



# CTK NORTH BAY DISCIPLESHIP

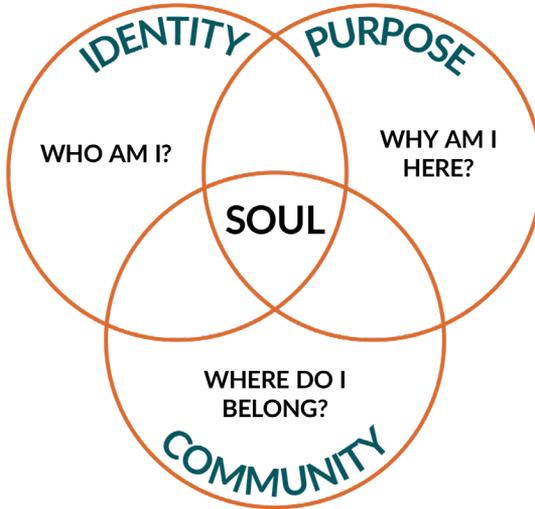
community, identity, purpose

Your guide to a  
transforming life  
of discipleship

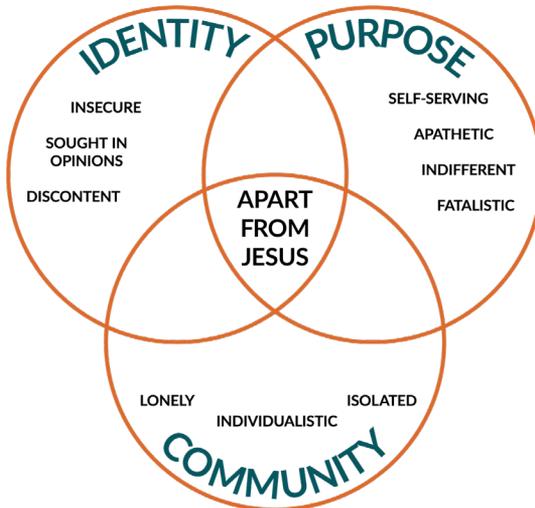
# INTRODUCTION

Everything we ask ourselves in life boils down to three essential and recurring questions:

- Where do I belong? (Community)
- Who am I? (Identity)
- Why am I here? (Purpose)



Without Christ, it's easy for us to wander on each:



Being a disciple of Jesus brings resolution to these three big questions. In Jesus and His church we find community, identity, and purpose. At CTK North Bay, our discipleship process is centered on these three questions and reflected in our mission statement:

To create authentic Christ-centered communities that love God wholeheartedly and reach out intentionally so that others experience new life in Jesus and a transforming life of discipleship.

## OUR MEANING

Discipleship is all incremental movement of heart, soul, mind, and strength toward Christlikeness. It doesn't stop once someone knows Jesus, and those who don't know Jesus aren't disqualified from discipleship. It involves intentional relationships that model and lead people toward following Jesus and His mission.

Like a pH scale, discipleship is a spectrum towards Christlikeness.



# WHY DISCIPLESHIP?

Discipleship is the primary work of the church. We are to grow in discipleship through faithful obedience to Jesus, and we are called to go and make disciples who make more disciples. It is the lifelong process of becoming more like Jesus and helping other people do the same. Matthew 28:19-20 says, “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Discipleship occurs as we are transformed through our following of Christ.

## OUR PROCESS

Our Discipleship Process at CTK North Bay is expressed in cultivating three habits that are based on our three big questions.





# WHERE DO I FIT?

## The Habit of BELONGING through Authentic Christ-centered communities.

We all desire to belong. At CTK North Bay, we are not a “behave first” church. You do not have to act like your life is perfect in order to be a part of our community. Jesus never gave prerequisites but rather a simple invitation, which always started with “Come follow me.” (Luke 18:22; Matt. 16:24; Mark 1:17; Luke 9:23). Jesus knew that discipleship was a process of people following Him, day in and day out.

Just as Jesus accepts us for who we are, we are called to do the same for others. We desire to build a culture where regardless of what anyone has done or will do, they are welcome to discover what it means to know God and experience a transformed life of following Him. It’s through this level of acceptance for one another that we find a safe place to share our story.

