

The Disciple's Identity Diagram

A disciple is someone who believes the gospel of Jesus and obeys His teachings.

Our new identity has benefits and responsibilities. The benefits can be summarized by the phrase NEW CREATION. Our responsibilities are designated by the following four words: ABIDE, GATHER, SERVE, SHARE.

BENEFITS // (inner circle that never changes which is represented by solid line)

NEW CREATION - 2 Corinthians 5:17 *"If anyone is in Christ he/she is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."*

RESPONSIBILITIES // (outer circle which expands and contracts which is represented by dashed line)

ABIDE in Word and Prayer - John 15:5, Psalm 119:11, James 1:22-25, 1 Thessalonians 5:17

ABIDE covers the responsibility we have to spend time each day in Word and Prayer. The word means to remain, stay, or continue in something. This is essential to bearing fruit in our lives.

Guiding Characteristics: Accountable and Teachable.

 S.O.A.P. Bible study method

 The Lord's Prayer

GATHER together Corporately and in Small Groups - Acts 2:42-47, Hebrews 10:24-25

The New Testament church is characterized by its corporate worship service. After the Holy Spirit showed up in the book of Acts, we read example after example of the disciples gathering together for the purpose of discipleship. The corporate gathering is what we do on Sunday mornings when we fellowship, sing, pray, give and hear from God's Word. It is the only time the entire church is together in one place. However, the task of becoming a disciple cannot progress without important, intentional relationships formed for the purpose of maturing in the faith. We find those in small groups.

Guiding Characteristics: Teachable and Faithful.

SERVE within the Church and in the Community - Mark 10:43-45, Galatians 5:13, 1 Peter 4:10

As a disciple, our lives will be filled with service to God and to others. Jesus taught that he came to serve, not to be served. It will be helpful to think about our service in relation to our church family. We serve each other in many different ways within the church. We also serve others in our community. Balance is key.

Guiding Characteristics: Faithful and Available.

 S.H.A.P.E. Inventory

SHARE our faith, our possessions, and our life in Jesus with other people - Mark 16:15, 1 Corinthians 9:19-23, 2 Corinthians 9:6-8, Philemon 1:4-7, Hebrews 13:16

From the very first moment that we follow Jesus, we share in something greater than ourselves. The biblical word for this is Koinonia, which means to share something with someone. We share our new life in Christ with each other and it was his intention that we share this good news (life, death, and resurrection) with other people we come in contact with so that this gospel will spread throughout the whole world. We are encouraged to also share our possessions generously with others in need and to support the ministry of our church.

Guiding Characteristics: Available and Accountable.

 Oikos Map

 3 Circles

 6 Words

4 CHARACTERISTICS of a Disciple's Identity that aid in fulfilling our RESPONSIBILITIES

- ← **FAITHFUL** - Faithfulness is a measure of Trustworthiness.
- ← **AVAILABLE** - Availability is is a measure of Priorities.
- ← **TEACHABLE** - Teachability is a measure of both Humility and Hunger.
- ← **ACCOUNTABLE** - Accountability is a measure of your Responsibility.

Growth is measured in fulfilling responsibilities and developing the characteristics of our identity, but the benefits we have in Christ never waver.

Walking in obedience to our responsibilities enlarges our outer circle and expands our influence.