



SESSION TWO:
BEHAVIORS



SESSION TWO: PERSONAL DISCIPLESHIP + SHARED BEHAVIORS



SHARED LIFE: PRACTICES + BEHAVIORS

The affirmations we make as ministry partners aren't just theological agreement; what we believe shape our shared life as a spiritual family. This is how we walk out our discipleship journey individually and corporately together.

As Ministry Partners, we receive the blessings of this body while also sharing the responsibilities. We receive care, encouragement, and shepherding, and offer our presence, gifts, resources, and prayers for the building up of this spiritual family. We aim to be **spiritual contributors, not spiritual consumers.**

That is why we collectively practice these rhythms, habits, practices, and behaviors:

- A commitment to personal discipleship
- Faithfully attending Sunday gatherings
- Connecting in spiritual community
- Using our gifts by serving on a team or within a ministry
- Giving as the Lord leads
- Living as a good news person



DISCIPLESHIP AT BAY AREA

“Our highest priority in life is cultivating a personal, intimate relationship with Jesus.”

- Greg St. Cyr

If you have been around Bay Area long enough you have probably heard us say: If we had one word to describe Bay Area, it'd be: **JESUS**. If we had two words, it'd be: **Make Disciples**. If we had one phrase, it would be our **mission statement**:

“making passionate, maturing followers of Jesus from here to the nations”

Much of our mission statement is based on Jesus' last recorded words in the Gospel of Matthew:

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-20)

This passage is commonly known as **“The Great Commission.”** The main verb is to “make disciples.” So, what is a disciple? We must know what a disciple is before we can effectively make disciples of others.

DEFINITION OF DISCIPLE

The word **“disciple”** appears ~ 269 times in the New Testament. A disciple is typically a learner who follows the teaching and lifestyle of another. “Followers of Jesus” and disciples are the same thing. The focus of a disciple is not merely on knowledge acquisition but rather on heart transformation that translates into a lifestyle that imitates Jesus in every way. This leads to a holistic change of our head (knowledge), heart (character and desires) and hands (skills and habits).

We get our definition from Matthew 4:19 when Jesus calls His first followers.

“Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.” - Matthew 4:19

Let's look at three parts of this verse.

1. **FOLLOW ME...** The first step to becoming a disciple is making a decision and lifelong commitment to **follow Jesus**. When we follow Jesus, we come under his authority, protection and love. A disciple follows Jesus as **Lord and Teacher** (John 13:13-15, Luke 6:40).



2. **...AND I WILL MAKE YOU...** Jesus promises that He will make his disciples into something they are currently not. Jesus is the one who does the changing. Our role is to respond by faith to his invitation to follow him, trusting that he is good and will never lead us astray. Therefore, a disciple is someone who is **changed by Jesus**.
3. **...FISHERS OF MEN.** Lastly, Jesus states that he will make us fishers of men, not just fishermen. This implies that Jesus expects his disciples to join Him **on his mission** to reach the lost and make disciples. Jesus clarifies our mission when he says, “As the Father has sent me, so I send you” (John 20:21).

Therefore, at Bay Area, this is how we define a disciple:

**A disciple is one who follows Jesus,
is changed by Jesus,
and is on mission with Jesus.**

DEFINITION OF DISCIPLESHIP

The process of making disciples is called “discipleship.” Through careful study of Scripture, we hold to certain convictions about what discipleship is and how it is defined.

We believe that discipleship is “long obedience in the same direction” (Eugene Peterson). The key word here is “direction,” not “destination.” We never arrive at perfection or full maturity in this life - that’s why the word “maturing” is so key in our mission statement.

At Bay Area, we define discipleship as follows:

**Discipleship is the ongoing spiritual process of becoming more
like Jesus and helping others do the same.**

PHILOSOPHY OF DISCIPLESHIP

There are several things we believe are true about discipleship. We look to scripture as our guide to direct what we believe about this spiritual process. We aim to model our beliefs and guiding principles around Jesus, the Master Discippler.

Discipleship is about spiritual formation in becoming like Jesus.

At the heart of discipleship is spiritual formation. Jesus says in Luke 6:40, “*A disciple is not above his teacher, but after he has been fully trained, he will be like his teacher.*”



Jesus modeled discipleship first, then mandated it for us.

