

# THE PATH OF A DISCIPLE

GROWING SPIRITUALLY BY LOVING GOD AND LOVING PEOPLE

## GET TALKING

How has your love for God and people grown or changed in the last year?

## WATCH THE VIDEO

37 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself." 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

**Matthew 22:37-40**

**A DISCIPLE IS ONE WHO BELIEVES IN JESUS FOR ETERNAL LIFE AND IS FOLLOWING HIM WITH ALL OF THEIR LIFE.**

Believing → Discovering → Obeying → Following

5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. 8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.

**2 Peter 1:5-9**

## DISCUSS AND APPLY

Read Matthew 22:37-40. What does Jesus say is the greatest goal for our lives?

## WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 19

Big Idea: Growing spiritually is a life-long pursuit for every believer in Jesus.

## NEXT LEVEL QUESTIONS

Use these questions to customize or deepen the discussion.

Read John 14:21. What does it mean to love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength?

Read 1 John 4:19-21. How has your love for God changed how you see, relate to and interact with people?

What does it mean in 2 Peter 1:5 "make every effort to add to your faith...?"

Read 2 Peter 1:3-4 and Philippians 2:12-13. What part does God have in our personal spiritual growth?

Discuss the logical progression in 2 Peter 1:5-7 for personal spiritual growth. The eight steps listed are: faith, goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, mutual affection (brotherly love), love (agape). Where are you in this process of growth?

Why are loving God and loving people linked?

How do we show our love for God and people?

What can we do to grow to love God and people?

God uses many things to help disciples grow such as life, hardships, people, church, a retreat or camp. What are some things that God has used in your life to grow you to be more like Jesus?

Read 2 Peter 1:5-9. What does Peter tell the church to do to keep growing in their faith?

Why does Peter tell believers to keep taking their next step?

What is the warning if we don't don't?

If a disciple is one who has believed in Jesus for eternal life and is following Jesus with all of their life, what's your next step to love both God and people?

PRAY AND ENCOURAGE

What is the goal of our spiritual growth according to Ephesians 4:15-16?