

Discipleship Leading to Confirmation 2016-2017

Grace Lutheran Church



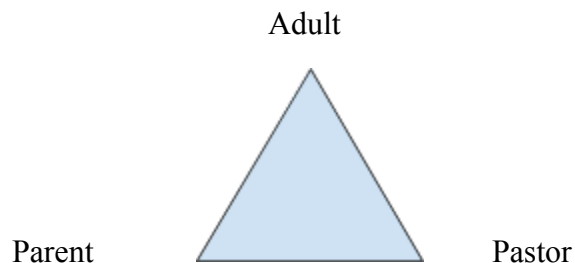
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Dear Parents,

Grace and peace to you in the Name of our Risen Lord and Savior. Some of you may be familiar with our Youth Discipleship Ministry, we ask that you still read through this booklet as it goes over our philosophy, different elements of this ministry, and some key changes. We are now using the phrase “Discipleship Leading to Confirmation” for this ministry as we want to focus on what it means for our youth to believe and live as a disciple of Christ leading up to the celebration service on Confirmation Sunday. This ministry is and always has been about our youth’s spiritual growth and walk with Christ. Foundational to this are the passages from Hebrews 5:11-6:3 and Matthew 28:18-20.

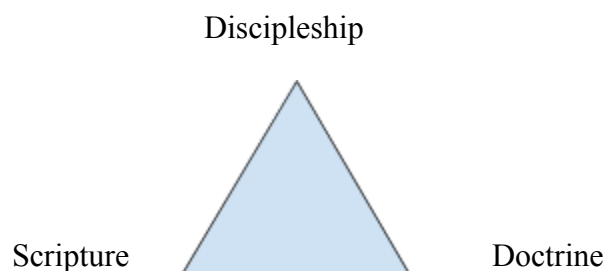
We want to share with you what we see at the foundation of this discipleship ministry.

RELATIONSHIPS



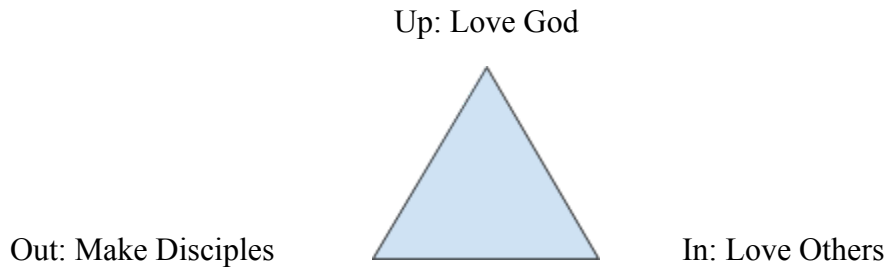
There are 3 key relationships that need to be present in the life of our youth as they grow spiritually: their parents, their pastor or youth leader, and another adult. The most important person that your youth can have a spiritual relationship with is you. We believe that parents have the primary role in the spiritual development of their child. We want to partner with you in doing this. Please watch for our monthly e-newsletter that will seek to equip you have these spiritual conversations. *The more you show your investment in your child's spiritual growth the more they will invest in it.* A pastor or youth leader will invest in your child's spiritual growth through teaching. An additional adult, who is not a parent or youth leader, is important to investing in their spiritual growth as it gives a third voice of encouragement, accountability, and engagement.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION



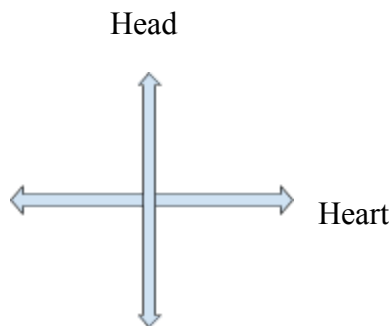
There are three key understandings, that over the course of this discipleship ministry, will be foundational to your child's spiritual growth. We will teach them to listen to the Scriptures as God's Word and understand what His Word means for their life. We will help them to understand from the Scriptures what we believe and why we believe this. This will be done from a Christian worldview instead of the secular humanist worldview of today. Finally, we will look at what does it mean to follow Christ, what are the marks of a disciple, and how do we listen for God's voice speaking in our life today.

DISCIPLESHIP DIMENSIONS



We believe that youth discipleship should be focused on relationships ‘Up’ toward God, ‘In’ toward the community of faith, and ‘Out’ toward others through witness and service. Because of this belief, throughout the year we will engage your child in opportunities to live out their faith in all three dimensions. We will have discipleship events that focus on fellowship and fun with one another (In) and other events that are focused on serving others (Out). During our discipleship class times we will be spending time towards God and also equipping them to pray and spend time in devotions on their own (Up).

ENGAGE



In youth discipleship we want to engage the head and the heart of your child. Head without heart brings understanding of God and His will without application and experience. Heart without head allows for experience and application without Godly wisdom directing our experience. Discipleship seeks to combine forming and renewing our minds and shaping our lives at the same time.

We want to invite your child to bring their friends to youth events throughout this year to learn and grow as they do. We truly appreciate, enjoy, and look forward to the opportunity to work with your child and see your youth grow and mature in their journey of faith. We are always seeking new and better ways to make this discipleship ministry more effective. If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas please feel free to contact Pastor Howard in the church office.

Yours in Christ,

Structure/Expectations of Discipleship Ministry

1. Discipleship Experiences

A. Weekly “Up” Time - Discipleship Class

Please bring: Bible and pen/pencil and a highlighter.

The scope and sequence will flow in yearly cycles:

Cycle A: The Plan of Salvation (Old & New Testament)

Cycle B: Luther, The Apostles’ Creed, Life Issues

Cycle C (Cycle for 2016-2017): Discipleship Principles, Ten Commandments, Lord’s Prayer.