If everything we do is about Jesus, then we must be committed to what Jesus was committed to. Discipleship was and is His plan for men and women to know Him, become like Him and reach the lost in all corners of the world. He devoted time to discipleship, spending his ministry with a small group of men He prayerfully selected, imparting His life and equipping them. He was committed to multiplication, as those disciples then went on to make more disciples.

Not only did Jesus model discipleship, He mandated it to his disciples (and us) in Matthew 28, known as The Great Commission.

*“Go therefore and **make disciples** of all nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching** them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, **I am with you** always to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-20)*

The mission: make disciples through baptizing and teaching. This call is intentional and outward focused. It is global and for everyone. It is sustained and empowered by Jesus.

Discipleship was central to the early church and to our church.

Discipleship didn't stop when Jesus ascended - it continued on through the early church. The disciples transitioned from Jesus leading them physically as their master and teacher to a form of discipleship that was more decentralized and empowered by the Holy Spirit through His people.

We carry on that work here at Bay Area as we see every believer part of the body. We are each members of one another, called to participate in relational community where discipleship best happens. We live out scripture's "one anothers" as we love, pray, forgive, share, instruct, correct, etc. each other.

THE NINE ESSENTIALS

We look to scripture as our guide for the "how" and "what" of discipleship. We commit to the Biblical picture of discipleship while expressing it uniquely through our time, context and people. In other words, the core principles remain the same while allowing expressions and methods to change.

As we take up the mantle, we remain committed to the foundational pieces of discipleship we find through careful study of the Word, Jesus' life and the early church. Because of this, we believe that these nine essentials summarize and guide discipleship.

These 9 essentials guide how we incorporate discipleship into our ministries and guide an individual in how to engage in discipleship in their own journey.



**FOLLOWS
JESUS**

**Intentional
Holistic**



**BEING CHANGED
BY JESUS**

**Word-Centered
Spirit-Led
Prayerful
Relational
Costly**



**ON MISSION
WITH JESUS**

**Evangelistic
Reproducing**

Intentional

Discipleship is **intentional**. We must be intentionally and actively engaged in the spiritual growth process. Becoming more like Jesus doesn't happen by accident! While God is ultimately responsible for transforming us, we are called to be active participants in that process together with Him. When we make ourselves available to God, we can expect to become more passionately devoted to Christ and His will for our lives.

Holistic

Discipleship is **holistic**. God desires to transform us from the inside out so that we might love him with our whole being. This is a life-long process! While we never arrive at full maturity this side of heaven, there is always a new or deeper place the gospel can reach. Our faith isn't just something we do on Sundays but influences every area of our lives, from our traumas and idols to our personalities, families, workplaces and hobbies. As we let the gospel into every part of our life, we can expect to experience Christ's Lordship over more areas of our heart and life.

Word-Centered

Discipleship is **Word-centered**. God's Word is central to our discipleship journey. The Bible is God's revelation of Himself to us, and by this living, powerful Word the lost are found and believers are formed into the image of Jesus. We don't just study the Word for information, we seek the transformation it brings. It also provides a lens through which we view the world,



knowing the truth on which to rest. When we study God's Word personally and with others, we can expect to grow in wisdom, knowledge, righteousness and discernment.

Spirit-Led

Discipleship is **Spirit-led**. Without the Holy Spirit leading us, discipleship is "of the flesh" and based on our human effort alone. This produces a mindset of sin management and behavior modification. Becoming more like Jesus comes only by the empowering, leading, convicting and guiding power of God's Spirit. When we rely on the Holy Spirit, we can expect to see the fruit of the Spirit abound in our life: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Relational

Discipleship is **relational**. God never intended for us to walk through life alone. In fact, we are designed to be interdependent. Our moment-by-moment interactions with others are the laboratory of personal change where we are tested, stretched and pushed to love and respond like Christ. Without question, we become more like Jesus through our spiritual community. When we gather with others, we can expect to give and receive grace.

Prayerful

Discipleship is **prayerful**. Without prayer, we go nowhere! As disciples, it is impossible to cultivate an intimate, personal relationship with Jesus without prayer. Prayer is the lifeline of discipleship! It shifts our perspectives and changes our wills to be aligned with God. When we pray, we can expect to grow in humble dependence on our Father.

