



DISCIPLESHIP COURSE

Front Line People Church

1. Introduction - The Beginning

1.1. Creation

In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth (**Genesis 1, John 1:3, Colossians 1:16**) and declared that everything was **good**. After that He formed the man from the dust of the earth and breathed His life into him and he became a living being (**Genesis 2:7**). God then took the man and placed him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. God further commanded the man that he may eat of any tree in the garden, however, he may not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil because if he does, he will surely die (**Genesis 2:15-17**). God then formed the woman from the man's rib because He saw that the man was lonely, and God saw that it was not good man to be alone (**Genesis 2:18-23**). The man was called Adam and the woman, Eve.

1.2. Sin and the need for Salvation

In Genesis 3 we read how the serpent deceived Eve into eating the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, which God forbade them to do and, subsequently giving it to Adam to eat as well. Because of that disobedience, sin entered the world causing a split in the relationship between man and God.

It is important to understand that it has always been God's desire to live in eternal fellowship with man. Hence, when Adam and Eve sinned, God already had a plan to restore man's relationship with Him. That redemption plan was fulfilled in the coming of His son, Jesus Christ to die for our sins (**John 3:16-18**).

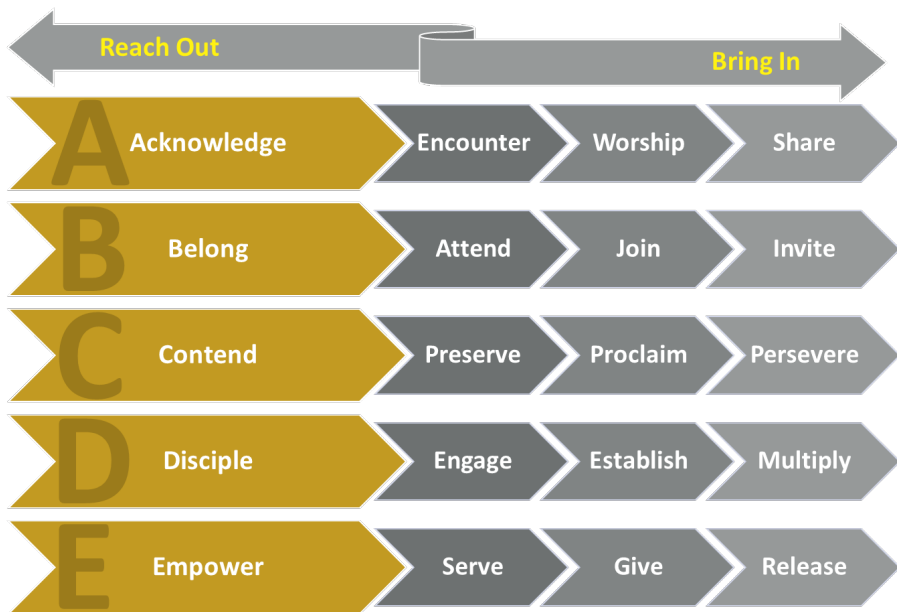
Jesus had to die because the punishment of sin is death (**Genesis 2:15-17, Romans 3:23;6:23**). But the resurrection of Jesus Christ signifies that he has defeated death. If you choose to ACKNOWLEDGE Jesus Christ as your King, Lord and Savior, you accept this gift by faith (**Ephesians 2:8-9**),

enabling you to be restored back onto eternal fellow with Him in the afterlife.

1.3. Reach Out-Bring In Pathway

The following chapters will highlight some of the fundamentals of our Christian faith using the “Reach Out-Bring In” model of discipleship as illustrated below.

The call is to actively reach out to the lost and bring them into the fullness of eternal fellowship with Christ by embodying biblical doctrine for daily living.



2.A - Acknowledge

2.1. Encounter:

Encounter the love and grace of Jesus Christ, acknowledging Him as your First Love.

