

If you have limited time to prepare, this 3-step outline is a helpful tool for leading a small group discussion:

1. Read the text from Sunday's message.
2. What did you find most helpful/confusing/new/ that you did not understand from the message?
3. What were your big takeaways? How will you put these into practice in your life?

Getting Started

- Who "nudged" you to grow spiritually in the last year? In what ways?
- Who might God be calling you to "nudge" or mentor to grow in their faith in the coming year?

Discussion

Pastor John talked about four spheres of life that must be increasingly centered on Jesus ...

1. Your relationship with Jesus
 2. Your relationships within the Church
 3. Your relationships within your Home/Family
 4. Your relationship with the World
- Share some examples of what each of these areas looked like before you trusted Jesus as Savior.
 - How are you growing to align your relationships within the church, your home and the world to be more Christ-centered?
 - Considering some of the examples that Pastor John shared, what are a few of your "next steps" in the discipleship process this year?

The first step in the discipleship process is for the "spiritually dead" to be born-again and experience new life in Christ.

Jesus invited Andrew, Peter and others to *come and see* who He was. Read John 1:35-51.

Effective discipleship will engage the Head, Heart and Hands. There is a focus on what we know to be true (Head), what captures our heart in what we believe (Heart), and how we respond by putting these truths and beliefs into practice (Hands).

- Read Acts 2:37-47. Summarize the process of someone coming to the point of saving faith based on verses 37-41.
- Based on verses 42-47, discuss the new patterns of life that are to be increasingly integrated into the life of follower of Jesus. What might some of the things listed below look like in our context?
 - Devote yourself to the teaching of the Word (listen, read, study, memorize, meditate on the Word)
 - Engage in fellowship with other believers
 - Gather for times of worship centered on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus
 - Develop a life of devoted to private and corporate prayer
 - Grow in the grace of generous giving
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- What are some practical steps you can take to grow in these areas this year? Think about Head, Heart and Hands.

Prayer

Pray for our church family to continually be growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior. May 2020 be a year of continual transformation. Colossians 1:9-14 is a powerful prayer to pray for yourself and others.

⁹For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, ¹⁰so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, ¹²and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. ¹³For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Pray for several upcoming events and opportunities for people to connect in the next two months

- Financial Peace University, starts Wednesday Jan 8
- Empowered to Connect (group for adoptive and foster parents), starts Monday Jan 13
- Women's Bible Study, Wednesday AM and PM, starts Jan 15
- January Prayer Gathering, Thursday Jan 16, 7pm in the Loft
- No Regrets Men's Conference hosted by CF, Saturday Feb 1
- Group Sunday, Feb 2
- Broken Dreams Sermon Series (book of Ruth), starts February 9.
- 8-week small groups will start and follow the Broken Dreams sermon series, starts the week of Feb 9
- Access all our events and groups through the Church Center app and/or our CF website