

What is a Disciple?

A disciple is someone who is:

- Following Christ
- Being changed by Christ, and
- Committed to the mission of Christ.

A disciple is a follower of Christ in the process of being conformed to his image.

What is Discipleship?

Discipleship is the ongoing process of becoming and growing more like Christ and pursuing the mission we share with Him for as long as we live.

- Discipleship starts with a change of heart, not just a change in action.
- Being a disciple is far more important than having a plan to make disciples.

Stages of Discipleship

- Stage 1: Spiritually Dead
 - a. Potential disciples are still unbelievers. They are dead in sin (Eph. 2:1) and destined for eternal judgment without a relationship with Christ.
- Stage 2: Spiritual Infant
 - a. New believers are excited and eager, but not yet knowledgeable about faith.
- Stage 3: Spiritual Child
 - a. Believers who are beginning to learn their faith but still sometimes reflect childlike and self-centered tendencies.
- Stage 4: Spiritual Young Adult
 - a. Believers have grown significantly and want to serve in the church. They still need discipleship, though, and they are typically not ready to “reproduce disciples who can make disciples.”
- Stage 5: Parenting Stage
 - a. Mature believers are not just long-term believers; they are believers who intentionally reproduce themselves through disciple-making.

Levels of Church Discipleship

- Corporate level
- Small Group Level
- Mentoring Level