

What is a Disciple?

A disciple of Jesus is not merely a believer, but an apprentice—someone who increasingly orders their life around Christ and His Kingdom by **being with Jesus, becoming like Jesus, and doing what Jesus did.**

Jesus' invitation was not simply *"believe in Me,"* but *"follow Me"* (Matthew 4:19). **At the root of discipleship is a response to His love and authority** expressed through a growing conviction to live out His greatest commands:

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength... and love your neighbor as yourself." — Mark 12:30–31

This love is not optional—it gives meaning to everything we do as disciples, as Paul states, *"If I have... all knowledge... and have not love, I am nothing"* (1 Corinthians 13:2).

Christ is Lord over every area of life, and discipleship begins with surrender to Him. It is shaped by a love for God and others, which directs all obedience and action.

A disciple is:

- Rooted in grace, yielded to Christ, evidenced by obedience
- Focused on transformation before influence
- Marked by humility, repentance, love, and trust

"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." — Luke 9:23

Discipleship is not behavior management, but Spirit-led transformation from the inside out.

"Be transformed by the renewal of your mind." — Romans 12:2

Disciple-Making

Jesus calls every disciple to help make disciples with His command, *"Go therefore and make disciples..."* (Matthew 28:19–20).

Disciple-making happens relationally through sharing life, opening Scripture, modeling obedience, encouraging growth, and helping others follow Jesus in everyday life.

The goal is selfless multiplication—not merely personal growth.

"What you have heard from me... entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also." — 2 Timothy 2:2

As disciples mature, they increasingly invest in others so that disciples make disciples.



Discipleship in the Forum

Within the Forum, discipleship unfolds in a trusted community of peers where leaders pursue Christ-centered formation through content and conversation grounded in Scriptural truth, alongside **encouragement**, reflection, prayer, accountability, and honest dialogue.

In a cultural moment where many leaders lack spaces to be truly real, raw, and honest about their faith and leadership—and where following Christ can bring increasing pressure and resistance—the Forum becomes uniquely fertile ground for discipleship—an environment where Partners are deeply known, courageously challenged, and continually refined into more faithful and mature disciples of Jesus.

Here, **Christ-like character and relational maturity** are intentionally developed as leaders learn to discern God's voice, refine motives, surface blind spots, and respond in obedience rather than urgency.

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." — Proverbs 27:17

As a result, the Forum **equips** and accelerates **spiritual formation** through peer-to-peer Christ-centered leadership, preparing Partners to **steward their influence** faithfully and **engage** in disciple-making.

Discipleship Outside the Forum

Outside the Forum, discipleship is lived out through faithful presence at home, at work, in leadership, and within a Christ-centered, Bible-believing local church community.

God's primary intention for the local church is for worship, teaching, encouragement, accountability, serving, and spiritual growth.

"Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together..." — Hebrews 10:24–25

The Forum is not a replacement for the local church, but a complementary environment that helps leaders integrate faith and disciple-making into everyday life.

Partners model authentic faith and invest intentionally in others, mentoring and walking alongside individuals or small groups to help them follow Jesus. They do this through encouragement, shared life, Scripture, prayer, wise counsel, and faithful example—always in ways that remain relational and adaptable, not formulaic.

Discipleship occurs with the application of the 4E Pathway outside of the Forum:

- **Encouraging** purpose, growth, and perseverance
- **Equipping** through Scripture, truth, modeling, and guidance
- **Engaging** in everyday life and leadership
- **Executing** through obedient action and influence in response to God's leading

"Be doers of the word, and not hearers only." — James 1:22

Over time, this intentional, relational investment—lived out through consistent faithfulness—shapes people, strengthens communities, and multiplies the influence of Christ through others.