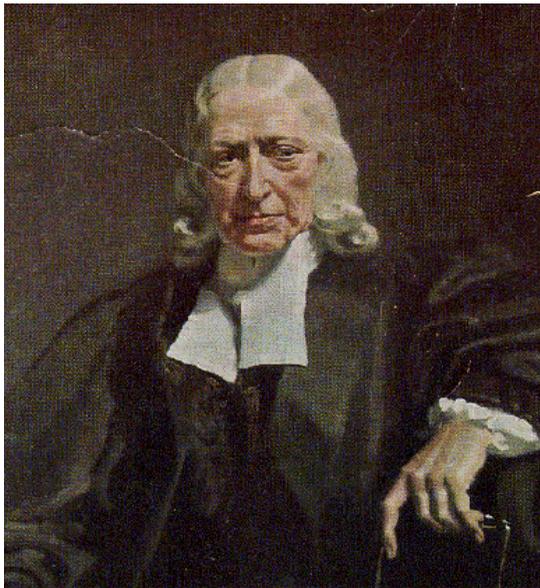


WELCOME TO WAYPOINTS!

Welcome to WAYPOINTS! We are excited to offer this Discipleship Pathway to a lifelong engagement with God and Jesus Christ. The pathway of discipleship is a process by which we look to Jesus that we might become more like Jesus. The WAYPOINTS are coordinates along the pathway to guide your steps as you grow toward Christian maturity.



John Wesley

God's Will, Your Sanctification (1 Thessalonians 4:3)

For Wesley, the ultimate goal of the Christian life is the full restoration in us of the image of God in which we were created. The way to this goal is "sanctification."

Sanctification in the larger sense "entails the implanting of the love of God, in all its richness and power, in the human heart" and therefore involves the deep internalization of "the holy tempers such as faithfulness, humility, meekness, and patience, which will displace such ungodly tempers as atheism, pride, self-will, and love of the world. This process of cleansing, of purifying human hearts so that the divine glory shines through, is nothing less than the very substance of sanctification." (Kenneth Collins, *The Scripture Way of Salvation*, 153)

But this restoration of the image of God **will not** occur without human cooperation with and in response to the grace of God.

In his sermon on **Working Out Your Own Salvation** (Phil. 2: 12-13) Wesley maintains that the sanctifying grace of God, creates not only the *ability* to cooperate with God, but also the *obligation* to do so.

"First, God worketh in you; therefore you can work — otherwise it would be impossible. If he did not work it would be impossible for you to work out your own salvation. Secondly, God worketh in you; therefore you must work: you must be 'workers together with him' (they are the very words of the Apostle); otherwise he will cease working."

So Wesley's vocabulary contains words like "strive," "strain," and "labor," terms that highlight human cooperation with God, but without ever a trace of merit, since it is the Almighty who works in us.

Beyond this Wesley realized that a present gift of grace could not be maintained unless believers continually sought to respond to the ongoing grace of God.

"Realizations of grace, though valuable in themselves, are ever met with new imperatives. In fact, according to Wesley, the more grace that has been showered upon us through the benevolence of God, the greater are the obligations to improve this grace."(Collins, 154) Wesley wrote, "The more we have received the more of care and labour is required."

Not to go forward, then, is not to retain the grace already received, but actually to go backward. There is no standing still.



A DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY

LEADING PEOPLE TO

**EXPERIENCE GOD'S LOVE
KNOW JESUS CHRIST
GROW IN HIS IMAGE**

BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
10010 Anderson Mill Road
Austin, Texas 78750
512-258-6017
www.bethany-umc.org



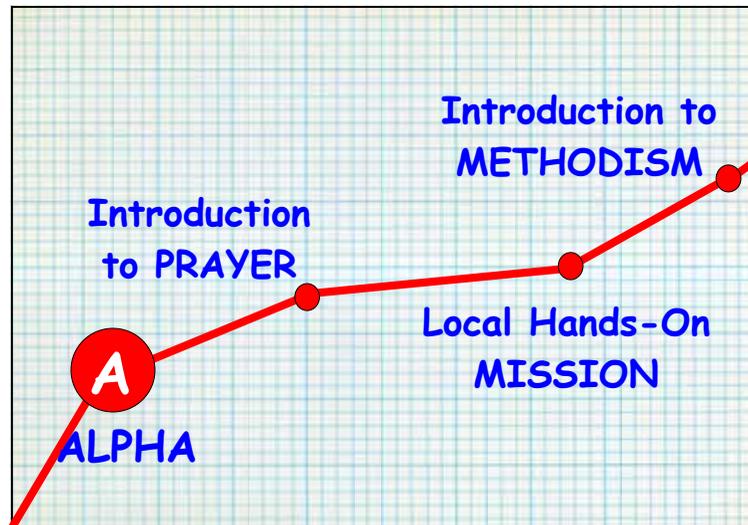
STAGE 1: EXPERIENCE GOD'S LOVE

ALPHA: This 10-week overview of the Christian faith is designed for both the beginner and the more mature Christian who desires a deeper sense of Christianity. Each session begins with a light meal. After a talk addressing a key issue of the Christian faith, we divide into small groups to listen, learn, discuss and discover. ALPHA's small-group setting is great for getting to know people and experiencing God's love.

