

## Disciple = Christ Follower

### Who

A growing disciple of Jesus is...

Following Jesus... **Worship**- Being **Changed** by Jesus... **Grow**- on **Mission** with Jesus... **Reach**

### What

The New Testament emphasizes that God's children need to **grow** spiritually. Peter tells Christians we need to **grow** up in our salvation (**1 Pet. 2:2**) and **grow** in God's grace and knowledge. (**2 Pet. 3:18**).

### Why

**Growing** is a natural thing in creation. Everything **grows** and seeks to reach maturity. Our goal as Christians is to **grow** and become more like the fullness of Christ. Without spiritual **growth**, Christians would remain as spiritual babies and would die. Paul makes reference to that **growth** when he says: *"if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come"* (**2 Cor. 5:17**).

**There is no such thing as an optional growth for Christians...**

### How

Being a follower of Christ is a journey. There is a beginning and an end. However, every step we take along the way is important. Here are some steps that can be taken to ensure that you are **growing** in your walk with Christ.

- 1) **Make sure you have a relationship with Christ.** **Romans 10:9** says, *"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."* God always keeps His promises and He never goes back on his word. **I know for certain that I will go to Heaven and be with God for all eternity.** **1 John 5:11-13** says that God wants you to be sure of your salvation.
- 2) **Tell YOUR STORY to someone.** Becoming a Christian is exciting news, and you should be excited to tell others right away. Your life has been changed by God. Think about how important that is, and think about how many people need to hear about it. God wants to use you to help others know about Him. In **John 1:40-42**, a man named Andrew met Jesus. His first reaction was to run and tell his brother. He didn't know a lot about Jesus...he didn't have all the facts or all of the answers, he just told others that his life had been changed.
- 3) **Be Baptized** Christian baptism is, according to the Bible, an outward testimony of what has occurred inwardly in a believer's life. Christian baptism illustrates a believer's identification with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. The Bible declares in **Romans 6:3-4**, *"Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life"*. In Christian baptism, the action of being immersed in the water symbolizes dying and being buried with Christ. The action of coming out of the water pictures Christ's resurrection. There are two requirements before a person is baptized: **1)** the person being baptized must have trusted in Jesus Christ as Savior, and **2)** According to the Bible, Christian baptism is important because it is a step of obedience—publicly

declaring faith in Christ and commitment to Him—an identification with Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection.

- 4) **Attend church consistently** Just like a football player needs a team, a Christian needs a church. In **Matthew 16:17** we see that the church was important to Jesus. The church was important to the first Christians who risked everything to meet together. The church is important. You need to connect yourself to the body of Christ (a Biblical term for the church). The church is like the human body and each person serves an important part. Everyone needs to be involved for the church to function properly. The church is not made up of perfect people, or good people, or religious people...it’s made up of people who have decided to follow Jesus – people like you. So, why be involved with church? Athletes need practice and coaching, and so do Christians. God has placed spiritual leaders in the church who will help you grow closer to God. You’ll hear God’s Word explained, and you’ll have a chance to worship God alongside other Christians. You’ll be part of that team, all working together. The church will provide you opportunities to learn more about Jesus and you’ll grow in your faith.
- 5) **Be a faithful participant in a small group** It’s healthy to do things with other people – to have friends. In the Christian life, it is no different. You need to develop relationships with people who are going through the same things as you. The church can do that. You’ll get to know others who will encourage you and not tear you down. You’ll share life experiences in a Small Group. In fact, **Hebrews 10:25, 26** teaches us that we should not miss out on meeting with other Christians. This is the reason that we have a Small Group ministry. We all need these relationships in our lives. A Small Group is a group of people that meet together during the week in somebody’s home to fellowship, talk about God’s Word and pray for each other. A church as a whole is pretty large, and it’s not possible to know everyone, but if you get connected to a Small Group, you’ll find some people that will become your spiritual family. In Small Groups, you’ll make Christian friends and grow spiritually.
- 6) **Serve in the church** The church is not just a place where you come and sit...it’s a place where you can come to serve. The church is a great place to serve God. You have gifts and abilities that can help the body. In **1 Peter 4:10**, Peter tells us to use them “*to serve others*”. You can use your gifts and talents right here. Find a place where you can use your specific gifts, talents and abilities to make a difference. When we serve others, we realize that it’s not all about us. Every Sunday morning, teams of people come together to work with children, help people feel welcome, direct traffic flow and work with students. These groups of people serve alongside each other and in the process of leading people from where they are to where God wants them to be, they are getting to know each other better.
- 7) **Invite people to church** One the best ways to tell people about your new faith is to invite them to church. We want everyone in our area to know about the grace and forgiveness that comes from God. You can partner with us to reach people who are far from God by simply inviting them to church. Our goal is to help them become passionate Christians who make a difference in the world.
- 8) **Read God’s Word-The Bible** One of the most important things you can do is to read and study the Bible. The Bible is the inspired, 100% accurate and true Word of God. **Hebrews 4:12** tells us that *God’s Word is living and active*. It’s more than a collection of stories or words on a page...it is the very Word of God for our lives today. **2 Timothy 3:16** says

that “*All scripture is God-breathed, and is useful for teaching the truth, rebuking error, correcting faults, and giving instruction for right living.*” • When you read the Bible, God will show you things about Himself. • When you read the Bible, God will show you things in your life that need to change. • When you read the Bible, God will teach you what it means to be a Christ follower. • When you read the Bible you’ll get a better understanding of your purpose in life.