Costly

Discipleship is **costly**. When Jesus said "follow me" it was not just an invitation into his life, but also to follow him in his death - he said we must daily take up our cross and deny ourselves. In fact, this self-sacrificial mindset was so integral to his way of living that Jesus cautioned any potential disciple to first carefully count the sacrificial costs before they chose to follow him. There is no version of discipleship that is without sacrifices! Denying oneself always feels like death but leads to a resurrection life full of hope and power. It is through our self-denial, cultural rejection, suffering and sacrifice that we identify with Christ in his sufferings and await the full hope of Christ's return. When we count the cost, we can expect to experience resurrection life.



Reproducing

Discipleship is **reproducing**. Discipleship requires passing the baton! All true discipleship includes investing in other believers and helping to equip them on their growth journey. As each of us invests in others, we create a multiplying effect - we become disciples who are making disciples (who then make disciples!). When we invest in others, we can expect to grow ourselves while also participating in the mission Jesus Himself started.

Evangelistic

Discipleship is **evangelistic**. If we want to become like Jesus, then we will take on his heart and posture toward those who are spiritually lost. True progress in Christlikeness is seen in an ever growing burden for those far from God and increasing boldness in sharing the gospel. We share the gospel by the way we live our lives in front of a watching world as well as when we speak the truth about Jesus to those who come into our life, whether across the street, a member of our family, at work, or across the world. When we share about Jesus, we can expect to grow in compassion for those around us and boldness to unashamedly share about Christ.

REFLECT:

Which of the Nine Essentials of Discipleship resonates most with you? Which one challenges you the most?

Is there anything in this approach to discipleship that you would like clarified / discussed further?



We describe our relationship with Jesus as being a *believer* or a *Christian*, but the Scriptures also indicate we are *disciples*. What impact does being a “disciple” have on your identity and relationship with Jesus?



PERSONAL DISCIPLESHIP

In a previous section, you read about our church's discipleship philosophy. As ministry partners, not only do we champion Bay Area's mission to make disciples, but we also embrace a personal call to discipleship. We do this by understanding we are all on a journey to become more like Jesus and identifying one area of growth to focus on at a time.

There are two ways we can process our next step.

1. Take Bay Area's discipleship assessment to identify which of The Nine Essentials is an area of growth. [Click here to take the assessment.](#)

My next step according to the assessment:

2. Create an IPA Plan (Identity, Priority, Action Plan) to help identify our primary identities and actions in this next season. **Continue** on to complete your own IPA plan.



IDENTITY → PRIORITY → ACTION PLAN

We want to **intentionally** foster our identity in Christ. To become more like Jesus, we need to make Spirit-led choices that lead to spiritual formation. These are commonly referred to as disciplines, practices, or habits.

Our choices are largely the product of our thinking. Therefore, we must think the right thoughts in order to consistently act in the right ways. This is where our identity comes in: when we have a proper view of self, we are able to prioritize and act accordingly.

This means reviewing who we are, what our priorities are in light of that, and the habits we can embrace to live that out more fully. **Our identities shape our priorities, our priorities shape our actions, and our actions shape our identity.**

To illustrate, you might say something related to your hobbies, like “I am a runner.” As you see yourself in that identity, your priority of regularly going for a run naturally comes up. Then your action or habit is to run, say, four times a week. The more you run, the more your identity as a runner is reinforced and strengthened. This then motivates you to continue to prioritize running regularly. Then you actually run four times a week. And it continues.

This is what we are trying to build through this exercise. It will help us think through the different spheres of our lives while focusing specifically on **our main identity as a disciple**. This will orient our priorities and actions. Our identity as a disciple can often fall to the wayside in light of our other “selves.” Yet to become more like Jesus means intentionally prioritizing our spiritual journey, taking one small step at a time. As we cultivate these things, we can better discern God’s priorities for our lives which help us say “no” to lesser things and “yes” to the actions, habits and disciplines that help us become more like Jesus.

To recap...

Identity shapes priorities. Priorities shape our actions. Actions shape our identity.

Let’s get started.



IDENTITY: WHO WE ARE

INSTRUCTIONS: In the spaces below, write out all of the **identity** labels you wear. Think of all the ways you might describe yourself to someone and list them here. Reflect on your roles, relationships, family position, vocation, hobbies, affinities, nationality, etc.

Ex: Mother, sister, daughter, accountant, soccer player, Marylander, Ravens fan, etc.

