Ongoing Discipleship Syllabus

Open enrollment • No fixed endpoint • Modular, Scripture-centered, practice-oriented

Purpose and instructional approach

This is a continuing discipleship workshop within the existing church class, supported by Pastor David and Larry. Each meeting stands on its own. The curriculum begins with shared foundations, then cycles through biblical responsibilities and real questions from participants. The purpose is not to finish a book or complete a predetermined number of weeks, but to equip believers to follow Christ faithfully.

Mission statement (for website and group review): We grow together as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ by knowing His Word, applying His teaching to everyday life, and sharing the Gospel. Through prayer, Scripture, honest inquiry, practical experience, and mutual encouragement, we strengthen one another to live out God's calling.

Foundational principles

- Three pillars: Know Christ • Walk with Christ • Share Christ. Walking with Christ is the overarching life of discipleship; knowing and sharing are essential expressions of it.
- Salvation is by grace through faith in Christ, not earned through class participation or works (Ephesians 2:8–10).
- Every class includes opening and closing prayer, relevant Scripture, and immediate opportunity for respectful questions and scriptural examination.
- Apologetics, science, and philosophy are tools to help understand and communicate faith, not ends in themselves.
- The group learns from participants' decades of Christian experience, professional experience, and real-life testimony.

Opening sequence: proposed first 10 sessions

Session	Theme and biblical anchor	Practice / outcome
1	What is discipleship? Matthew 28:18–20; John 15:4–5; Ephesians 4:11–16	Define the three pillars; discuss mission and covenant; leader introduction; invite hopes and questions.
2	How to read and interpret Scripture. 2 Timothy 3:16–17; Acts 17:11; 2 Timothy 2:15	Practice context, genre, cross-references, and investigating unclear passages.
3	Walking with Christ on Monday morning. James 1:22; Galatians 5:16–25; John 13:34–35	Apply a passage to real decisions, relationships, forgiveness, service, and prayer.
4	Why share Christ? Matthew 28:19–20; 2 Corinthians 5:18–20; 1 Peter 3:15	Explain the Gospel's place in discipleship; discuss motivation, love, and listening.
5	Who might we talk with? Colossians 4:5–6; John 4:7–26	Map natural, receptive, low-pressure opportunities; distinguish receptiveness from personal worth.

6	Starting conversations. Acts 8:26–35; Colossians 4:5–6	Invite James to describe his experience; compare respectful openings; practice in pairs.
7	Explaining salvation clearly. John 3:16; Romans 3:23; 6:23; Ephesians 2:8–10	Develop a simple Gospel explanation; role-play follow-up questions.
8	What if they say no or ask something hard? 1 Peter 3:15; 2 Timothy 2:24–25	Practice listening, respectful disagreement, admitting uncertainty, and follow-up.
9	Discipleship in Action workshop. Acts 18:24–28; Proverbs 27:17	Debrief real conversations and application attempts; create first version of field guide.
10	Love, service, and spiritual fruit. Galatians 6:2; 1 Corinthians 13; Galatians 5:22–23	Choose a practical act of care or service; reflect on love as the governing principle.

Sessions are provisional, not a fixed ten-week course. A topic may take multiple meetings; the group may follow important questions when they arise.

Recurring curriculum modules

A. Scripture and biblical discernment

Canon and reliability; context and interpretation; Old and New Testaments; comparing passages; doctrine and uncertainty.

Starting passages: 2 Timothy 3:16–17; Acts 17:11; Luke 24:27

B. Walking with Christ

Prayer; dependence on the Holy Spirit; love; forgiveness; holiness; serving others; stewardship; spiritual fruit; navigating daily decisions.

Starting passages: John 15:4–5; James 1:22; Galatians 5:16–25

C. Evangelism fundamentals and field practice

Why we witness; who to approach; safe and natural opportunities; how to begin; listening; presenting salvation; follow-up; testimony and debrief.

Starting passages: Matthew 28:19–20; Acts 8:26–35; Colossians 4:5–6

D. Apologetics and difficult conversations

God's existence; suffering and evil; morality; other religions; Bible objections; questions about salvation, judgment, and hell; practice responses.

Starting passages: 1 Peter 3:15; Jude 3; 2 Timothy 2:24–25

E. Science, philosophy, and Christian belief

Cosmology, fine-tuning, entropy, quantum ideas, evolution, origin of life, consciousness, free will. Distinguish established findings from hypotheses and philosophical claims.

Starting passages: Genesis 1:1; Psalm 19:1; Romans 1:20

F. Theology and disputed interpretations

Grace, faith, assurance, eternal security, Calvinism and TULIP, election, free will, and responsible interpretation of disputed passages.

Starting passages: Ephesians 2:8–10; Romans 8; John 10:27–29

G. Church life and mutual care

Fellowship, accountability, mentoring, encouraging one another, service and ministry participation; coordinate rather than duplicate other church programs.

Starting passages: Acts 2:42–47; Hebrews 10:24–25; 1 Peter 4:10

Evangelism practice ladder

Stage	Examples	Practice goal
1. Receptive relationships	Interested family, friends, neighbors, people who initiate spiritual questions.	Listen, ask permission, tell your story, share a clear Gospel message.
2. Uncertain everyday interactions	Acquaintances or brief conversations where beliefs are unknown.	Read the situation, respect time and boundaries, accept a no gracefully.
3. Challenging objections	Skeptical or hostile ideas, difficult theological or scientific questions.	Respond accurately and gently; know when to defer, research, or disengage.

Every person has equal dignity and is within the scope of Christian witness. The practice ladder reflects conversational readiness and safety, not who deserves the Gospel. Safety and church access concerns are handled by appropriate church leadership.

The ongoing learning loop

PREPARE: study Scripture and pray. → PRACTICE: discuss, role-play, or plan. → ACT: apply a biblical teaching or engage a respectful conversation. → REFLECT: share what happened. → IMPROVE: investigate questions and refine the approach.

Shared class resources

- Mission statement and class covenant, reviewed together and adjusted as appropriate.
- One-page Evangelism Field Guide, revised from actual experiences and participant wisdom.
- Questions-to-Investigate register, with Scripture and follow-up notes.
- Optional personal discipleship journal: passage, application, conversation, lesson learned.
- A bank of difficult questions drawn from theology, apologetics, science, and everyday Christian life.

How to evaluate whether the class is helping

Use periodic group discussion rather than a pass/fail test: Are participants more comfortable finding and understanding Scripture? Are they identifying practical ways to follow Christ? Are they growing in love, encouragement, and prayer? Are they more prepared to explain the Gospel and discuss difficult questions? What should the class change?

Scriptural orientation

Matthew 28:19–20 • Ephesians 4:11–16 • James 1:22 • Acts 17:11 • John 15:4–5 • 1 Peter 3:15 • Galatians 5:22–23 • Proverbs 27:17