



Monthly Newsletter of
South Point Community Church
May 2022 – Volume 57

The Connection

A Word from Pastor Dave

Over the next number of weeks, our plan at South Point is to spend some time talking about growing in our relationship with God and striving to become more like Jesus in both our thoughts and our actions. Growth is a fascinating thing to study in biology. For example, when it comes to the way a plant grows you can examine topics like photosynthesis, discovering how a leaf draws energy into the plant in from the Sun. When you begin to discover all that goes on with the root system in order for the plant to absorb nutrients from the soil again the interconnectedness involved with other plants and funguses which amplifies the effectiveness of the root system is quite a surprise. Yet when you think about it, it really shouldn't be. After all, it is also true for us. Our lives are affected by everything around us. We may try to filter some of those effects out but we know the effects are there because they either build us up, tear us down or exhaust us.

In the past, we have talked about the acronym G. M. C. (Grow, Minister and Connect) as an overall strategy for living out our Christian life together in a balanced and productive way. In the following few paragraphs is a summary of the GMC plan so that as we talk specifically about growth we don't lose the broader context.

MAY DATES

- 1st - Blessing of the Bikes Service 10:30 am
- 4th - Prayer at Church 10:30 am
- 8th - Happy Mother's Day
- 8th - Worship Service 10:30 am
- 9th - New Women's Bible Study Starting 7 pm
- 11th - Prayer at Church 10:30 am
- 14th - Pastoral Team Meeting 8:30 am
- 15th - Coffee Talk Service 10:30 am
- 15th - SPCC Town Hall Meeting & Lunch 12:00 pm
- 16th - Women's Bible Study 7 pm
- 18th - Prayer at Church 10:30 am
- 22nd - Worship & Communion Service 10:30 am
- 23rd - Happy Victoria Day
- 25th - Prayer at Church 10:30 am
- 28th - Men's Breakfast 8:30 am
- 29th - Coffee Talk Service 10:30 am
- 30th - Women's Bible Study 7 pm

Summary of GMC

A real plan

(concrete, personal, biblical, accountable)

For real people

(individual, family, church, community, globe)

With a real God

(empowered by, in service of, proclaiming & glorifying)

- The idea here is to help the individuals that are part of our church family at South Point to create *a plan to grow, a plan to minister and a plan to connect* (i.e. with God and others). Understanding our personal strengths, weaknesses, past experiences, passions, spiritual gifts, temperament, and personal resources helps us to make this plan. The plan is supposed to be organic and flexible, yet clear and simple so that it fits with the speed of life, the pressures of family, work, school, the needs of the church and the call to daily live for Jesus.
- The problem seems to be that our culture encourages us to be “busy”. Someone once sarcastically commented that busy stands for, “Bound Under Satan’s Yoke”. There might be more truth in that than we would care to imagine. On top of the push from our culture, it seems many Christians find that their church feeds that busyness more than it encourages balance and pace. This of course affects our families, our relationship with

God and our ministry for God. However, it has been pointed out that, “Being busy for the King is no excuse for ignoring the King!” Therefore, GMC is ultimately intended to reinforce Jesus’ personal invitation to get off the treadmill and onto the pathway (“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30; NIV)

- GMC starts with our work and time together as part of South Point. However, if GMC helps people keep their work and time together as part of South Point **simple**, then that will free up people’s **time to be Ambassadors for Christ** in their own homes and communities. Also, if GMC helps people make their work and time together as part of South Point **significant** then that will give people the **tools to be Ambassadors for Christ** in their own homes and communities (2 Corinthians 5:18-20).
- It is worth noting that there is not a specific order for the G, the M and the C in this plan. The three should naturally flow and feed into each other. For example when we minister, we give our energy and when we worship; connecting with God and other believers; we charge up our energy.

As we spend this time over the next number of weeks talking about growth, let me encourage you to feel free to ask at the church about any of these other resources as well in order that our plan to grow is genuinely simple, significant and sustainable.



Prayer Corner

Father, thank you. Thank you for making a way for us to follow, and the truth for us to embrace, making this gift of faith within us to grow richer and richer leading us home to you.

Jesus, thank you. Thank you for choosing us to be your followers.

You became one of us, teaching us humility.

You came to serve, teaching us how to serve.

You endured the cross that was set before you, teaching us to bear our crosses with gladness.

Spirit thank you. Thank you for taking up residence in us, comforting and strengthening us on our broken roads. We cling to your promise of making your strength perfect in our weakness.

And Lord, if at all possible... use the likeness of Jesus to be seen through us, so that others may want to follow you too. ~ Amen

Barnabas Notes



Discipleship

In Christianity, disciple primarily refers to a dedicated follower of Jesus. This term is found in the New Testament only in the Gospels and Acts.

Discipleship is important because we want people to become fully committed followers of Christ. Discipleship helps believers to grow in their faith, to grow in maturity and wisdom, and build their faith on a strong foundation so that they can then disciple and lead others towards Christ.