NEXT: Think solely of your identity as a follower of Jesus. What words would you use to describe yourself? Reference the verses on the next page for some inspiration.

Ex: child of God, His ambassador, beloved, etc.

OUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST

Galatians 2:20 - *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

2 Corinthians 5:17 - *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

Ephesians 2:10 - *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

John 1:12-13 - *But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*

Romans 8:1 - *There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*

Romans 8:16-17 - *The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.*

Galatians 4:7 - *So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.*

1 Peter 2:9 - 10 - *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

John 15:15 - *No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you*

Matthew 5:13-16 - *“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”*

2 Corinthians 5:20 - *Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*



NEXT: Select your top 3-5 identities from the two boxes on page 3 and write them in statement form below. Make sure to include your spiritual identity by writing it first.

Here are two examples:

I am a devoted disciple of Jesus.

I am a supportive and sacrificial spouse.

Now write 3-5 of your own:

I am a _____.

I am a _____.

I am a _____.

I am a _____.

I am a _____.

NEXT: We will take our identity statements (who I am), clarify the priorities that align with it (what I value or aspire to), and commit to actions that embody those priorities (what I do in light of that).



ADDING PRIORITIES + ACTION STEPS

Now that we've listed out our top 3-5 identities, let's think through the rest of the process by adding a priority and action for each identity statement. But first, let's think through what each means.

What is a priority? Priorities are things we treat with importance, something we give our time, attention or resources to. Priorities are what we value or aspire to. They are general enough to guide us but not specific enough to yet be defined as an action (something we repeatedly do).

Some helpful questions to determine your priorities:

- Why is this identity statement important to me?
- What area of this identity statement do I need to focus on?
- What results will come if I actually prioritize this?
- By prioritizing this, how will I more fully fulfill my identity?

Let's take our identity of "devoted disciple" as an example.

Identity: *I am a devoted disciple of Jesus.*

Priority: *Cultivating a personal, intimate relationship with Jesus.*

What is an action? An action is a habit that comes out of our identity and priority. It is something you do repeatedly. Some might call these practices or rhythms. Actions are best built by focusing on one single thing at a time until mastered, so start small. Once mastered, you can move onto the next. Add some notes that will make your action stick.

Let's take our example again:

Identity: *I am a devoted disciple of Jesus.*

Priority: *Cultivating a personal, intimate relationship with Jesus.*

Action: *Early morning quiet time.*

Notes: *Go to bed at 9 PM, set the coffee maker, put out Chapter a Day and Bible, set alarm.*

PERSONAL IDENTITY → PRIORITY → ACTION CHART

IDENTITY		PRIORITY		ACTION
<i>I am a devoted disciple of Jesus.</i>	→	<i>Cultivating a personal, intimate relationship with Jesus.</i>	→	<i>Morning quiet time.</i> <u>Notes:</u> Go to bed at 9 PM, set the coffee maker, put out Chapter a Day and Bible, etc.
I am a _____	→	_____	→	_____
_____		_____		_____
I am a _____	→	_____	→	_____
_____		_____		_____
I am a _____	→	_____	→	_____
_____		_____		_____
I am a _____	→	_____	→	_____
_____		_____		_____
I am a _____	→	_____	→	_____
_____		_____		_____



NEXT STEPS

Now your list is complete and you have action steps to guide you over the next few months. You're encouraged to **put this somewhere visible** (fridge, bathroom mirror, journal) and **share it** with a friend in your community or life group.

Then, simply **start practicing** your first action step. Work on consistency. When you feel you have it mastered, move on to the next one. Little by little, you'll see your life transformed. Repeat this for a lifetime and you will reap a life that looks more and more like Jesus!

Additional Resources: If you're interested in learning more about forming intentional habits, check out:

- [Atomic Habits](#) by James Clear
- [The Power to Change](#) by Craig Groeschel



THE SHARED BEHAVIORS OF MINISTRY PARTNERS

Beyond the call of personal discipleship, ministry partners embrace following Jesus together. Throughout Scripture, we see believers gathering together, serving one another, sharing generously, living in community, and participating in God's mission. These practices do not earn God's love or earn our salvation, but they are essential ways we grow as disciples and help others do the same. As we embrace them, we engage in the rhythms established by the early church.

READ: Acts 2:42-47

REFLECT:

Acts 2:42-47 describe the community of the early church. What do you notice about their shared life and rhythms?