This authenticity opens up the opportunity for Christ to dwell in our hearts, leading to incremental movement towards Christlikeness. Our goal isn’t to make everyone conform to a certain behavior, it’s to help all people know they are

invited to be in relationship with God. Through walking with people in their discipleship journey, we have hope they are made new in Christ. We do not operate out of simply trying to change behavior. We set out to help people follow Jesus through embodying and enacting belonging in our community.

## How do we build a habit of belonging?

To cultivate a habit of belonging, we participate in practices that build belonging within us and others. We embody these practices in a variety of spaces, primarily in small groups, our worship gatherings, and in our individual pursuits of Jesus. During the worship gathering, we practice belonging through having eyes for those around us and by being willing to be uncomfortable in order to make others comfortable. We do this in small groups and all other spaces we exist in because we know that if we as individuals are growing in this habit, then our community will be too.

A way to cultivate the habit of belonging is through certain practices relating to fellowship. Some practices we may take on are:

- Confession and reconciliation with one another. Confession is a practice that allows us to press towards authenticity with a purpose. As we pursue Christlikeness, confession is a practice that pushes us to draw towards Christ with one another. It cultivates the habit of belonging as we pursue our most authentic selves in Jesus.
- Intentionality
- Eating and drinking is the practice of having meals with others. As we do this we organically create belonging within our community.
- Peacemaking
- Service is beneficial for others but it also gives people a place to feel like they are part of our community. There's a level of commitment and consistency that comes through service.

# WHO AM I?

The Habit of BELIEVING is cultivated through finding identity in a New Life in Jesus.

We all could say there have been seasons of our lives where we have had an identity crisis. The truth is not who you say you are or what others say about you, but who God is. In this, we discover who He is and whom we are to be. Believing is about discovering more about the reality of God and thus the reality of who we are. This habit is where we learn to trust and place our faith in Christ. In believing, we can be transformed through Christ.

## How do we build a habit of believing?

To cultivate a habit of believing we participate in practices that build believing within us and others. The primary place this happens is in our individual relationships with Jesus. The majority of our spiritual development is on us as we spend time with God, know Him, and pray to Him. We do not depend on someone else to do our faith for us.

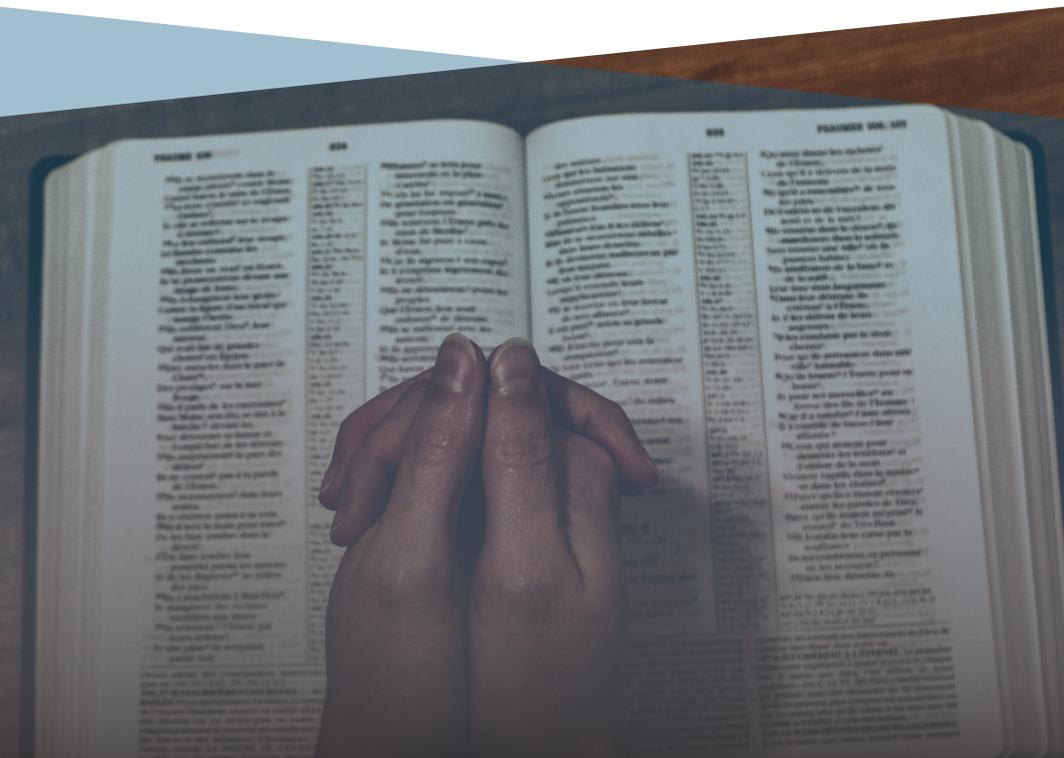
To grow in believing we must take ownership of our faith. Community, small groups, worship services, and church activities are amazing resources that help us develop a belief of who He is and who we are. But the primary responsibility falls on us and prioritizing our own faith.