Discipleship to me means to follow Jesus Christ. Everything involved in following Jesus, or being a disciple, is spelled out in the bible. Spending time reading the Gospels, the first four books of the New Testament, will give us a good understanding of the way Jesus taught His disciples. And in the book of Acts, we read and understand how God's followers, His disciples, put into practice what they had learned and received from Jesus. All we need to do then is apply what we have read to our own lives. It's not very easy to do when we first start but

continuing to study the Bible and applying God's principles will become easier as time goes on.

The goal of discipleship is Christ likeness in character and behavior. Christ teaches that there are ways in which this change happens. One way is Love. "By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35). Everything we see in Jesus we are to live out in our lives, especially the "loving others" part.

From the beginning, the main goal of Our Church has been to make "Fully Devoted Followers of Jesus Christ". To do this we turn to Biblical teaching. Directing all who enter our church, to the cross, and to the teachings of Jesus. Showing love and fellowship to all.

And what's in it for me, you might say? Eternity spent with God, that's all. But hey, that's huge. It's really why we are here; and that's what life is all about.



Pineapple Cake

Ingredients:

2 cups flour

2 cups crushed pineapple with juice

1 cup sugar

2 tsp. soda

2 eggs

1 cup walnuts

Stir all together well. Pour into a greased 9x12 pan. Bake in 350 degree F oven for 40 minutes. Cool.

Frosting:

8oz cream cheese

1/2 cup butter

1 1/2-2 cups icing sugar

1 tbsp. vanilla



May Birthdays

Happy Birthday!

9 Peter

24 Finn

11 Len

25 Glen

14 Maria M.

29 Ruby

19 Bailey

30 Amanda

22 Charmaine

30 Talitha

Ministry Highlight

This month we would like to highlight the Maintenance Team. We are so thankful for all of the hard work they do around our building and our grounds to keep everything running and safe for us to enjoy. Over the past couple of months there has been a

lot of work done repairing the floor in our Chapel as well as doing a bunch of repairs and maintenance so that we are up to date with our local fire department. There are also ongoing jobs like changing the furnace filters, changing light bulbs, cutting the grass and many behind the scenes jobs.

Currently we are looking for volunteers who would be able to help us with some painting as well as be part of our grass cutting crew.

If you would like to help with our different maintenance projects inside or outside of the church, you can talk to Tom, our Maintenance team leader (tom@southpointcc.ca), or myself (tracy@southpointcc.ca).

WE
APPRECIATE
YOU!



Fun & Fellowship at SPCC



Leadership Retreat



Migrant Worker Packs



Dorothy's 92nd Birthday



Meditations by J'Aime

Discipleship. Just take a moment to absorb that word. The more you look at it and the more you think about it the deeper it goes. What does it mean to be a disciple? What does it mean to offer discipleship? What does it take to be discipled?

If you search the internet for this topic, you come across a lot of articles with 'three simple principals of discipleship' or 'four steps to being a better disciple.' I also found this gem of a sentence: 'Discipleship is a journey of intentional decisions leading to maturity in your relationship with Jesus so that you can become more like Him.' (www.cru.org)

Let's talk intentional decisions. We make decisions every moment of our lives. Do I eat that donut? Do I work late? Do I go through that yellow light? So many of our decisions revolve around control of our lives and our surroundings, including those intentional decisions we make to follow Christ. This creates a conundrum: God is in control and He's got this but we have free will so we have the capacity to make decisions that go against what we know we should be doing. Are we capable of making decisions that go against God's control?

As humans, we can be pretty foolish, but we can't actually do anything to surprise God. Proverbs 16 actually helps clear up the control issue with a simple verse: The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps (Proverbs 16:9). God's control doesn't diminish our ability to make intentional decisions. He knows we're going to mess up before we do and He still loves us.

Discipleship, the intentional following of Jesus, is based on a series of decisions that we as humans make to acknowledge God's control in our lives. It starts with one decision: I am going to be a follower of Christ. But it definitely doesn't end there. That initial choice is where your journey starts. Accepting the love and forgiveness can be hard, especially if you have no earthly experience with either concept.

The definitions I've given so far don't even come close to encompassing everything that discipleship is. Nor does it talk about the fact that no single journey in and towards discipleship will ever be the identical to another. We are all individuals with the ability to make intentional decisions within our own lives. But, even though we're all walking our own single paths, none of us are walking alone.

Our personal discipleship journey is a dynamic, changing and living experience. The decisions we make along the way impact what comes next. Those choices can also affect those around us, each on their own personal journey of discipleship. Our roles change with every step we take, moving from student to teacher and back again. Sometimes we're both at once. At all times we are children of God, following His Son as we continue to intentionally choose His path, accepting the control and delighting in His love as he establishes our steps.

The results are in!

Here are the results from our survey on Discipleship

Question 1: When it comes to your own personal growth, do you find it easier to:

- a) Read the Bible - 15%
- b) Pray - 55%
- c) Other - 10%

For example

- Read specific books.
- Journal and be in nature.
- Listen to Bible Readings
- Helping others

Question 2: When it comes to your own personal growth in discipleship, do you prefer to do that:

- a) In a small group - 40%
- b) With an accountability partner/friend - 30%
- c) On your own - 20%
- d) Other - 10%

For example

- A little bit of both.
- I prefer to do by myself but need the encouragement.

