

**Home Group Notes**  
**Week of April 7, 2024**  
**Spring Tune-up**



We are a local church, a family of believers who desire to follow Jesus together. This means that we want to (1) Follow Jesus, (2) Grow in discipleship, and (3) Live in / as God's community. For this week, we will discuss, pray, and plan what this looks like.

**DISCUSS TOGETHER**

We have defined a disciple as one who "knows, loves, and follows Jesus." How do you understand each of these words?

As Americans, we often think about how "I" will grow as a disciple. While this is a critical question, the New Testament is full of "we" statements and commands in God's design of discipleship. How can "we," as a Home Group, pursue discipleship together? Discuss how some of the following actions are important in our lives.

- Prayer
- Truth / Listening to God's words
- Encouragement
- Challenge
- Exhortation
- Burden bearing
- Giftedness
- Service

We often speak of the Four Branches of discipleship. They are . . .

- 1) Fellowship with God and one another
- 2) Becoming more like Jesus
- 3) Willingness to sacrifice and suffer for Jesus
- 4) Bearing the fruit of making disciples through good works

How are we doing in our pursuit of discipleship in our Home Group?

- Are we growing in our fellowship with God and one another?
- How do we see God helping us to grow in character and action?
- As we face the challenges of life, are we growing in our willingness to sacrifice all things to love and follow Jesus?
- Do we see fruit? What are we doing to bear fruit that lasts? Do we see God working in our lives and people in our worlds?

## **DRIFT**

Throughout the history of God's people, every person and generation faces the challenge of a dangerous enemy: drift. The author of Hebrews said it this way: "We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not **drift** away." (Hebrews 2:1) Believers don't usually decide one day to abandon faith or leave God. Rather, they make small decisions of disobedience or compromise with the world. One degree of unrepentant trajectory leads to another and soon we are far from the God who beckons us to draw near. So sad.

This danger was true for Israel and now for the church. Generations of people have drifted their way into darkness. Let's reflect on a few factors that lead to faithfulness or drift.

### **Our thought life.**

Francis Schaffer wrote, "People are unique in the inner life of the mind—what they are in their thought world determines how they act." (*How should we then live?*)

What helps us have a healthy thought life? What doesn't? How is the Word of God important to our thinking and acting? (Hebrews 2:1) What helps you listen to God in His Word?

### **Our desires**

Buddhism teaches that "desire" is at the root of suffering. Jesus taught us to desire more – to desire God and the eternal life He promises. What is helping to shape our desires to want God and His promises? What desires of the world are influencing our lives? What dangerous desires do we see in the world? How can we learn to desire the things of God?

### **Our actions**

Throughout the New Testament, we are taught and commanded to use our lives to serve God and others. What can we do, as a Home Group, to live out Jesus' call to serve as He served, to make our lives count for the kingdom of God?

### **Our worship**

Recently, we teamed up as a church to ponder Romans 12:1-2: "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." How can we help one another live a life of daily worship of God?

May His grace and joy fill your hearts as you follow Jesus together.

## **PLEASE PRAY**

- For Pastor Doug Baker as he shepherds our family and teaches the Word
- For one another as we desire to follow Jesus together
- For our political leaders, our local educators, and our first responders