



# INWARD IN DISCIPLESHIP

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GREAT HILLS  
BAPTIST CHURCH





## SESSION 02

### INWARD IN **DISCIPLESHIP**

## WELCOME BACK TO **DISCOVER GREAT HILLS!**

Today's session focuses on being **inward in discipleship**. Our goal is to help you discover your path to spiritual growth and to help you go deeper in your relationship with God.

## INWARD IN DISCIPLESHIP

The process of spiritual growth happens **personally (as an individual)** and **corporately (in a community)**.

When you declare Jesus as your Lord and Savior **the Holy Spirit of God comes to live in you.**

Now that you have become a new creation in Christ, you can begin growing into a mature follower of Jesus.



*"Having believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit." EPHESIANS 1:13*

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17*

As a New Testament church, we take seriously our responsibility to **provide a spiritual community** for you to partner and grow with.

*“That we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine...but speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies... causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”*  
EPHESIANS 4:14-15

*“So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.”*  
ROMANS 12:5

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you.”*  
MATTHEW 28:19-20

# PERSONAL STEPS FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH



## PUBLICLY DECLARE YOUR FAITH THROUGH BAPTISM

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*“Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”*  
ACTS 2:38





*“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” 2 TIMOTHY 3:16*

## STUDY THE WORD OF GOD

God wants an intimate, personal relationship with you. That relationship is strengthened through studying the Bible—God’s revelation to you.

## PRAY

The acrostic ACTS can help you to begin developing your prayer life. When you pray use the following pattern for prayer:

A  
C  
T  
S

- ADORATION**  
Give adoration and praise to God, focusing on who God is. (Psalm 145:1-3)
- CONFESSION**  
Confess and acknowledge your sins before God in order to receive forgiveness. (1 John 1:9)
- THANKSGIVING**  
Give thanks and express gratitude to God for His goodness to you. (1 Thessalonians 5:18)
- SUPPLICATION**  
Supplication is making requests, expressing desires to God, and praying for the needs of others. (Philippians 4:6-7)





## SHARE JESUS WITH OTHERS

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*“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.” ACTS 1:8*

*“Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” JOHN 15:4–5*

## TRUST JESUS TO DIRECT YOUR LIFE

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It is important to realize that Jesus should do more than just reside in your life—He should be the Lord of all of your life.





# SPIRITUAL GROWTH IN COMMUNITY

## BE FAITHFUL TO A CHURCH

Jesus personally established the church while He was on earth to unite Christians as a spiritual family.

*“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” HEBREWS 10:24-25*



*“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer...All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” ACTS 2:42-47*





## BE IN A CONNECT GROUP

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Jesus knew how powerful the dynamics of meeting in a small group can be. He even selected twelve men from a larger number of His disciples to travel, eat, and perform miracles with Him.

At Great Hills, we offer the small group experience for people of all ages. We call them **Connect Groups** because they allow us to connect with others in a small group setting.

## WORSHIP CORPORATELY

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There is a very special dynamic that exists when worshipping with a large group that is difficult to duplicate in a small group setting. The opportunity to gather with other believers to worship the God you love magnifies your personal time with God.





## SOME BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING IN A CONNECT GROUP ARE:

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### UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE

Each week, our Connect Group teachers present a scripture passage that has direct application to daily living.

### BUILDING MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS

Connect Groups give you the opportunity to be with a smaller group of people with whom you can build trusting relationships.

### PRAYING AND CARING

You will discover that people in our Connect Groups genuinely care about one another and pray for each other. This is one of the sweet blessings of being an active member in a Connect Group— you are not alone in life and are surrounded by a group who loves and cares for you.

### REACHING AND SERVING

Reaching and Serving is one of our core values, but it is also one of the blessings of being an active member in a Connect Group. Each Connect Group is always involved in reaching those who need Jesus and serving the needs of others.

## SHARING YOUR STORY

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If you have already trusted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, please share your salvation experience and your baptism experience with a leader. If this is your first time to hear the gospel, or if you have heard it before and you still have questions, they will be available to help answer your questions. Our leadership partners will not pressure you to take this step of faith. It is a personal decision that each individual must make. We want to be sure that when you trust Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, that it is something that you want with all of your heart.

Next Sunday will be a day of discovery and affirmation as we talk about being **Outward in Impact**.







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