The most important decision you will ever make is to ACKNOWLEDGE Jesus Christ as your King, Lord and Savior and begin to follow Him. The Bible teaches that Jesus gave up His life to save yours, and that by placing your faith in Him you will have your sins forgiven, that you will be filled with His Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38,4:31), and that you will receive eternal life. Practically speaking, the Bible outlines four responses that are expected when a person begins a personal relationship with Jesus: repentance, faith, confession and baptism.

2.1.1. Repentance:

Repentance involves a genuine acknowledgment and turning away from one's sins. It is a change of heart and mind that leads to a changed life. Examples from scripture include Jesus' call to *repent and believe in the gospel* (Mark 1:15) and Peter's exhortation to *repent and be baptized* (Acts 2:38).

2.1.2. Faith:

Faith is the essential response of trusting in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. It involves believing in who He is and what He has done. **Ephesians 2:8-9** says, "*For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*"

2.1.3. Confession:

Confessing Jesus as Lord is a crucial response in beginning a relationship with Him.

Romans 10:9 says, *“If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”*

2.1.4. Baptism:

Baptism is the outward symbol of the inward spiritual reality of salvation. It represents the believer's identification with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. Jesus commanded his followers to be baptized (Matthew 28:19) and the early church baptized new believers (Acts 2:38-41, 8:12, 16:31-33).

These four responses - repentance, faith, confession, and baptism - are foundational to beginning a relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

2.2. Worship:

Engage in heartfelt worship, expressing your reverence and acknowledgment of God, His Son and the Holy Spirit.

Psalms 95:6-7

“Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.”

We were created to worship and bow down before the Lord, acknowledging Him as our Creator and Shepherd. We are all invited to engage in humble, reverent worship.

John 4:23-24

“But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

Jesus teaches that true worship involves worshipping the Father in spirit and in truth. This means engaging our whole being – heart, mind, and spirit – in worshipping God sincerely and according to His nature and will.

Philippians 2:9-11

“Therefore, God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

We are called to engage in heartfelt, sincere worship that acknowledges the greatness, sovereignty, and worthiness of God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Worship involves bowing before God, confessing His Lordship, and expressing reverence and gratitude for who He is and what He has done.

2.3. Share:

Tell others about your acknowledgment and journey with Christ

Sharing your personal faith story with others can feel intimidating, but it is an important part of the Christian life and can be incredibly rewarding. At its core, it simply involves telling your story – recounting your journey of acknowledging and following Jesus Christ. The Bible refers to this as "witnessing": much like a witness in a courtroom, you are simply sharing what you have seen and experienced in relation to God the Father, God the Son, God the Spirit and your own faith. This is also known as "evangelism", which is a foundational practice in the Christian faith.

Sharing your testimony, or faith story, can be a wonderful way to connect with people and communicate your passion for Christ in a thoughtful, approachable manner (Acts 4:20). While it may seem daunting, remember that your personal story is uniquely yours and has the power to inspire, encourage, and point others towards the transformative truth of the gospel. The key is to focus on authentically sharing how your life has been impacted by your relationship with Jesus (1 Peter 3:15). By doing so, you are fulfilling the Biblical call to be a witness and share the hope that you have found in Christ (Mathew 20:18-20; Acts 1:8).

1 Peter 3:15

“But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.”

SELF-REFLECTION:

Do you have a conviction to REPENT of your sins?

Have you confessed that Jesus Christ is Lord and Master of your life?

What are your next steps to ACKNOWLEDGE Jesus Christ?

Are you encouraged to share with someone about your journey? Who?

3. Belong

Vibrant, lasting faith needs a relational environment to grow into. That's why after acknowledging Jesus as your King, Lord and Savior, the next step is to BELONG to a church and community of people also committed to growing in Christ.

We have been created in communion with God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, to live in community and do life together. As **Romans 12:4-5** says, *“Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.”*

Authentic Biblical relationships produce the best environment for spiritual growth. The early church in **Acts 2:42-47** demonstrates this:

“All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals [including the Lord's Supper] and to prayer. A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity - all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.”

