time this week to read God’s Word and pray. The searching prayer of Psalm 139 is not something that necessarily happens quickly. It’s important to have a humble posture toward God where you really want Him to show you the “ways of pain” in you, even if it hurts to hear and see them.

### **Recommended Resources**

How Does Sanctification Work?, David Powlison

Effortless Forgiveness, Ed Smith

Emotionally Healthy Spirituality, Pete and Geri Sczerro

The Enemy Within, Kris Lundgaard

How People Change, Paul David Tripp and Tim Lane

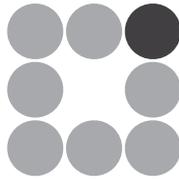
Maturity, Sinclair Ferguson

Gospel Christianity I, II, III, Timothy Keller and Redeemer Presbyterian Church

Respectable Sins, Jerry Bridges







**connect**

Who are my 2am  
friends?

# connect

**Who are my 2am friends?** Do I have friends with whom I can speak honestly about my struggles? About my faith? Do I have friends that I could call at 2am, who would be there? Disciples who connect form deep, Christ-centered relationships that reflect the “one another” commands of Scripture.



## Icebreaker

How would friends who know you well describe you? Would they know the things you struggle with?

## Lesson #5: Connect (read together)

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As I was leaving church a few weeks back, I walked past five or six teenagers who were waiting for their parents to finish visiting with other people. It was nice to see all these young people sitting knee-to-knee, side-by-side, so close to each other...in total silence. Then I noticed every single one staring down at their phones. Games, pictures, posts, videos. No one was connecting face-to-face.

A recent TV special sounded the alarm. We are now living in the most disconnected generation in human history. We are connected to social media in many forms, but we are disconnected from real, interpersonal relationships. According to a new Nielsen Report, the average American adult spends over eleven hours per day listening to, watching, reading or generally interacting with media! This media-driven culture is killing our ability to love well. In an interview, Tim Cook, president of Apple, encouraged people to put away their iPhones and make more time for

real relationships! Yes, the iPhone king said: "Put it away! Get some real face time."

From the get-go, Jesus chose His disciples to be in real relationship with Him:

*He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach (Mark 3:14).*

Did you catch that? Jesus said, "with Him." There was a relational core to His version of the master-disciple relationship. They didn't just work for Jesus. They didn't just go to school at Jesus' feet. They did life with Jesus. They were deeply connected with Him.

My first experience with discipleship happened in college. I was mentored by Scott. We didn't just study the Bible together. We did life together. God, cars, sports, marriage, everything. I learned about Jesus through a living book—Scott. Yes, we read Romans 50 times. But I learned the most from reading a living book, Scott and his wife, Kristi. We're still best friends today.

It should be no surprise that for the disciples after Jesus ascended, relationships were key. Listen to this very first summary of the Christian community in the book of Acts:

*And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved (Acts 2:44-47).*

They were disciples together. In house groups. In the temple. Caring for one another. Supporting one another. Eating together. They weren't isolated. They were connected. To connect is to form authentic, Christ-centered, soul-talk relationships.

## **“One Another” Commands**

It’s also no surprise that “one another” commands are everywhere in the New Testament. We are supposed to do this life with one another! Here’s a long list of the “one another” commands. I want you to ponder them and ask: Am I doing life like this?

*Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor (Romans 12:10).*

*Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly (Romans 12:16).*

*Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law (Romans 13:8).*

*Pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another (Romans 14:19).*

*Be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus (Romans 15:5).*

*Accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God (Romans 15:7).*

*Admonish one another (Romans 15:14).*

*Greet one another with a holy kiss (Romans 16:16).*

*Have the same care for one another (1 Corinthians 12:25).*

*Through love serve one another (Galatians 5:13).*

*Bear one another’s burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2).*

*With all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love (Ephesians 4:2).*

*Speak truth each one of you with his neighbor, for we are members of one another (Ephesians 4:25).*

*Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you (Ephesians 4:32).*

*Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord (Ephesians 5:19).*

*Be subject to one another in the fear of Christ (Ephesians 5:21).*

*Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves (Philippians 2:3).*

*Bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you (Colossians 3:13).*

*Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God (Colossians 3:16).*

*May the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also do for you (1 Thessalonians 3:12).*