Question 3: When it comes to your own personal growth in discipleship, do you prefer:

- a) Solitude and silence when you are connecting with God. - 50%
- b) Help from media (ex. watching a sermon, using a phone app...) - 10%
- c) Listening to music - 30%
- d) Other - 10%

For example

- Solitude in the outdoors, sometimes with the option of joining with others

Question 4: What do you find is most important for your personal growth:

- a) A consistent time of day to connect with God - 60%
- b) A particular place you like to connect with God - 30%
- e) Other - 10%

For example

- Time outdoors alone to reflect

Question 5: What season in your life have you found it's been easiest to stay close to God:

- a) When I'm really struggling (ex. grief, tragedy...) - 90%
- b) When my children were younger - 0%
- c) When I was an empty nester (children left home) - 10%
- d) Easiest in the summer when I have some time off. - 0%
- e) Easiest in January, beginning of year - 0%
- f) Other - 0%

A Generally Chronological Reading of the New Testament in 90 Days

Day 1 - Luke 1; John 1:1-14	Day 31 - Matthew 19; Mark 10	Day 61 - 1 Corinthians 5-8
Day 2 - Matthew 1; Luke 2:1-38	Day 32 - Matthew 20-21	Day 62 - 1 Corinthians 9-11
Day 3 - Matthew 2; Luke 2:39-52	Day 33 - Luke 18:15--43; Luke 19:1-48	Day 63 - 1 Corinthians 12-14
Day 4 - Matthew 3; Mark 1; Luke 3	Day 34 - Mark 11; John 12	Day 64 - 1 Corinthians 15-16
Day 5 - Matthew 4; Luke 4-5; John 1:15-51	Day 35 - Matthew 22; Mark 12	Day 65 - 2 Corinthians 1-4
Day 6 - John 2-4	Day 36 - Matthew 23; Luke 20-21	Day 66 - 2 Corinthians 5-9
Day 7 - Mark 2	Day 37 - Mark 13	Day 67 - 2 Corinthians 10-13
Day 8 - John 5	Day 38 - Matthew 24	Day 68 - Acts 20:1-3; Romans 1-3
Day 9 - Matthew 12:1-21; Mark 3; Luke 6	Day 39 - Matthew 25	Day 69 - Romans 4-7
Day 10 - Matthew 5-7	Day 40 - Matthew 26; Mark 14	Day 70 - Romans 8-10
Day 11 - Matthew 8:1-13; Luke 7	Day 41 - Luke 22; John 13	Day 71 - Romans 11-13
Day 12 - Matthew 11	Day 42 - John 14-17	Day 72 - Romans 14-16
Day 13 - Matthew 12:22-50; Luke 11	Day 43 - Matthew 27; Mark 15	Day 73 - Acts 20:4-38; Acts 21; Acts 22; Acts 23:1-35
Day 14 - Matthew 13; Luke 8	Day 44 - Luke 23; John 18-19	Day 74 - Acts 24-26
Day 15 - Matthew 8:14-34; Mark 4-5	Day 45 - Matthew 28; Mark 16	Day 75 - Acts 27-28
Day 16 - Matthew 9-10	Day 46 - Luke 24; John 20-21	Day 76 - Colossians 1-4; Philemon
Day 17 - Matthew 14; Mark 6; Luke 9:1-17	Day 47 - Acts 1-3	Day 77 - Ephesians 1-6
Day 18 - John 6	Day 48 - Acts 4-6	Day 78 - Philippians 1-4
Day 19 - Matthew 15; Mark 7	Day 49 - Acts 7-8	Day 79 - 1 Timothy 1-6
Day 20 - Matthew 16; Mark 8; Luke 9:18-27	Day 50 - Acts 9-10	Day 80 - Titus 1-3
Day 21 - Matthew 17; Mark 9; Luke 9:28-62	Day 51 - Acts 11-12	Day 81 - 1 Peter 1-5
Day 22 - Matthew 18	Day 52 - Acts 13-14	Day 82 - Hebrews 1-6
Day 23 - John 7-8	Day 53 - James 1-5	Day 83 - Hebrews 7-10
Day 24 - John 9:1-41; John 10:1-21	Day 54 - Acts 15-16	Day 84 - Hebrews 11-13
Day 25 - Luke 10; John 10:22-42	Day 55 - Galatians 1-3	Day 85 - 2 Timothy 1-4
Day 26 - Luke 12-13	Day 56 - Galatians 4-6	Day 86 - 2 Peter 1-3; Jude
Day 27 - Luke 14-15	Day 57 - Acts 17; Acts 18:1-18	Day 87 - 1 John; 2 John; 3 John
Day 28 - Luke 16; Luke 17:1-10	Day 58 - 1 Thessalonians 1-5; 2 Thessalonians 1-3	Day 88 - Revelation 1-7
Day 29 - John 11	Day 59 - Acts 18:19-28; Acts 19:1-41	Day 89 - Revelation 8-15
Day 30 - Luke 17:11-37; Luke 18:1-14	Day 60 - 1 Corinthians 1-4	Day 90 - Revelation 16-22

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” Psalm 119:105