

ELLIOTT HEIGHTS'

Discipleship Pathway



What is God's Purpose for His Church?

The purpose of the church is found in Matthew 28:18-20, "Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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."¹

Jesus emphasized his authority in the mission he was ready to give to his disciples. Although they were frail and some even doubting (verse 17), it did not matter, as the authority of Jesus would give them what they needed in order to fulfill the mandate: the mission that Jesus was about to give. The main verb (the imperative) in the mission is the emphasis "to make disciples". Jesus did not keep this general, but gave three participles to help explain what disciple-making looks like: going, baptizing, and teaching. These remain the same today.

Going- Jesus calls his disciples to go, as they have been sent intentionally to all nations so that everyone they meet would hear the gospel message through the disciples' words and deeds. Through going and sharing the gospel, an opportunity arises for someone to respond and become a disciple of Jesus.

1) Baptizing- For those who hear the gospel message, begin believing the message, and respond with a heart of repentance, they become a disciple of Jesus. Jesus makes it very clear that they must be baptized; a symbol that represents one's conversion to becoming a disciple of Jesus.

2) Teaching- Once a person has become a disciple, Jesus calls his disciples to teach that person everything from God's Word so that they can know God's truths and standards. They also need to teach them how to apply these truths and standards to their life. This teaching process encourages growing and maturing for that disciple of Jesus. Any disciple who obeys Jesus' mission to make disciples will experience the result that Jesus promises; Jesus will be with them always. They will experience the presence of Jesus.

What is the motive that drives us to do the disciple making mission?

The Great Commandments

"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: Hear O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." The second is this, "Love your neighbour as yourself." There is no commandment greater than these." Mark 12:29-31

¹ Matthew 28:18-20, NIV.

In this passage, Jesus emphasizes three love directions.

The first is of course to love God. However, to love our neighbour is focusing on two types of neighbours. According to the Bible who are the two types of neighbours?

Answer: Love the church, and Love the world

What does it look like for a mature follower of Christ to love God and to love people?

As a church we understand that each disciple of Christ needs to grow in six areas in order to become a mature disciple for Christ. We call them the Six Growth Essentials.



Six Growth Essentials

Love God:

Biblical Obedience – We expect people to know the word of God and be living their lives accordingly. We seek to raise the significance of knowing and following God’s word as an expectation for every Christ follower.

Empowered Prayer – We expect people to be engaging personally and corporately in Spirit-empowered prayer. It is prayer that is heartfelt, personal and should be “scripture fed” and “Spirit led.” We seek to increase the understanding and priority of prayer in the lives of the people at Elliott.

Participatory Worship – We expect people to participate in Sunday morning worship as an outflow of their individual worship of God, and as an encouragement to build up fellow believers. We seek to increase the level of engagement in participatory worship at Elliott.

Love Others:

Intentional Evangelism – We expect disciples to build on their relationships with unbelievers and to prayerfully look for opportunities to share Christ with them. We seek to reinvigorate a passion for intentional evangelism at Elliott.

Sacrificial Service – We expect people to serve one another sacrificially; investing time, energy and other resources to fulfill their role as part of the body of Christ. We seek to promote a culture of willing sacrificial service at EHBC.

Committed Fellowship – We expect people to be committed to the body of Christ by building community, maintaining unity and practicing the “one anothers” of Scripture. We seek to promote a culture of committed fellowship amongst the believers at Elliott.

Know, Grow Show...

As we experience discipleship, we will begin to mature in the different “Growth Essentials”. Our maturing has three aspects which build on each other:

- 1) Know: We begin to learn the truths from God’s Word in each essential
- 2) Grow: We apply what we know and allow God’s truth to transform our lives
- 3) Show: We use our knowledge and personal experience of each Growth Essential to disciple others.

Questions...

Biblical Obedience

Know: How well do I know the Bible?

Grow: How is the Bible transforming my life?

Show: How can I help others be transformed by God’s Word?

Empowered Prayer

Know: How well do I understand the importance of prayer and how it works?

Grow: How transformative is my prayer life?

Show: How can I help others to experience empowered prayer?

Participatory Worship

Know: How well do I know what it means to worship God?

Grow: How is my participation in worship transforming my life?

Show: How is my participation in worship transforming the lives of others?

Committed Fellowship

Know: How well do I know the “one anothers” from the Bible?

Grow: How well am I living out the “one anothers”?

Show: How can I help others live out the “one anothers”?

Sacrificial Service

Know: How well do I know my role in serving the body of Christ?

Grow: How am overcoming barriers to service so that I can continue to develop in my

ministry to others?

Show: How can I coach others in fulfilling their roles within the body of Christ?

Intentional Evangelism

Know: How well do I know the gospel and how to share my faith to those who need Christ?

Grow: How am I doing in sharing my faith to others from what I already know?

Show: How am I empowering others to share their faith?