*You yourselves are taught by God to love one another (1 Thessalonians 4:9).*

*Comfort one another with these words (1 Thessalonians 4:18).*

*Encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing (1 Thessalonians 5:11).*

*Live in peace with one another (1 Thessalonians 5:13).*

*Always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people (1 Thessalonians 5:15).*

*Encourage one another day after day (Hebrews 3:13).*

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*Let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near (Hebrews 10:24, 25).*

*Confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed (James 5:16).*

*Fervently love one another from the heart (1 Peter 1:22).*

*Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins (1 Peter 4:8).*

*Be hospitable to one another without complaint (1 Peter 4:9).*

*As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God (1 Peter 4:10).*

*Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another (1 Peter 5:5).*

*For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another (1 John 3:11).*

Whew! That's a long list, but I wanted you to read it to feel the weight that the New Testament places on real, soul-to-soul connection. And, I want you to notice that you can't possibly live out those "one another" commands while spending 11 hours a day on media!

We want people connected here at Oak Pointe. This is why we're always talking about life groups. We want everyone to get connected to real life relationships, to have real friends with whom you can be open and honest. In classes we offer, we often arrange people into groups within the class so that relational connections happen. We are not about information transfer. We are about life-on-life connections.

## Question #4: Who are my 2am friends?

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That's just a cute way of asking: Who are you really connected with as you do this journey with Jesus?

- Who loves you enough that you can talk to them about anything, anytime?
- Who are you doing life with?
- Who holds you accountable?
- Who knows your real issues?
- Who prays with you and for you?
- Who will show up when you are in need? Even if it's 2am?

Imagine this scene: Jesus is sitting with His 12 disciples on the outskirts of some city. They've just had a busy day of ministry and they are taking a time out to regroup. You walk by and notice dead silence. All 13 are staring down at their phones. Andrew is playing video games. Peter is checking on the status of his fishing business. James and John are taking a selfie to post on Instagram. Judas Iscariot is checking out the financial markets. Jesus is texting Michael the Archangel.

### **NOT!**

We've got to rethink what's happening to us – the most disconnected generation in history. It's killing us. The answer is, as Tim Cook suggested, to turn off the devices and turn on the relationships. At the 2019 TIME 100 Summit he said, "If you're looking at a phone more than someone's eyes, you're doing the wrong thing." Well put. So, whose eyes are you looking at today?



## Group Discussion

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1. **Read** through the “one another” passages again. What do they tell you about Christian community?
2. Choose the “one another” that comforts you the most. Which “one another” challenges you the most? Why?
3. **Read** Acts 2:44-47 together. In what ways does your community reflect this description? In what ways does this summary of Christian community differ from yours?
4. What would it look like for you to begin forming these sorts of Christ-centered relationships? What are reasonable expectations of a member of a life group? Do you have any reservations about committing to a life group as you understand it? What are your next steps?



## Application

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1. **Read** Ephesians 4:1-6, 21-32 this week. Ask God to make you into the kind of friend who others could rely on to “build others up,” “be compassionate,” and “forgive as Christ forgave you.” Ask Him to help you find friendships with others at Oak Pointe in order to create the kind of “one another” community described in Ephesians 4, which is a community centered on Christ.
2. **Plan** to talk with your group leader this week about ways to connect with others at Oak Pointe in the coming year.
3. **Pray** about forming an ongoing life group with your current group after The Eight.

### **Recommended Resources**

Called to Community, Charles E. Moore

A Meal with Jesus, Tim Chester

Called Together, Jonathan Dodson

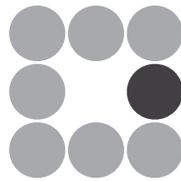
Side by Side, Ed Welch

Instruments in the Redeemer’s Hands, Paul David Tripp

The Peacemaker, Ken Sande







**give**

Where am I serving  
and giving?

# give

**Where am I serving and giving** for the work of God's kingdom? To give is to be generous with time, talent, and treasure. In the gospel, we see exactly how giving God is: He gave himself for us at the greatest cost to himself. Our giving and serving as disciples reflects God's giving nature. Giving is simply our thankful response for all God has done for us in Christ.