How do those correlate to being a part of our church community?

We aim to embrace the shared life as outlined in Scripture. **At Bay Area, we encourage every Ministry Partner to actively participate in five key practices:**

1. Faithfully Attending Sunday Gatherings
2. Gathering in Spiritual Community
3. Serving Using Our Gifts
4. Giving Generously as the Lord Leads
5. Living on Mission as a Good News Person



FAITHFULLY ATTENDING SUNDAY GATHERINGS

The Christian life was never intended to be lived alone. From the earliest days of the church, believers gathered regularly to worship God, devote themselves to the apostles' teaching, pray together, celebrate baptism and the Lord's Supper, and encourage one another in the faith (Acts 2:42-47). While our relationship with Jesus is deeply personal, it was never meant to be separate from others. God uses the gathered church to strengthen our faith, remind us of the gospel, and shape us into the likeness of Christ.

At Bay Area, Sunday Gatherings are the primary place where our church family comes together. We worship through singing, prayer, the preaching of God's Word, baptism, communion, and celebrating what God is doing in and through our church. Every gathering is designed to help us become more like Jesus while equipping us to live on mission throughout the week.

As Ministry Partners, we prioritize gathering weekly with our church family. While vacations, illness, work responsibilities, and other circumstances will occasionally prevent us from attending, we view gathering with God's people as a rhythm of discipleship rather than an optional activity. Our presence encourages others just as theirs encourages us.

REFLECT:

How can your consistent presence encourage others in the church?

Is there anything that keeps you from prioritizing attendance at Sunday Gatherings? How can you overcome those barriers?

GATHERING IN SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY

The early church was marked not only by gathering together for worship but also by sharing life together throughout the week. They devoted themselves to fellowship, broke bread in one another's homes, prayed together, cared for one another's needs, and lived with deep unity (Acts 2:42-47). In the same way, we believe spiritual growth happens best in the context of community: when we move beyond attending gatherings and intentionally pursue authentic spiritual relationships. As we live life together, God uses us to encourage, challenge, comfort, and shape one another into the likeness of Christ.

Here that happens mainly through:

- **Community Groups:** mid-sized groups that meet in homes for Bible study, prayer, fellowship and serving their neighbors
- **Life Groups:** small, gender-specific groups that are a training ground for disciple-makers)
- **Men and Women's Bible Studies:** semesterly gatherings of men and women around a specific Bible topic or focus
- **Mentoring:** 1-1 time with a mentor for a specific life situation or season
- **Various Groups:** 20s and 30s, 40s+ singles group or any other group that meets with the intention of spiritual growth and fellowship

As Ministry Partners, we commit to pursuing biblical community rather than simply attending church. It is our hope that all Ministry Partners are connected to one of the above forms of community as part of their discipleship journey.

REFLECT:

Who are the people currently helping you follow Jesus? How are you intentionally investing in the spiritual growth of others?

How are you intentionally investing in the spiritual growth of others?

Is there a step you need to take toward engaging in Biblical community?



SERVING USING OUR GIFTS

Jesus came "not to be served, but to serve" (Mark 10:45). As His followers, we embrace the same posture. Every believer has been uniquely gifted by God to strengthen the church and bless others (see Ephesians 4, 1 Peter 4, Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12). Serving is not simply meeting needs or filling volunteer positions; it is one of the primary ways we become more like Jesus and participate in His work.

That's why here at Bay Area, we serve! It is who we are and what we do. We believe everyone has something to contribute. Whether welcoming guests, discipling children, leading a group, serving behind the scenes, or caring for the members of our spiritual family, every act of service matters because every role contributes to God's mission.

As Ministry Partners, we joyfully use our time, gifts, and abilities to build up the body of Christ. We serve not out of obligation but from gratitude for all Jesus has done for us.

REFLECT:

How do you hope to contribute to the mission of Bay Area? Where are you currently using your gifts on a team or within a ministry?

If you are currently serving, how has that helped you grow spiritually?

Is there a step you need to take in this direction?

