

# Discipleship

**Discipleship is not a program. Instead, it's a relationship** in which two people journey through life together while learning to obey the teachings of Jesus. In this relational context, one is a disciple-maker, while the other is a disciple.

Being a **disciple-maker** doesn't require perfection; simply a lifestyle of character and obedience that is unafraid to repeat the Apostle Paul's words, "Imitate me, as I also imitate Christ" (1 Cor. 11:1). Being a **disciple** simply requires an open, teachable spirit, willing to spend time with someone who wants to help you follow Jesus and experience the best life possible. Start praying today about whether or not God is calling you to be a disciple, a disciple-maker, or both!

**Discipleship begins with a friendship.** Whether you are called to be a disciple or a disciple-maker, consider making a new friend who could walk through life with you. You might identify this person in a LifeGroup, at a church event or by serving together. You might be a few years apart or a few decades apart. However you meet, take the next step to get to know them in a casual way. Ask them questions, take a hike together, or sit with them in church and engage with them after the service.

Once you identify someone you connect with whom you might want to disciple or be disciplined by, **take the next step** and ask them if they might want to enter into a type of a purposeful friendship called Discipleship. While they might jump at the chance to spend more time with you, not everyone is ready or available to disciple or be disciplined; some have yet to understand discipleship or may be committed to other things and unable to add one more thing to their already full plate. If they don't enthusiastically respond, don't be disappointed. Instead, look around to see who else God might have for you.

Like any relationship, **discipleship can last a few months or a few years.** Once you have defined your relationship and meet together for the first time, talk together about your expectations, how you want to be growing, collect the resources that best meet your needs and then get started.

After you've been meeting together for 3 months or more, send us an email to let us know how it's going. You can send your story to [lcopeland@calvarylife.org](mailto:lcopeland@calvarylife.org). We'd love to hear the stories of how God is working through the relationships He commissioned over 2000 years ago.

- **Begin with prayer** Ask God what role you need to play in the context of discipleship and how to prepare now for what He will ask you to do.
- **Get involved** Join a LifeGroup. Attend an event that is intergenerational. Serve with others. Begin by making friends with others at church.
- **Look around** Who is God putting on your heart? What friendships have already begun that could become more purposeful?
- **Take the next step** Ask someone if they would be willing to enter into discipleship with you, as a disciple or a disciple-maker. Be flexible. Be willing to ask someone else if this person is currently unavailable.
- **Tell us your story** Meet together for a few months and then send us an update and let us know how God is using this relationship to grow you.