## Icebreaker

What's the best birthday gift you've ever received? Why was it so meaningful to you? What did you end up doing with it?

## Lesson #6: Give (read together)

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There's a little verse with a big message tucked away in the book of 2 Corinthians:

*Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift (2 Corinthians 9:15).*

The word "indescribable" comes from a Greek word meaning "beyond words." God's amazing gift to us – His very own Son – leaves us "speechless." Paul wrote that at the end of two chapters imploring the Corinthian Christians to be generous givers in a financial campaign to raise money for the suffering believers in Jerusalem. He was giving this final word of motivation: You can't out-give God!

Someone has rightly said, "We are most like God when we give," because our God is a gracious, generous, giving God.

*Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows (James 1:17).*

*He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things (Acts 17:25).*

And, of course, there is the most famous verse in the Bible, which is all about giving:

*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life (John 3:16).*

Thus, the giving nature of our God becomes the motivation for His children to be as giving as He is, with things like our time, talent, and treasure.

*Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share (1 Timothy 6:17, 18).*

*To give is to be generous with time, talent, and treasure.*

When we chose the word "give" as one of our eight traits of a disciple, we knew we were embracing something fundamental to reflecting the true nature of God as His children. To give is to be generous with time, talent, and treasure.

What does it look like to be generous? A little personal history: Before I started walking with Jesus, I knew about token offerings. That's where you put a little something in the basket out of a sense of obligation. Then, after I became a disciple of Jesus, I started to meet people who really gave their all to Jesus. They lived as managers, not owners of all they had. They lived every hour of every day as if their time was a gift they were offering back to God. They saw their talents as gifts from God to be used for His purposes. And, they saw their treasures (their financial resources and "stuff") as something God gave to them in the first place.

## THE EIGHT: STUDY GUIDE

I remember meeting one man who had gotten to the point of giving away 90% of his income every year. He started with the 10% tithe, as instructed in the Bible. But as God gave him greater and greater wealth, instead of increasing his standard of living, he increased his standard of giving! He was living off 10% and giving 90% to the work of God.

Then I found that King David, in the Old Testament, had that same kind of attitude about giving to God. When David participated in the offering to build a temple for God, he said:

*But who am I and who are my people that we should be able to offer as generously as this? For all things come from You, and from Your hand we have given You. For we are sojourners before You, and tenants, as all our fathers were; our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no hope. O Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided to build You a house for Your holy name, it is from Your hand, and all is Yours (1 Chronicles 29:14-16).*

Ultimately, the great men and women of the Bible saw themselves as recipients of good gifts from God, as stewards of those good gifts during their lifetime, and as channels through whom those good gifts of God could flow out to others. They never saw themselves as owners, only managers!

Here's a verse about giving your time back to God:

*As for the days of our life, they contain seventy years, or if due to strength, eighty years, yet their pride is but labor and sorrow; for soon it is gone and we fly away...So teach us to number our days, that we may present to You a heart of wisdom (Psalm 90:10, 12).*

Here's one about stewarding your talents wisely:

*As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God (1 Peter 4:10).*

And one about being generous with your treasures:

*Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:6, 7).*

## Question #6: Where am I serving and giving?

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- Where are the fingerprints of my generosity?
- Where is the impact of my resources being felt?
- Where is my giving making a difference?
- How am I using my God-given talents and spiritual gifts?
- Am I using my God-given time wisely?

I opened this lesson with a little-known verse from 2 Corinthians. Let me close with another little-known verse from Acts 20. The apostle Paul quoted something Jesus said about giving—something that was never recorded in the four gospels! It must have been one of those sayings of Jesus that was floating around in the oral tradition of the early Christian community. Everyone knew that Jesus said it, but it still didn't make it into one of the four gospels. Thankfully, Paul spoke the saying, and Luke put it down on paper. Jesus said:

*It is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35).*

We often see giving as a burden, an obligation, a duty. Jesus said it is a blessing that we get to enjoy. Let's all ask God to help us discover the blessing of giving!