Methods: Sunday Service, Discipleship, Serving

In order to effectively mature as a disciple in Christ, a person needs to participate in three things.

- a) Each person needs to attend and be engaged in our Sunday service.
- b) This person needs to participate in at least one of our discipleship options: Growth Essential, WEE Groups, or Discipleship Coaching.
- c) This person needs to use their gifts and abilities and choose to serve the Lord alongside other brothers and sisters in Christ.

Elliott Heights Discipleship Opportunities:

- 1) Sunday Service:** Every Sunday, we have the opportunity to use the “Essentials”: prayer, worship, fellowship, evangelism and service. It is a time to be discipled through the expository sermon and through scriptures that are shared.
- 2) Growth Essential:** Most Sundays after the Sunday service, we provide a Growth Essential Class that focuses on an aspect of one of our Growth Essentials. This gives someone the opportunity to learn, grow, and become equipped to show what they learn to someone else.

Example: “The Gospel Voice in a Shifting Culture” is an emphasis on “Intentional Evangelism”

3) **Small Groups:** Our “Small Groups” are called “WEE Groups”

Small Groups:
Weighing the Sermon
Elevating One Another in Prayer
Engaging in Fellowship

We have one on Thursday evenings called “Open WEE Group” and two Women’s small groups that take place on Wednesdays. We also have our Young Adult Small Group that meets every other Monday. They tend to study a book of the Bible.

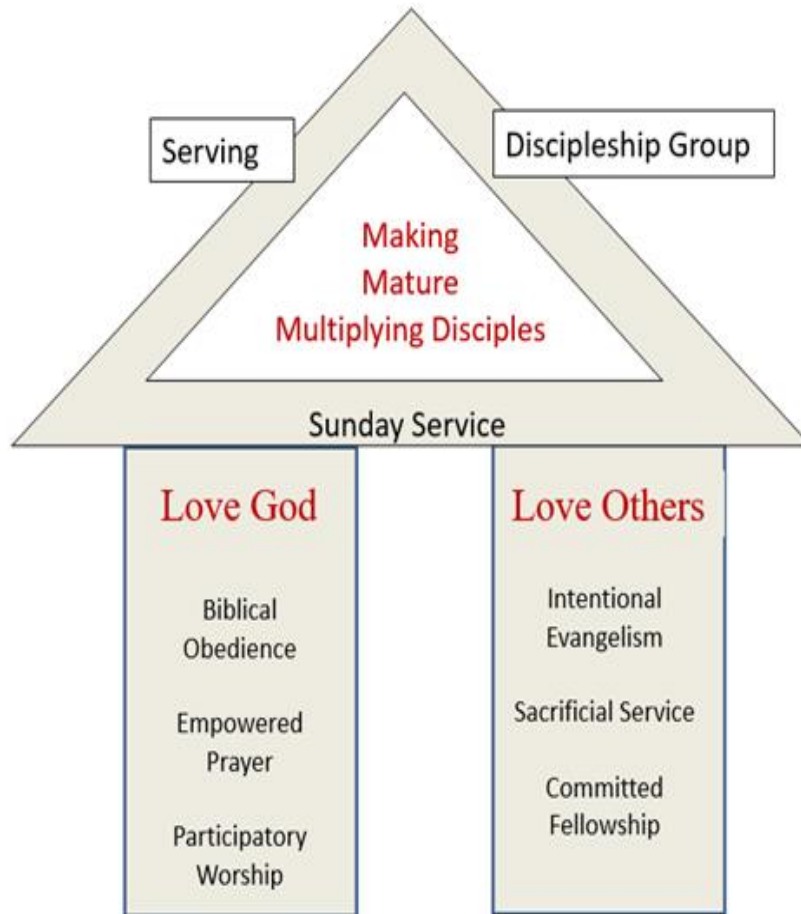
4) **Discipleship Coaching:** Although this part of our discipleship is still in its infancy, we are continually finding ways to grow this area of discipleship. This is one-on-one discipleship; coming alongside someone and equipping them in the Growth Essentials that need some growing, and empowering them to disciple others where they are equipped to do so. In September, we hope to provide the Discipleship Coaching course, as we believe everyone is called to make disciples.

5) **Service:** When we serve within a ministry, we have the opportunity to mature as a disciple, as we will have the opportunity to use what we have been taught and bring God glory through using our gifts and abilities for Him.

As a church, our desire is to have people serve where God has gifted them. Sometimes we are not too sure where to serve and that is okay. We believe it is important to give everyone the opportunity to try different serving opportunities for brief experiences to see where you are best suited. Once a person has found their niche, the goal is to serve in that ministry for a year, and then allow each person to re-evaluate if serving in that ministry is where God still wants them to serve.

Balanced Discipleship:

Putting it all together, this pathway outlines all the aspects needed for someone to become a mature multiplying disciple for Jesus Christ: it’s like building a house on a solid foundation that cannot be destroyed.



LOVING GOD



LOVING OTHERS