Belonging to an authentic community of believers, in the form of a local church, is vital for faith to grow and thrive. The Bible teaches us that we need community to thrive (**1 Corinthians 12:21-22**), that we should carry each other's burdens (**Galatians 6:2**), encourage one another (**Hebrews 10:24-25**) and use our God given gifts for the good of the body (**1 Corinthians 12:4-11, Ephesians 4:11-13, 1 Peter 4:10-11**)

3.1. Attend:

Regularly take part in worship and ministry services

Hebrews 10:24-25

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

Authentic BELONGING starts with regular ATTENDANCE. Each week, we hold worship services and numerous other ministry activities – all designed to **Reach-Out**, with love, and **Bring-In** others to fellowship with Christ, just as the early church modelled in Acts.

By consistently showing up and participating in the church community, whether through weekend services, Life Groups, volunteering, or other ministry involvement, you'll begin to experience a deep sense of belonging. This relational environment is vital for faith to take root and grow.

The early Christians in **Acts 2:46-47** provide a powerful example, as *all the believers met together in one place and shared everything, they had... They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity.*

So, take that first step of regularly ATTENDING and engaging with the body of Christ. It's through this authentic community that your faith will be nurtured and strengthened.

3.2. Join:

Connect to a Life Group and the Local Church family

Jesus' own example makes it clear - discipleship happens through intentional, relational community. As His followers, we are called to make disciples, and that process takes place not in isolation, but within the context of authentic relationships.

That's why we encourage everyone to GET CONNECTED through a small group, called a Life Group. Just as Jesus gathered a small band of 12 disciples and poured into them over three years, these intimate gatherings provide the ideal environment for spiritual growth.

In a Life Group, you'll have the opportunity to:

- Ask questions and explore your faith without fear of judgment
 - Try new things and take steps of faith, even if you fail along the way
 - Build meaningful connections with others who are also seeking to follow Jesus
 - Be encouraged, supported, and challenged in your relationship with God
- When you join a Life Group and become part of a local church, you'll find the relational environment needed for your faith to truly take root and thrive. So, don't do it alone – take that step to connect and experience the transformative power of Biblical community as Jesus intended.

3.3. Invite:

Bring people along with you to Services and Life Groups.

Luke 14:23

“Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full...”

Extending meaningful invitations to others is a vital part of fulfilling the Great Commission (Reach-Out/ Bring-In). However, this doesn't mean hard-selling or coercing people until they give in. Spiritual invitations should be persuasive, yet also marked by hospitality, relationship, and compassion.

As **1 Peter 3:15** instructs, we must *“always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.”* Your friends and acquaintances need to hear how Christ has influenced your life. You can also thoughtfully address any questions they may have about the implications of the gospel for their lives.

If people initially refuse your invitation, see it as an opportunity for deeper spiritual conversation, not discouragement. Their "no" today may very well become a "yes" tomorrow, as the Holy Spirit continues to work. Remain patient, prayerful, and persistent in extending invitations with grace.

The master's directive in **Luke 14:23** reminds us we are called to go out, make room, and welcome others in, so that God's house may be full. As we do so with wisdom and compassion, lives will be transformed by the power of the gospel.

SELF-REFLECTION:

Have you committed yourself to attending a local church?

Have you visited any of our Life Groups?

Do you have any friends and/or family that you would like to invite to visit your local church? Who?

What are your personal next steps to BELONG?

4. Contend

4.1. Preserve:

Safeguard the gospel message, preserving its truth in a changing world

Paul exhorts Timothy in **(2 Tim 1:13-14)** to “*follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you*”. This "good deposit" refers to the gospel message that Timothy had received and was now responsible for preserving.

He also says, “*But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed, and all the Gentiles might hear it*” **(2 Tim 4:17)**.

The call, as we see in these scriptures, is to safeguard, preserve and pass on the truth of the gospel, even as the world around us changes.