## Group Discussion

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1. **Read** 1 Chronicles 29:14-16 and 1 Timothy 6:17-18 together. What do these passages tell us about God and ourselves?
2. **Read** the passages on time, talent, and treasure (Psalm 90:10, 12; 1 Peter 4:10; 2 Corinthians 9:6, 7). How do these verses help to shape your perspective on each area?
3. Do a quick self-analysis: Where are the fingerprints of your generosity? How are you using your God-given talents and spiritual gifts? Are you using your God-given time wisely?
4. How might you give more generously to God in each area in the coming year?



## Application

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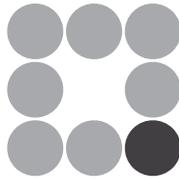
1. **Read** 2 Corinthians 9:15 and James 1:17. Spend some time praying about the gift of grace God has given to you in the gospel. It really is something to marvel at: the God who created all things and who “gives to all people life and breath and all things” sacrificed himself in our place. Go ahead and just spend some time giving thanks!
2. **Plan** out your year by asking God how He wants you to be generous with your time, talent, and treasure.

### **Recommended Resources**

The Grace of Giving, John Stott  
Redeeming Money, Paul David Tripp  
The Things of Earth, Joe Rigney







**go**

Who is in my Top 3?



**Who is in my Top 3?** Going means taking the initiative to help others take a step toward Jesus. It leads us to ask questions like: Who are the three people with whom I seek to share my faith right now? Am I being public with my faith and seeking to connect with them in community that overlaps with faith?



**Icebreaker**

What is something you think God wants you to do?

## Lesson #7: Go (read together)

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When I grew up, we had a saying: There are two things you never talk about – politics and religion. Those topics were off limits because both would lead to arguments and it wasn't right to "force" your views on others. Religion was a private matter. Imagine my shock when, as a new Christian, I learned that one of the fundamental roles of a true disciple was to spread the word about Jesus! I was nervous about evangelism (spreading the "good news") from day one.

But the more I read the New Testament, especially the four gospels, the more I realized that going to other people with the good news was central to Jesus' mission for His followers. In His very first sermon, the "Sermon on the Mount," He was just 13 verses into the message when He stressed the importance of His disciples spreading the good news. He said:

*You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven (Matthew 5:13-16).*

Tasteless salt is no longer salt. A light under a basket is no longer a light. Jesus was saying to His disciples: "Be salt. Be light. Let people see me through your works and words. And don't let anyone or anything stop you from being my witnesses!"

## Four Convictions

I've come to four basic convictions about sharing my faith:

1. Every disciple is supposed to "testify" about Jesus through good deeds and good news. It's called "evangelism" (announcing good news).
2. Every disciple will have fears, but we must not let the fear of people intimidate us into silence.
3. There is nothing more exciting than being on the cutting edge of ministry through sharing our faith.
4. There is nothing more thrilling than to help another person cross the line of faith and accept Jesus as Savior.

Recall our theme verse for this entire study on the eight traits of a disciple:

*Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:18-20).*

Go! Jesus didn't say, "Wait for them to come to you." He didn't say, "Start a church, put an ad in the paper, and hope people walk through your doors." He didn't say, "Stop talking about religion (and politics) if it becomes culturally unacceptable." He didn't say, "Do good deeds but don't ever open your mouth to talk about Me."

He told His disciples to go to the world with the good news, the gospel. He repeated His command to His disciples the last time He appeared to them before ascending back into heaven:

*Going means taking the initiative to help others take a step toward Jesus.*

*So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:6-8).*

They wanted to know how the end-times were going to play out. Jesus basically said: "That's none of your business. Your business is to be my Spirit-empowered witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." The book of Acts tells the story of how the first Christians obeyed this command, in a world where it was anything but easy to talk about Jesus. In most cases, they were marginalized for talking about Jesus. In some cases they were persecuted, but they were not silent. Going means taking the initiative to help others take a step toward Jesus.

## **Practical Steps to Go**

Here at Oak Pointe, we want to shape disciples who share their faith winsomely and effectively with the people in their sphere of influence. Let's get practical. How can we become more effective in sharing our faith with those in our sphere of influence?