**Psalm 1:1** encourages us to meditate on the Bible. Don’t let that word meditate confuse you. David Nasser says that meditating on the Bible is like marinating. Just like we let a steak or a chicken breast soak in a great marinade, we think on God’s Word and let it soak into our lives. As you read the Bible, underline words or phrases that stick out. Think about what it really means. Write questions down and seek answers. Memorize key verses, and think about God’s Word as you go throughout the day. Most importantly, start reading. If you’ve got time to read this, you’ve got time to read God’s Word.

- 9) **Talk to God...Listen for God** If you want to get to know someone, you could read about them. But you might also want to talk to them. God wants to have a relationship with you one that is real and one that is personal. The Bible is full of invitations for you to talk to God. You don’t have to pick up a phone, or send an e-mail...you can talk to the very creator of the universe right now where you are. Prayer is simply talking to God. You don’t have to use big words or flowery language. You don’t have to know fancy terms. You can talk to God just like you would talk to any friend. In fact, as a Christian, God is your Father and your Friend! In **Mark 1:35**, we read about Jesus himself praying to the Father. Imagine that! If Jesus needed to pray, how much more do we need to talk to God? So, how do you do it? Prayer is just talking to God. It’s a two way, direct-connect, with no long-distance charges.
- 10) **Apply what you know and what you learn into your daily life** Statistics tell us that there isn’t any practical difference between Christians and non-Christians. Most Christians live lives that don’t model the teachings, the life or the love that Jesus exhibited. Unfortunately, this has turned many people away from wanting to be a follower of Jesus. Most Christians live lives just like everybody else. If you’re drowning – you certainly want someone to save you. Most people would be interested in getting all they can from Jesus. But there’s a huge difference between making Him Savior and making Him Lord. **Philippians 2:12** says that one day “*every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.*” Surrendering to the Lordship of Jesus means that you willingly make Him the boss of your life. He’s not riding in the car with you...He’s driving the car. He’s not the co-pilot; He’s the pilot. He is large and in charge. Here is the best part. When Jesus is Lord, you’ll have unexplainable peace from God. You’ll rest in the fact that He is in charge. You won’t worry as much. You won’t be as restless because you know that the very creator of the universe is in the driver’s seat and He knows the way.
- 11) **Give cheerfully and generously to God’s work** “Oh no, please don’t mention money”. Many of us have experienced this thought at some point in our spiritual journey but we would be Biblically wrong not to share what God’s word says about giving. Paul said in **2 Cor 9:7**, “*God loves a cheerful giver*”. When we give generously and with a willing heart, God assures us He will watch over us and provide for us. Luke reminds us of Jesus’ words in **Acts 20:35** “*It is more blessed to give than to receive*”. The second letter to the Corinthians reveals a number of inspiring truths that should help us become

cheerful givers. As Paul wisely taught in **2 Cor. 9:6**, “Remember this: *Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously*”. Solomon also stated this a thousand years earlier in **Proverbs 3:9-10**, “*Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing*”.

The Bible is clear—we cannot out-give our gracious Creator when we become cheerful givers. Quite simply our greatest motivation for cheerful and generous giving should be that it pleases the Lord and reflects His gift of salvation to us. Cheerful giving should be a way of life for the Christian who understands the grace of God.

- 12) **Serve outside of the church** **Acts 1:8** says, “*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*” In our community and to the edges of the world, the body of Christ is called to be a light for Jesus. It doesn’t take long to find people who are in need and who are hurting all around us. Jesus gave us many examples in Scripture of helping others and caring for the poor. Love is at the core of authentic Christianity so serving others as Christ did should be part of your life. Jesus said in **Matt 20:28** “*just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve...*”

As you partner with North Point Community Church in reaching out to those in spiritual and physical need you will be strengthened and filled with a love for others. Join us on a local mission project or on an international mission trip.

- 13) **Be a disciple maker** In **Matthew 28:19-20** Jesus taught us to go into all the world and make disciples. Disciples are people who decide to follow Jesus and then are taught by the Holy Spirit, the Bible and other Christians to live their lives doing what He did. Every follower of Jesus has the ability to mentor someone at some level; the new believer inviting a lost friend to church is pointing the way to Jesus. A stronger Christian who takes the time to help encourage a brother in Christ who needs help in overcoming an area of sin or how to read the Bible is pointing the way to a closer walk with Jesus. **Proverbs 27:17** says, “*As iron sharpens iron so one man sharpens another*”. Look around your life and determine who God would have you help become a follower or stronger follower of Jesus and you will be helping Jesus make disciples of the world. **Go...make a difference in someone’s life!**

**Wednesday** -Children- Youth- Adults

**Sunday** - Children- Youth- Adults

**Men’s and Women’s ministries** are primarily service and fellowship driven.

**Equipping Classes** will be offered throughout the year for the primary purpose of specific teaching, training and life skills.

### Grow Groups (12-15 Adults)

1. **Purpose** of groups at NPCC...is to provide an environment where intentional personal transformation takes place (Discipleship). We will provide people the opportunity to be in community with others for the purpose of encouraging and challenging each other to grow in their walk with Christ.
2. **How** Through Relationship, Bible study, Prayer, Evangelism and Serving.  
**Notes:** A. We will keep it simple B. It will be reproducible C. It will be measurable
3. **What** kinds of groups do we have? Most of our groups are regionally based. However, we do have some affinity groups as well.
4. **When** do they meet? They meet twice a month-preferably the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> weeks of each month September through May and once a month June, July and August.

### Measurement- Simple scale 1-2-3

1-3 (I need significant growth in these areas of my life)

4-6 (I am making strides, but still need to grow in these areas of my life)

7-9 (I am becoming a mature Christian in these areas of my Life)