INTRODUCTION TO PRAYER: One of the best ways to experience God's love is to learn how to talk and listen to Him. Our prayer ministry offers a basic course on prayer to help you understand and practice this most important way of communicating with God.

LOCAL HANDS-ON MISSION: At least once each month, Bethany offers a local, hands-on mission project. Through our FaithWorks ministry, you will have a user-friendly way to connect with the least, the last and the lost, learning of God's love for them and yourself.

INTRODUCTION TO METHODISM: One of Bethany's most popular classes, this two-session course on the basics of Methodism, its history, doctrine, and mission is offered periodically throughout the year.



STAGE 2: KNOW JESUS CHRIST

DISCIPLE 1: This long-term Bible study covers most of the Bible in 34 weeks. Disciple 1 provides a systematic way to become acquainted with the Bible in the intimacy of a small group. What better way to know Jesus Christ than to read and study God's Word with an experienced teacher and others?

SPIRITUAL GIFTS AND PASSIONS: The best way to begin serving Christ is to learn what spiritual gifts and passions God has given you. In this workshop, you will take a Spiritual Gifts Inventory to discover how you are created in a unique way and come to know Jesus Christ through the joy of serving with your passions.

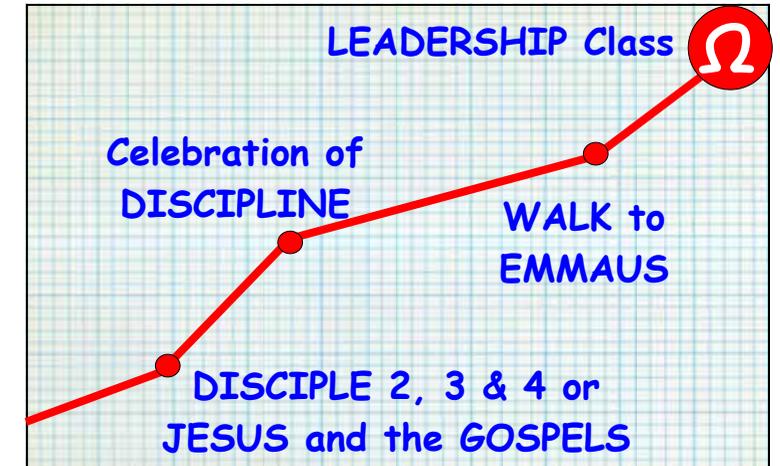


HANDS-ON MISSIONS: Jesus Christ taught us that to know Him more deeply, we must love and serve our neighbor. If you have participated in a FaithWorks project, consider moving up to a more challenging mission project like a short-term mission trip to Mountain T.O.P. in Tennessee, VBS Brownsville, or perhaps El Salvador or Kenya.

SMALL GROUP/SUNDAY SCHOOL AFFILIATIONS: John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement, said no one can be a Christian on his own. Everyone needs a group of people to travel the pathway with them for guidance, encouragement, comfort, and accountability. Through group participation, we come to know Jesus Christ through others.



STAGE 3: GROW IN HIS IMAGE



DISCIPLE 2, 3 and 4, or JESUS AND THE GOSPELS: After taking *Disciple 1*, each of the other 32-week, long-term Disciple classes gives a more in-depth understanding of the Bible. *Jesus and the Gospels* is a 30-week, long-term study that concentrates on the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

CELEBRATION OF DISCIPLINE: This famous book by Richard Foster explores the central spiritual practices of the Christian faith and provides a path to spiritual growth. The book celebrates 12 "classical disciplines" that are divided into three categories, or movements, of the Spirit: inward, outward, and corporate. Foster offers insights and examples of how these disciplines can become a part of our daily lives and bring us closer to God.

WALK TO EMMAUS: The spiritual renewal weekend program strengthens the local church through the development of Christian disciples and leaders. The program's approach seriously considers the model of Christ's servanthood and encourages Christ's disciples to act in ways appropriate to being a servant of all.

LEADERSHIP CLASS: A two semester learning experience that builds Core Values; encourages Self-Discovery; and provides a Life Plan of service to Jesus Christ through leadership.