4.2. Proclaim:

Courageously proclaim the gospel, sharing salvation and God's love

Paul encourages Timothy to “*preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching*” **(2 Tim 4:2)**. The call is to boldly and courageously proclaim the gospel, even when it may be unpopular or inconvenient.

He reminds Timothy, *for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control... I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard until the day what has been entrusted to me* **(2 Tim 1:7;12)**.

The confidence to proclaim the gospel comes from having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and, with the infilling of the Holy Spirit, who enables us to speak boldly about our faith. As much as the world tells us to keep our convictions to ourselves so as not to offend anyone, the truth is we are not called to be quiet about what Jesus has done in us and through us. We are called to be witnesses and testify about His goodness.

4.3. Persevere:

Stand firm in faith, persevering through opposition for the sake of the gospel

Paul cautions Timothy, *Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted* (2 Tim 3:12). The call to persevere in the face of opposition is a consistent theme in 2 Timothy.

Yet, Paul encourages Timothy to *share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God* (2 Tim 1:8), and to *“fulfill your ministry”* (2 Tim 4:5) despite the challenges.

We are all living our lives in the hope that one day when we meet Jesus, He would say “well done, good and faithful servant” (Matthew 25:23). Therefore, it is not important how you start the race, but how you finish the race. As Paul reflects, *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith* (2 Tim 4:7).

Hebrews 12:1 encourages us that each one of us should run the race that is *“marked out for us”*. Meaning that our journeys may be different, however all of us should *“run with perseverance”* so that we may finish strong.

No matter how difficult your own personal journey, remember to rejoice in your suffering *“...because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.”*

SELF-REFLECTION:

How can you preserve the sanctity of the Gospel in your own personal life?

How have you committed to PROCLAIM the Gospel?

What is your next step in CONTEND?

5. Disciple

Jesus Christ invested Himself deeply in the lives of His disciples, and through this strategic approach, He transformed the world forever. His example shows us that the most powerful form of service is not merely acting selflessly but intentionally investing in the spiritual growth of others.

The term "discipling" describes Jesus' unique style of leadership – a method of pouring into people's lives to reproduce His character and teachings in them. When you disciple someone, you maximize your impact for God's Kingdom by empowering them to then disciple others. This cyclical process is the highest calling that believers have been entrusted with.

You were made for this sacred responsibility. Just as Jesus poured His life into a small group of followers, empowering them to continue His work, so, too, we called to invest in the lives of others, equipping them to do the same. Through this discipleship model, the reach and influence of the gospel will continue to expand exponentially.

As the Apostle Paul instructed, “...what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also” (**2 Timothy 2:2**). This is the heart of the Great Commission - making disciples who make disciples. May we heed Christ's example and fulfill this highest calling.

5.1. Engage:

Involve others through spiritual partnership

Finding and committing to a spiritual partner that you can be accountable to is a crucial first step in becoming a true disciple of Christ. We all need accountability in our lives to ensure we stay firmly rooted in godliness. Identifying a spiritual partner creates this essential accountability relationship, empowering another believer to speak into our lives – to support, encourage, correct, and challenge us.

While Jesus Himself did not require a spiritual partner to maintain His perfect, sinless life, we see Him modelling the power of intentional, close relationships with His inner circle of Peter, James, and John. These three men held a special, significant role among the disciples, accompanying Jesus in pivotal moments. This is the kind of role a spiritual partner should play in our lives – a fellow believer who becomes a vital part of our spiritual journey, walking alongside us through the most important seasons.

As the author of Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 reminds us, *“Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!”*.

The truth of the matter is we need each other. By identifying and committing to a spiritual partner, we unlock the power of Biblical discipleship, spurring one another on towards greater intimacy with Christ and fruitfulness in His Kingdom.

And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach (Mark 3:14).