### **1. Be prepared.**

*But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect (1 Peter 3:15).*

Are you prepared to tell someone about your faith in Jesus if they ask? Are you prepared to tell them how they also can have a relationship with Him? Do you need some training in the basics? Do you need some mentoring in how to share your faith? In August 2018, we did a teaching series called Like or Share. In it, we covered a simple four-part presentation of the gospel. Rewatching this series can help you be prepared when opportunities arise to tell others about Jesus. You can watch the series online at [oakpointe.org/messages](http://oakpointe.org/messages).

### **2. Be respectful.**

Go back to the last part of 1 Peter 3:15. It says, "But do this with gentleness and respect." Our words, our actions, and our tone should always be characterized by gentleness and respect. Nothing will turn people off more than a rude or disrespectful Christian trying to push their faith on others. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your mind, your mouth, and your manners as you seek to share Jesus with others.

### **3. Lead with good deeds.**

Someone wisely said that we need to build bridges of love strong enough to bear the weight of the gospel. The gospel is a weighty message. People need to know that we care before they will care about how much we know. Lead with actions and follow with words, as the opportunities for words open up. Be a good neighbor to someone. Do a random act of kindness for a stranger. Serve a person who needs help. Give an unexpected gift to someone. Help a friend with a project. Invite neighbors into your home for a party.

### **4. Practice Prayer - Care - Share.**

You're at work and you notice someone seems to be kind of down. You're at a restaurant and your server seems to have a heavy heart. Start by asking if you can pray for them about any pressing concerns in their life (people rarely react negatively when you offer to pray for them). Then, take a genuine interest in what they share with you, and show them in tangible ways that you really care about their needs. Perhaps there is

something you can do to help. Finally, when the timing seems right, share the reason for demonstrating love: Jesus has poured His love into your life, and you want to pour it out to others.

**5. Be prepared to share your story.**

One of the best ways to tell others about Jesus is to tell them what He has done in your life—to give your testimony. A typical testimony will have three parts:

1. What your life was like before you came to know Jesus as your Savior.
2. How you came to know Jesus.
3. How your life has changed since you came to know Jesus.

When I first started following Jesus, I was taught to write out my personal testimony in these three parts, and then to give my testimony verbally in three minutes. This is such an effective way to share your faith with others. As Josh McDowell, the famous Christian apologist, once said: "No one can argue with a personal testimony!" That's why Josh usually includes his own story in every one of his books on defending/explaining the Christian faith.

For this trait, we have borrowed a great little diagnostic question from our friends over at Kensington Church, a church that is excellent at going into a world that needs to hear about Jesus. Who is in my Top 3?

## Question #7: Who is in my Top 3?

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- Who am I praying for?
- Who am I concerned about?
- Who has God brought into my sphere of influence?
- How can I display the love of Christ to these people?
- Can I invite them to something: an event, a service project, a golf outing, a weekend service, a life group?
- Can I ask them if there is something I can pray about for them?

I'm still not big into talking politics with people. But I do like talking with people about a relationship with Jesus. It has become part of my life now. And to be honest, after a little bit of practice, the fear of sharing with people subsided. It becomes more and more natural over time, and I find that most people, if they are approached with a sincere, genuine tone, are not offended by spiritual talk.

Dr. Bill Bright, the founder of CRU, used to speak often to groups about evangelism. He would ask Christians this simple question: "What's the greatest thing that has ever happened to you in your life?" Most Christians would answer: "Coming to know Jesus as my personal Savior." Then, Dr. Bright would ask a second question: "What's the greatest thing you can do for another person?" When you think about it, the answer is obvious: to help them come to know Jesus as their personal Savior. That, in a nutshell, is why true disciples of Jesus are committed to go to their world with the good news.



## Group Discussion

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1. **Read** Matthew 28:18-20 together. What does God say disciples should do? What does God promise He will do?
2. **Read** 1 Peter 3:15 together. Who are the three people right now that you are seeking to share “the reason for the hope that you have?”
3. How are you “building bridges that can bear the weight of the gospel” right now?
4. Share your stories: What was your life like before Christ came into your life? How did you come to know Him? How has your life changed since then?