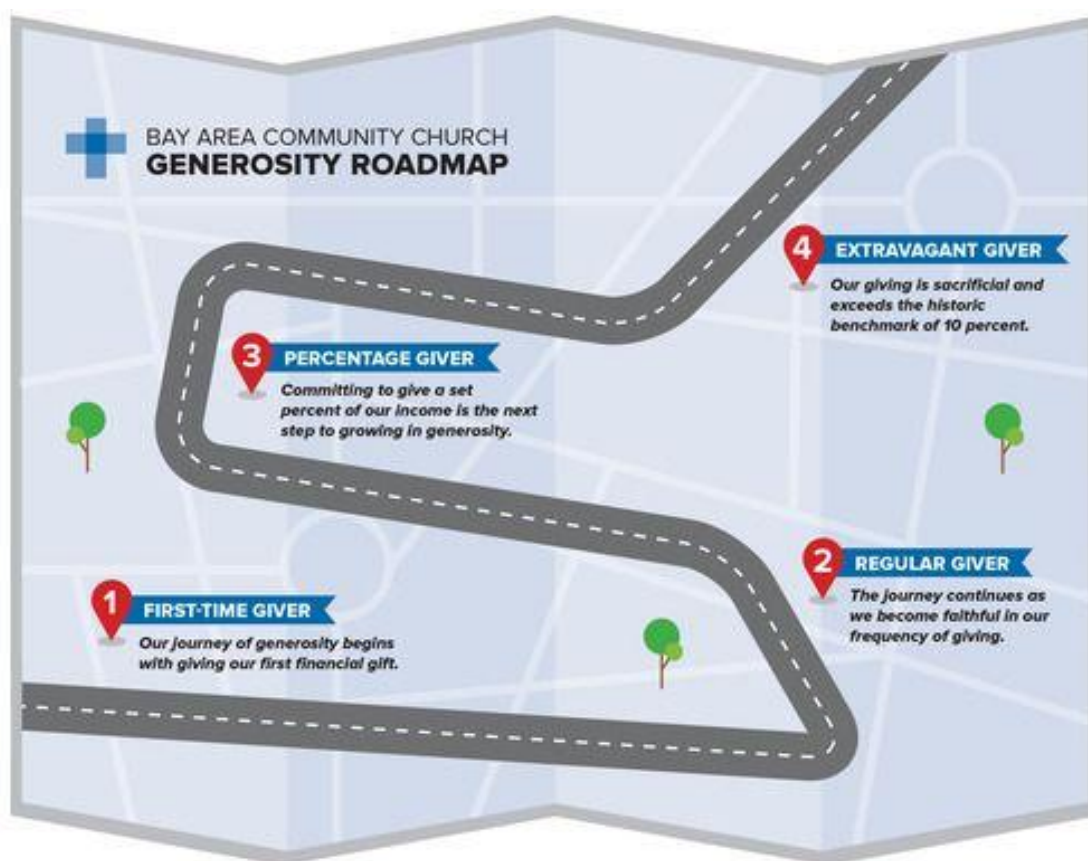
GIVING GENEROUSLY AS THE LORD LEADS

Everything we have ultimately belongs to God (Psalm 24:1). He has entrusted us with our time, talents, and financial resources to steward faithfully for His glory. Generosity is an act of worship that reflects our trust in God's provision and our desire to participate in His kingdom work.

That's why we believe **God owns it, I steward it**. We aim to practice **give, save, live**: a mentality where we give back to God first, save second, and live off the rest. [Click here if you'd like to read more thoroughly through our generosity practices.](#)

At Bay Area, generosity fuels ministry both locally and globally. Through faithful giving, we care for people in need, disciple the next generation, support church planting and global partnerships, and create opportunities for more people to hear and respond to the gospel.

As Ministry Partners, we seek to cultivate hearts of generosity. We recognize that giving looks different in different seasons, but we desire to faithfully steward what God has entrusted to us and give as He leads. Below are the steps someone on a journey of faith might take as they explore giving in response to God's generosity.





REFLECT:

What does generosity reveal about our trust in God?

How have you seen God use generosity in your own life?

Where are you on the generosity roadmap? In what ways is God inviting you to grow as a faithful steward?



LIVING ON MISSION AS GOOD NEWS PEOPLE

Jesus' final command was to make disciples of all nations. Every follower of Jesus has been sent to represent Him wherever God has placed them. Mission is not reserved for pastors or missionaries, it is the calling of every disciple.

At Bay Area, we talk about advancing the gospel in **you, your neighbors, and the nations**. We want to become the kind of people (Good News People!) who naturally show and share the love of Jesus where we live, work, play, and learn. We also partner globally through prayer, generosity, and sending people to the nations because God's heart is for every tribe, tongue, and nation.