5.2. Establish:

Invest in others, leading them to the body of Christ, the church, so that they can be rooted in Christ Jesus

Ephesians 4:11-13

“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”

The call to invest in others and lead them to the Body of Christ, the church, is a profound responsibility and privilege. As followers of Jesus, we are

charged with the sacred task of helping establish new believers in the faith, rooting them deeply in the life-giving soil of the local church.

The scriptures are clear about the centrality of the church in the life of a disciple. The Apostle Paul describes the church as “*the body of Christ*” (**1 Corinthians 12:27**), emphasizing our organic, interdependent relationship with one another under the headship of Christ. The writer of Hebrews exhorts us, “*not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near*” (**Hebrews 10:25**).

Jesus Himself modelled this pattern of life-on-life discipleship, investing intimately in a small group of followers who then carried the gospel to the world. As He commissioned them, He promised, *I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it* (**Matthew 16:18**).

It is within the context of the local church that new believers are nurtured, equipped, and sent out to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19-20). The church provides the rich soil of biblical teaching, authentic community, and Spirit-empowered ministry that enables disciples to be *rooted and built up in him and established in the faith* (**Colossians 2:7**).

What a profound privilege we have to partner with Christ in this work! By faithfully investing in others and leading them to the life-giving fellowship of the church, we play a vital role in the ongoing expansion of God's Kingdom. Our heart is to be found faithful to this high calling.

5.3. Multiply:

Raise up disciples and release them to make disciples

The ultimate expression of biblical discipleship is becoming a disciple-maker who raises up another disciple-maker. As Jesus commanded His followers, “*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you*” (**Matthew 28:19-20**).

We are all on a lifelong spiritual journey, but God calls us to be disciples who faithfully reproduce themselves in the lives of others. As the apostle Paul instructed Timothy, “...*what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also*” (2 Timothy 2:2). This multiplication of disciple-makers is essential, for if someone never takes this step, their focus remains solely on self-development rather than fulfilling the Great Commission.

It is when we pour out our lives into another person that we most closely emulate Jesus, who invested intentionally in a small band of followers. As He said, “*Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father*” (John 14:12).

This is the high calling before you – to be a faithful, multiplying disciple for the glory of Christ.

SELF-REFLECTION:

Are you ready to embark on a discipleship journey with God and others here?

Will you commit to being a disciple who makes disciples, fulfilling the Great Commission and expanding the Kingdom of God?

What is your next step in DISCIPLE?

6. Empower

Once you have accepted Christ as your Savior and connected with a local body of believers, the next step is to contribute your unique gifts and abilities to EMPOWER others. As followers of Jesus, we are called to possess the same revolutionary, others-centered attitude that characterized His earthly ministry.

To embrace this call to care for and serve those around us, we must find a ministry role that aligns with our God-given passions and abilities, where we can joyfully serve the Lord. This will require a significant shift in our thinking – moving away from a self-focused mindset to one that is centered on leading others to Christ and honoring Him through our service.

No longer can life be primarily about pursuing our own wants and needs. Rather, we are to follow the example of our Savior, who “*did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many*” (**Mark 10:45**). This fundamental reorientation of our priorities is essential if we are to faithfully fulfill the Great Commission and make disciples of all nations (**Matthew 28:19-20**).

The Christian life is not about self-advancement, but about humbly using our time, talents and treasures to advance the kingdom of God. As the apostle Paul reminds us, “*you are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So, glorify God in your body*” (**1 Corinthians 6:19-20**). May we gladly surrender our lives in service to Christ and to one another.

6.1. Serve:

Be part of what Jesus is doing in building His Church

The scriptures make it clear that every Christian is called to full-time service for the Lord, regardless of their earthly vocation. As the apostle Peter declares, believers are “*a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession*” (**1 Peter 2:9**). We are all ministers

with direct access to God through prayer and His Word. We are not in part-time service to God, because we are God's children full-time.

Furthermore, every follower of Christ is commissioned as an evangelist, *"sharing your faith with others by word and by action"* (**Ephesians 6:19-20**). For we *"are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them"* (**Ephesians 2:10**).