## Application

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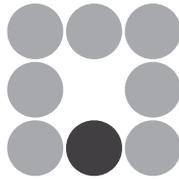
1. **Read** Matthew 5:13-16. Write out a short description of what it might look like for you to “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.” How in the coming year can you help the church to be “a city set on a hill” giving off light to the world around us?
2. **Plan** some time to answer the following questions: Who’s in my Top 3? Who has God brought into my sphere of influence? How can I display the love of Christ to these people? Can I invite them to something: an event, a service project, a golf outing, a weekend service, a life group? Can I ask them if there is something I can pray for them about?

### **Recommended Resources**

The Gospel Comes with a House Key, Rosaria Butterfield  
One to One Bible Reading, David Helm  
Making Sense of God, Timothy Keller  
Loving the City, Timothy Keller







**multiply**

Who am I pouring into?

# multiply

**Who am I pouring my life into?** Who is pouring their life into me? Multiplying is helping to form another disciple who will form another disciple. It's life-on-life discipleship with one person pouring into the next. As disciples, we teach others to grow in grace, train them with what we have learned in ministry, and challenge them to multiply into the lives of others as well.



## Icebreaker

Who has had the greatest influence on your life?

## Lesson #8: Multiply (read together)

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I wasn't great at math in school, but when I became a disciple of Jesus I learned the great math secret: multiplication beats addition. Put another way, if I was in a fishing contest, and I caught 50 fish a day, after 10 days I'd have 500 fish. If another guy in the contest decided to teach one other guy to fish on day one (and they each caught one fish), then the two of them taught two more guys to fish on day two (and they each caught one fish), and then the four of them taught four more to fish on day three (and they each caught one fish), that team of multiplying fishermen would have 512 fish after 10 days. So, after 10 days it would be a pretty close contest and I would lose to the multiplying fishermen by a score of 500–512.

Then, let's say the fishing tournament judges decided the score was so close that they would extend the fishing contest for 10 more days. Let's say I was lucky and I kept catching 50 fish a day, and the other team kept

teaching more people how to catch fish; the numbers would look like this:

	<b>Bob</b>	<b>Multiplying Fishermen</b>
<b>Day 11</b>	550	1,024
<b>Day 12</b>	600	2,048
<b>Day 13</b>	650	4,096
<b>Day 14</b>	700	8,192
<b>Day 15</b>	750	16,384
<b>Day 16</b>	800	32,768
<b>Day 17</b>	850	65,536
<b>Day 18</b>	900	131,072
<b>Day 19</b>	950	262,144
<b>Day 20</b>	1,000	524,288

I might brag to my friends about how I caught 1,000 fish in 20 days, but the other guys would have a much bigger fish tale to tell! Because, multiplication beats addition.

Maybe that's why Jesus poured Himself into a small group of disciples who would go out and multiply. Maybe Jesus knew the math secret. And maybe that's why the apostle Paul told this to one of his key disciples, Timothy:

*You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others (2 Timothy 2:1, 2).*

You see four generations of multiplying discipleship there:  
Paul → Timothy → faithful men → others.

Can that kind of spiritual multiplication happen in a church today? Absolutely! Recently, I heard about a woman in our church who began pouring into a group of about 10 women. But before she started, she told them that when they got to a certain point they'd each turn around and go through the same process with their own group of women. They agreed to do that, and after a couple years of being with her, they're starting to repeat the process as each woman pours into another group of women.

That's what we mean by "multiply." You pour into others, and they turn around and pour into others.

Jesus did that with His disciples. Paul did that with his disciples. Scott, my mentor, did that with me and a few other guys. Within a couple months he handed me a piece of paper with three names on it, and I had my own group of guys. I did with them whatever Scott did with me, and they in turn poured into others. It's called spiritual multiplication.

*To multiply is to help form another disciple who will form another disciple.*

The whole early church was built around multiplying discipleship. It was life-on-life, with one person pouring into the next. Frankly, ministry by a bunch of hired professionals in huge church settings with huge crowds was never the model. It was always about life-on-life spiritual multiplication. To multiply is to help form another disciple who will form another disciple.

