

Introduction

Welcome to week 1 of this edition of 5pm Church Family Together.

Question: Everyone is different, so expect different answers here:

- What has been most helpful for your spiritual growth over the last five years?

Our topic this week is 'Peer Discipleship' – a broad category, but important for our church family as we try and encourage one another in faith and spiritual growth.

Five by 5

We **love** and **know** God, **serve** him and others, to **grow** God's Kingdom by **proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ**.

Being intentional in the way we grow in spiritual maturity.

Five key elements:

- 1. Personal Devotions**
Daily Bible reading and prayer
- 2. Sunday 5pm Church**
Worshipping together, supporting each other in the Word
- 3. Home Group**
Growing in understanding and application of the Bible
- 4. Peer Discipleship**
Encourage and be encouraged with Bible in hand
- 5. Outreach & Service**
Serve and reach others with the Gospel at 5pm Church and elsewhere



This will look different for everyone; for although we are all united as the one body of Christ, we are each different and bring different things to the 5pm Church family. As we serve God and one another we grow individually and corporately in Christian Maturity. Praise God.

Challenge: Give time and energy to each of these five areas each week.

Not legalistic (it is not measured),

Not a program (it will look different for everyone)

Question: How is this 'Five by 5' as a tool useful to you?

What is a 'Disciple'?

Before we think about discipleship, let's think first about what a disciple actually is!

- A **Disciple** is someone who _____.
- A **Christian Disciple** is someone who _____.

John 8:31

John 15:5,8

Gospel of Mark

Mark 1:16-18

Mark 2:13-14

Mark 3:13-19

6:7-13

Mark 8:27-29

Exercise: Read each of the following passages:

	<i>Mark 8:31-33</i>	<i>Mark 9:30-35</i>	<i>Mark 10:32-45</i>
What does Jesus say has to happen to him?			
What do the disciples do next?			
What piece of advice does Jesus give them?			

Mark 8:34-9:1

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What is 'peer discipleship'?

- **Discipleship** then is _____

- **Peer Discipleship** recognises the examples in the Bible where discipleship has occurred between two or more people.

Jesus

1 and 2 Kings

Pastoral Epistles

Paul (1 Cor 11:1 c.f. 1 Cor 4:16)

Peer Discipleship is when two or more Christians encourage one another toward Christlikeness with Bible in hand.

- Peer Discipleship might occur when a disciple helps a new or younger disciple to grow in faith. What a gift.
- Peer Discipleship might also occur when disciples help other disciples of similar Christian. What a blessing.
- Peer Discipleship might occur when a disciple helps a less experienced disciples to grow in ministry. *Leadership Discipling* if you wish. What a calling.

Ephesians 4:1-16

a. Paul calls Christians to do what?

b. Why?

To each one, grace is given, apportioned by Christ over all, be that in the heavens on the earth or below the earth (in other words, over all) – I take this to mean his salvation is complete over all things (vv 7-10).

c. And so Christ gives who:

d. Why?

- e. Until when?

- f. Why is it significant that it is Christ who gives these gifts for this purpose?

- g. What implication would this have then for our 'discipleship'?

What might peer-peer discipleship look like?

With the definition of discipleship in mind, here are 4 principles:

- Intentional
- Regular
- Bible open
- Aiming to grow each other in maturity in Christ

Beyond that, be creative!

Learning from each other's experience....

Top tips

Look for opportunities in what you're already doing:

- You're already coming to church and Home Group, so make the most of them. Come with a mind-set of looking for opportunities to encourage others, engaging with the sermon / study etc.

"Come with me to...."

- Equip
- School of Ministry subject
- Men's Convention / Grace Conference for women

Catch up to read the Bible

- Don't try to read too large a passage. Or, if it is a longer one, spend a few meetings on it, digging deeper each time.
- At the end of one meeting, book in the next one.
- If you're meeting in a café, and might feel conspicuous with Bibles on the table, print out the passage / book to have instead.

Creative ways to engage with the Bible

Swedish Method: Read the passage aloud. Each of you goes back over the passage on your own, looking out for these 3 things (aiming for at least one of each):



A light bulb: This should be something that ‘shines’ from the passage—whatever impacts most, or draws attention.



A question mark: Anything that is difficult to understand in the text, or a question the reader would like to ask the writer of the passage or the Lord.



An arrow: A personal application for the reader’s life.

Then you both share your Light bulb, and discuss them, then your Question, then your Arrow etc., discussing and continuing to wrestle with the passage as you go.

Finish by praying about what you’ve learned from the passage.

Key questions to ask of any passage you read:

What does this passage teach me about God?

What does this passage teach me about myself (sinful humanity)?

How do I need to change (behaviour, attitude, understanding) in response to this?

COMA method Ask these questions of the passage:

1. Read the passage aloud
2. **Context** questions:
 - What sort of writing is this (letter, narrative, poem?)
 - Any clues about situation in which it was written?
 - What has happened so far?
3. **Observation** questions
 - Any major sub-sections or breaks in the text?
 - What is the main point or points?
 - Are there any surprises?
 - Key words? Repeated words or ideas?
4. **Meaning** questions
 - How does this text relate to other parts of the book?
 - How does this passage relate to Jesus?
 - What does this teach us about God?
 - How could we sum up the meaning of this passage in our own words?
5. **Application** questions
 - How does this passage challenge (or confirm) my understanding?
 - Is there some attitude I need to change?
 - How does this passage call on me to change the way I live?
6. Pray together about what you have learned
7. Have a go!

Reflection:

What has been most helpful for you?

What next for you?