This high calling compels us to actively participate in the life of the local church, *"encouraging one another"* and *"not neglecting to meet together"* (**Hebrews 10:23-25**). As Paul reminds the Corinthians, *"you are the body of Christ and individually members of it"* (**1 Corinthians 12:27**).

God's plan is that each of us would discover and employ the unique abilities He has given us for His kingdom purposes (**1 Corinthians 12:12,21,25-27**). We are to be faithful stewards of the *"good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them"* (**Ephesians 2:10**).

As we grow in Christlikeness, may we increasingly embody the servant-hearted example of our Savior, who *"did not come to be served but to serve"* (**Mark 10:45a**). In humility, let us follow in His steps, using our gifts to build up the body of Christ (John 13:15).

6.2. Give:

Honour God with your talents, time, vision, plans, finances... everything

6.2.1. Honour God with Your Whole Life

As followers of Jesus, we are called to steward all that God has entrusted to us – our talents, time, vision, plans, and finances. Biblical stewardship is premised on the understanding that your life is not your own, as you have surrendered your will for the will of the God.

Colossians 1:15-17 says *"...all things were created through Him and for Him."* Which means that everything you are, as God's creation, everything

that encompasses even your existence is created for His glory, and not your own.

6.2.2. Discipleship through Financial Giving

Malachi 3:10 says “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house.”

Just as the Levites, in the Old Testament, were sustained by the offerings that were brought by the people of Israel, the tithe is the income used to support the church and its ministries. More than that, tithing is an act of worship and obedience to God's command.

When we financially support our local church, we facilitate vital ministries to take place – people connecting with God and each other, worship, biblical teaching, evangelism, Life Groups, counselling, and children's programs. Without the tithes and offerings of the congregation, these life-transforming initiatives would be challenging.

As difficult as tithing may be at times, you need to manage your finances in such a way that allows you to give because giving is a key part of our discipleship journey. It reflects our spiritual maturity and demonstrates that we recognize God as the true owner of all we have. Our tithes and gifts directly expand God's Kingdom here and around the world.

6.2.3. Guidelines for Giving

The word “tithe” means 10% of your income. Anything given above that is considered to be an offering. We understand that 10% may seem challenging, especially for new believers, but we encourage taking a step of faith in this area.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 says “The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

This scripture addresses the blessing that comes with giving, and our heart attitude when giving.

As we trust Him with our finances, we learn to put our faith in Jesus Christ, rather than money.

Hebrews 13:5 states, “Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

6.3. Release:

Release others for the work of ministry

Ephesians 4:11-12

“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.”

As Elders, we will be faithful to the call to equip the people that God has entrusted us with and empower all the believers to participate in the work of ministry.

As we serve God and others, we often find that our own gifts, abilities, and ministry experience grow stronger. When this happens, God calls us to begin recruiting, equipping, and releasing others to become ministers as well. This is not just about meeting the needs of the church, but also an opportunity to foster unity and help others experience significant spiritual growth.

The Bible speaks to this in **Ephesians 4:11-16**. Christ has given the church apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers *“to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”* In this way, we are strengthened to speak the truth in love, and grow to become, in every respect, the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.

We personally invite others, through relationship, to serve alongside us in ministry roles. A direct, personal invitation is often more powerful than a general call from the church.

Equipping goes beyond just finding willing volunteers. It means walking alongside them, not pulling them along, to help them discover their spiritual gifts, passions, and best ministry fit. The Greek word "katartizo" captures the idea of coming alongside someone to help them arrive at their God-given destiny. The goal is to prepare them for how God wants to use them.

By inviting, equipping, and releasing others for ministry, we not only meet needs, but also foster unity and spiritual growth in the body of Christ.

SELF-REFLECTION:

In which ministry do you believe God is calling you to SERVE?

**Where do you believe your shortcomings are when it comes to GIVING?
How will you improve on this?**

What is your next step in EMPOWER?