A way to cultivate the habit of believing is through certain practices relating to quiet time with God. Some practices we may take on are:

- Reading Scripture: There are many different ways to approach this practice, such as Lectio Divina, SOAP, devotionals, etc. The goal is to know God's word so that we may grow in our belief and understanding of

who He is and who we are.

- Prayer: There are many different types of prayer that we can practice. Some involve listening, some involve journaling, some involve intercession, and much more. In prayer, we are connecting with God and learning to be with Him so that we may know Him. As we know Him, we grow in our ability to trust and believe in Him.
- Sabbath
- Silence/Solitude
- Surrender
- Generosity: Practicing generosity can change our hearts and help us prioritize our resources in a way that worships God first. In doing so, we grow in our belief that there's nothing better to invest in than His kingdom.
- Fasting



# WHY AM I HERE?

## The Habit of BECOMING through a transforming life.

The habit of becoming recognizes that we are in process our entire lives. We are always becoming someone through the daily choices we make. Becoming a Christian is not just about getting saved to have a fast pass to heaven. The gospel is less about getting to heaven when we die and more about living in God's kingdom now. Jesus declares that the kingdom of God is near, that the way He desires all things to be, is coming through Himself. His invitation is to experience a meaningful and abundant life that is found in "Kingdom Living."

You see, none of us arrive fully in spiritual maturity during our time on Earth. There's a process of growth that occurs in a long obedience towards faithfulness. The habit of becoming is all about becoming more Christlike as we live out our God-given calling. Becoming gives purpose to our lives as we recognize that Jesus is the one who transforms us as we daily submit to His authority and leadership. As we follow Him, we live on mission as disciples of the one true king who will make more disciples.

How do we build a habit of becoming?

To cultivate a habit of becoming we participate in practices that push us to grow in obedience and faithfulness. This is because we know that becoming is done through a consistent commitment to following and submitting to Jesus.

To become like Him we must start by being with Him. As we are with Him, we get to know Him. As we know Him we learn to love Him. As we love Him we learn to obey Him. It's through this obedience we are transformed by God. We do not change ourselves--we know it is not effort and grit that makes us more like Christ, but it is surrender and obedience.

We cultivate this habit in relationships with one another and in our own individual relationships with Christ. We do this with one another as we push and disciple each other towards growth within the context of a community. And in becoming, we hopefully grow in our leadership, service, and fruit of the spirit towards being someone who makes disciples who also make disciples.

A way to cultivate the habit of believing is through certain practices relating to serving, leading, and discipling. Some practices we may take on are:

- Participating in the enneagram. We can use this tool to help us reflect on who we are and to identify ways we'd like to grow.
- Sabbath forms and shapes us to be people who consistently prioritize the Lord and it keeps us grounded in reliance upon Him as we are becoming.
- Rule of Life A tool that helps us organize and prioritize our lives so that we can live in a consistent rhythm of surrender to God's transformative love in and through us.
- Simple Living A practice where we purposefully deny our wants for more and rely simply on God's provision, forming us to be grateful and grounded.
- Dealing with your past-Identify key events, sin patterns, and generational brokenness to partner with God towards healing and restoration.

# NOTES



## Being a disciple of Jesus brings resolution to three big questions.

At CTK North Bay, our discipleship process is centered on these three questions and reflected in our mission statement:

To create authentic Christ-centered communities that love God wholeheartedly and reach out intentionally so that others experience new life in Jesus and a transforming life of discipleship.

Take the transformative steps toward discipleship today with your small group leader!