What does that mean for me, as a pastor? It means that I have two options. Option one is for me to teach a crowd of people every week and hope that over time I add as many people into God's family as possible. Option two is that while I teach a crowd of people every week, I also pour into other pastors who will lead congregations, and who in turn will pour into other pastors who will do the same. I can spend my ministry life adding, or I can devote a large chunk of my time to multiplying.

What does that mean for a disciple of Jesus at Oak Pointe? It means that while you are doing ministry yourself (in whatever ministry you have chosen to be involved), you also pour into others who will be able to do ministry like you do. It means you train others with what you have learned, and you teach them to be effective. It means you also challenge them to multiply into the lives of others.

Do you lead a life group? Great! Keep going. But while you lead, train someone else to lead so that you multiply life group leaders. Do you serve on the Welcome Team on weekends? That's awesome. Keep going. But while you welcome new people to Oak Pointe, train someone else to be as

welcoming as you are so that you multiply welcomers. Do you serve in the Worship Arts? How fantastic that you are using your gifts and talents in that way. But while you lead worship, teach someone else to do what you do, so that someday there will be two of you, then four of you, then eight of you to serve as worship leaders in our ever-expanding ministries.

Here's the question we want to use with one another to make sure we are a spiritual multiplication church, and not a spiritual addition church.

## Question #8: Who am I pouring into?

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- Who's walking in your footsteps?
- Who's your Timothy?
- Who's learning to do what you do?
- Who are you teaching to fish?
- Five years from now, who will be doing what you are doing today?

I'm not good at fishing. I've caught maybe 20 fish in my lifetime (and none were very big). If I were to catch 1,000 fish in 20 days, that would be historic. But if I could be part of a multiplying team that caught half a million fish in 20 days, that would be epic.

Multiplication beats addition.



## Group Discussion

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1. **Read** 2 Timothy 2:1, 2 together. What does it look like to “entrust” the gospel to “reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others?”
2. **Read** Colossians 2:6, 7 and Ephesians 4:11, 12 together. Summarize in your own words what it means to multiply your life as a disciple.
3. Who in your life is showing you how to grow in Christ (your Paul)? Who is alongside you encouraging you to keep growing (your Barnabas)? Who are you helping to grow in Christ-likeness (your Timothy)?
4. Five years from now, who will be doing what you are doing today?



## Application

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1. **Read** Colossians 2:6, 7 and Ephesians 4:11, 12 again this week. Write out how you plan to participate in what God is doing by pouring your life into someone else in the ways these passages describe.
2. **Plan** to spend time this week asking God to show you how to pour your life into someone else in the coming year. Then do it! Your group leader will be able to recommend some ways you can do this.

### **Recommended Resources**

Spiritual Mothering, Susan Hunt  
Multiply Together, Brad Watson  
Serving a Movement, Timothy Keller  
Zeal without Burnout, Christopher Ash





# Eight Traits Assessment

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This Eight Traits Assessment is designed to help you develop an awareness of your own growth in living as a disciple of Christ in the past 12 months. Living as a disciple is a growing process that is not always linear and upward. By conducting a self-assessment, we have the opportunity to identify areas of growth and lean into God's grace and purpose for our lives. Be open and honest with yourself as you answer the questions to gain the most insight for your growth as a disciple.

After you complete the assessment and tally your response numbers for each trait, view your highest numbers as your strengths and your lowest numbers as areas of growth. Talk through your results with your group leader or coach to help plan how to use your strengths better and how to grow in your lower areas. Use your responses to the short answer questions to help your conversation with your leader be fuller and more complete.

As you read each statement, please use the scale to rate yourself based on your life in the past year, unless another time frame is specified in the statement.

## **Scale**

- 1 - Not True
- 2 - Hardly True
- 3 - Somewhat True
- 4 - Mostly True
- 5 - Usually True

## **Worship**

In the past month I can identify decisions I've made to make God my highest priority.

I am learning to trust and praise God as He works amid and through difficult circumstances in my life.

In the past month I have expressed my love for God several times each day through my thoughts and attitude toward Him (ex. through prayer, in response to His Word, through repentance and confession of sin).

I can think of specific times this past year that I've surrendered aspects of my life to God that I had previously been holding back from Him (ex. relationships, time, resources, confession of sin) .