As Ministry Partners, we commit to living as "Good News People." We seek opportunities to love our neighbors, share the hope of Christ, and participate in God's global mission through praying, giving, and going.

REFLECT:

Who has God placed in your life that needs to experience the love of Jesus?

What does it look like for you to live on mission in your current season?

How might God be inviting you to participate in His mission locally or globally?



WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR A MINISTRY PARTNER?

As Ministry Partners, we aim to participate in each of these elements - personal discipleship, attending on Sundays, connecting in community, serving using our gifts, giving as the Lord leads, and living on mission - knowing they contribute to our spiritual growth in helping us become more like Jesus.

While these five practices are key expressions of life as a Ministry Partner, we recognize that discipleship extends into every area of life. We desire to follow Jesus by faithfully stewarding our families, work, relationships, time, health, and every opportunity God entrusts to us.

With all this in mind, it is our desire that every Ministry Partner actively pursue all five practices as part of a healthy, growing life with Jesus. At the same time, we recognize that seasons of life and individual circumstances vary, so **we ask Ministry Partners to be meaningfully engaged in at least three of these practices while continuing to grow toward full participation in all five.**

REFLECT:

Which of these five practices are you currently engaged in, and which practice(s) would you like to grow in next?

As you reflect on everything you've read in this guide, what excites you most about becoming a Ministry Partner at Bay Area?



What questions, if any, remain before taking the step of becoming a Ministry Partner?

MINISTRY PARTNER COMMITMENT

Ministry Partnership is a commitment to shared values, beliefs, and doctrine as we partner together in our mission of making passionate, maturing followers of Jesus from here to the nations. Ministry Partners are primarily disciples who follow Jesus, are being changed by Jesus, and on mission with Jesus. Ideally, we are disciples who make disciples and live as good news people where we live, work, learn, and play.

As Ministry Partners, we receive the blessings of this body while also sharing the responsibilities. We receive care, encouragement, and shepherding, and offer our presence, gifts, resources, and prayers for the building up of this spiritual family. We aim to be spiritual contributors, not spiritual consumers. Together with our family of faith, we joyfully enter into the following affirmations and shared commitments:

COMMITMENT TO SHARED BELIEFS:

- I affirm salvation in Jesus alone and trust Him as Lord and Savior
- I have identified with Jesus through water baptism
- I affirm Bay Area's doctrinal beliefs
- I affirm / assent to Bay Area's statements of position
- I affirm / assent to Bay Area's mission, vision, values, and philosophy of discipleship

COMMITMENT OF PERSONAL DISCIPLESHIP:

- I am living as a disciple of Jesus as my primary identity
- I am investing in my own spiritual growth through daily Scripture reading, prayer, etc.

COMMITMENT TO SHARED BEHAVIORS:

- I am / commit to faithfully attend Sunday gatherings for worship, teaching, and fellowship
- I am / commit to using my spiritual gifts to serve my church family at a campus or with our local partners
- I am / commit to faithfully give as the Lord leads to advance the mission of Bay Area Community Church
- I am / commit to engaging in spiritual community to gather and grow as a disciple
- I am / commit to living as a good news person where I live, work, play, and learn

COMMITMENT TO SHEPHERDING AND ACCOUNTABILITY:

- I agree to follow and submit to the Elders leadership and direction and abide by Bay Area Community Church's policy on discipline for its Ministry Partners.
- I commit to responding to my Shepherding Elder when he initiates contact with me throughout the year and if I have any concerns or questions to contact my Shepherding Elder.
- I commit to revisiting this commitment every two years as part of a bi-annual check in for continuing Ministry Partners. If I feel led to attend another church, I commit to sharing this information with my Elder or a Staff Leader.

OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

As an Elder of Bay Area Community Church, we commit, with God's help, to shepherd our church family with humility and love. We commit to praying for you (and your family) and to be in regular contact with you over the course of two years to offer spiritual care, guidance, and answer any questions/concerns if needed. We commit to modeling Christlike character, pursue unity, listen well, and lead as a servant. We commit to serving as a model ministry partner and embracing these shared commitments. Together, we desire to nurture a healthy, Spirit-led church where every disciple is encouraged and equipped to follow Jesus and help others do the same.