My life this year has been more characterized by reverence for God even when I may not feel His presence.

## **Listen**

In the past month I have recalled specific verses to redirect me during times of temptation.

This past year I have read my Bible at least five times each week.

I can name several ways I've allowed God's Word to guide my thoughts and change my actions.

I seek God and listen for His direction in my daily decisions (ex. carefully considering biblical teaching, purifying my heart from the fear, pride, and idolatries that lead to unwise choices).

I look to the Bible to give me perspective on all things.

## Pray

This past year I have maintained an attitude of prayer (speaking and listening to God) throughout each day.

This past year I have relied on God for all my needs by asking Him in prayer and petition to provide.

This past year I have consistently asked for God's will to be done in my life as well as others' lives.

My prayers include praise, thanksgiving, confession of sin, and requests.

This past year my relationship with God is fully open and transparent as we talk about anything and everything that is on my heart.

## Restore

I pause at least once a day to identify what I am thinking and feeling.

I understand and cooperate with God's purposes for my emotions, especially the difficult ones.

I get help from people that I trust to deal with the triggers in my life (a trigger is anything that produces difficult emotions such as anger, fear, guilt, shame, anxiety).

I have processed the impact that specific events have had in my life, such as the death of a family member, an unexpected pregnancy, divorce, addiction, or major financial disaster.

I am applying the concepts taught in the Life Studies classes to my life, to help me with restoration.

## **Connect**

I am finding mutual encouragement, support, spiritual growth, and social interaction through meeting with my life group.

I have relationships in my life that are Christ-centered and where there is a level of trust that enables us to be honest and open with each other.

I have people in my life who have the freedom to correct, challenge, or guide me when needed.

I have carried out the command to love my enemy and to forgive others as Christ has forgiven me.

I resolve conflict in a clear, direct, and respectful way, rather than how I might have learned growing up in my family (such as painful put-downs, avoidance, escalating tensions, or going to a third party rather than to the person directly).

## **Give**

During times of uncertainty regarding provisions, I worry less and trust God more.

I am currently serving God with the gifts and passions He has given me.

I have budgeted my money to give to God first.

I have given to God out of joy and worship, not obligation.

I have identified people and places where my giving is making a difference.

## Go

I have had conversations about Jesus with others who don't know Him in the past month.

I have a list of people I am praying for who don't know Jesus.

I am prepared and know how to share my faith with others.

I have reviewed my personal story and am prepared to share how I came to faith in Jesus.

I am currently building bridges with co-workers, neighbors, friends, and relatives who don't know Jesus, and am praying for opportunities to plant seeds.

## Multiply

I have a more mature Christian in my life who I meet with for guidance and conversation.

I have an intentional relationship with a growing Christian who I help to guide in their walk with Jesus.

I am involved in ministry that enables me to equip and develop others in the gifting God has given me.

I have a plan I am working on that allows me to mentor others who will also mentor others.

I can think of several times I've encouraged my closest relationships toward more intimacy with Christ.

## Short Answer Questions

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### Worship

- How does my love for Jesus show?
- What can I do to increase the love I have for Jesus?
- What steps can I take to show my love for Jesus more?

### Listen

- How am I living out God's Word today?
- What are the top 3-5 verses that I have used to guide my thoughts and actions?
- What steps can I take to get more of the Bible in my life?

### Pray

- What am I talking to God about?
- What can I do to improve my prayer life?

### Restore

- How am I facing things that hold me down?
- What steps can I take to grow in how well I face the things that hold me down?

## Connect

- Who are my 2am friends?
- What steps can I take to get better connections in my life?

## Give

- Where am I serving and giving?
- What steps can I take to improve my giving?

## Go

- Who is in my Top 3?
- What can I do to help others take a step toward Jesus?

## Multiply

- Who am I pouring into?
- What steps can I take to pour into others in a way that spreads to even more people?

# the eight

WORSHIP

LISTEN

PRAY

RESTORE

CONNECT

GIVE

GO

MULTIPLY

OAK**POINTE**  
C H U R C H

[oakpointe.org/theeight](https://oakpointe.org/theeight)