Core to this is the “Doctrine - Scripture - Discipleship” triangle

There is an 90% attendance requirement for these classes.

Please e-mail or send a note with your confirmation ahead of time (if planned) or the next session (if unplanned) absence

B. Monthly “In” & “Out” Events

Each month we will have a large event that will take the place of our Sunday night gathering. We will rotate between an “In” event focusing on fellowship and fun and an “Out” event focusing on service and witness to others. We will give you a schedule as far in advance as we possibly can. We ask that your child do everything possible to try and attend these events as this is an essential part of their discipleship formation.

*** Classes for those attending on Sunday evening begin in the Big Room on Cross View Way. We need parental involvement for these classes as there will be small group interaction needing adult leadership.*

2. Church Attendance & Worship Report Forms

- An important aspect of your child’s development is their time spent in church. Therefore we want to stress how important this part of the discipleship ministry process is for your youth.
- Each youth must attend a minimum of **20** services at Grace and fill out a worship report form in each 12 month period during each of their 3 years leading up to confirmation Sunday.
- Youth may begin working on this the first Sunday in June
- It is preferred if you turn the Report Form in on the same day as they were taken so as not to be lost at home.

4. Service Hours:

- “The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve” Matt. 20:28
- **10** total hours of service must be completed by the end of April each year. This service may not include doing service for your family, ushering/acolyting, or for something the youth gets paid for. This can include any of the “Out” events that the discipleship class or small group does together.
- There is a service hours sheet that must be filled out each time your child does an act of service toward these 10 hours.

5. Memory Work

- Memory work is very important to the development of disciples as they learn the faith and the Word of God. We are called to “learn, mark, and inwardly digest” God’s Word. Memory work is one of the ways this happens.
- The memory will be split between Luther’s Small Catechism and Scripture.
- The memory work sheet should be checked off by one of the leaders and turned in on the appropriate date.
- *There are some who have problems with learning memory work. If this becomes an issue please speak to Pastor Joel Howard right away. We are willing to help work through this process to make sure that everyone has every chance to succeed.*

6. Ushering

- All 6th thru 8th graders and their families will be scheduled to participate as ushers.
- If your family cannot make your scheduled date please switch with someone else and notify the church office.

7. Faith Story – 3rd year

- During the 2nd year, each youth will choose or receive a Bible verse to be blessed with during the confirmation service.
- This scripture verse will be used to write a statement of faith. More information on this will be provided when they receive this verse.
- See attached schedule for the due date.

8. Night of Witness – 3rd year

- During the end of the 3rd year each youth will be given a list of questions and answers which will be used for the Night of Witness. This is a night where your child will be able to share their faith by answering questions about what they have learned during their time in this discipleship ministry.
- We do this night of witnessing to help your child learn to answer questions about their faith in front of others and to see how they have developed from their first year.

9. Youth Retreat - 3rd Year

- There will be a retreat at the end of the third year which will be held at the church on Cross View Way. The retreat will be from 8:30 until noon. See attached schedule for the exact date.

This discipleship ministry, that you have voluntarily chosen for your child, is about their continued growth, instruction, and discipleship. As such, involvement in every aspect of this ministry is a required component to participate in the confirmation service. *Incomplete work will either be added to the following year or will delay the date of their confirmation celebration.*

Please Note the Following:

**** Discipline:**

1st Offense: Verbal Warning

2nd Offense: Call Home Warning,

3rd Offense: Asked to Not Return for 2 Weeks

4th Offense: Asked to Not Return for Remainder of the Year

***** No electronic devices during teaching time: Confiscate, Call Home, See Above**

Youth's Parent Covenant

Through the power of the Holy Spirit it is the intention of the Youth's Parent to:

- *Be a model in leading a Christian lifestyle, making worship a priority, partaking of the sacraments, personal Bible study and prayer, Christian fellowship, and making service a priority in daily living.*
- *Make discipleship a priority in the life of my family.*
- *Pray for and with my youth.*
- *Discuss what is going on in this formation process with my child.*
- *Encourage and assist my child to complete all requirements.*
- *Keep discipleship ministry opportunities and activities a priority.*
- *Assist in servant events as encouraged and as time permits.*
- *Support the pastors and volunteers in the decisions made concerning this ministry.*

Signature of Parent(s)

Youth Covenant

Through the power of the Holy Spirit it is the intention of this youth to

- *Make growing as a disciples of Christ a priority in my life.*
- *Seek to deepen my relationship with the Lord and with my brothers and sisters in Christ.*
- *Attend all discipleship ministry gatherings, sessions, and retreats.*
- *Make serving a priority in my life.*
- *Notify group leaders in advance of a planned absence.*
- *Finish all assigned work on the day that it is due.*
- *Participate in group discussions and activities*
- *Seek help and encouragement as needed to understand how God is working in to grow me as a disciple of Christ.*
- † *Be committed to growing in my faith through regular study of God's Word, worship, attendance, and prayer.*

Signature of Youth

***This is SAMPLE and is included only as a reference to you. There will be a separate sheet handed out to you to sign and return.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUTH DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY 2016-2017

- † Week of September 11th - First Week of Gathering
- † November 13th - Faith Story due (3rd Year Only)
- † November 27th - NO CLASSES: THANKSGIVING BREAK
- † December 25th & January 1st - NO CLASSES: CHRISTMAS BREAK
- † Apr 15th & Apr 23rd - NO CLASSES: EASTER & SPRING BREAK
- † April 29th - 3rd Year Retreat @ 8:30 until Noon
- † April 30th - Last Class
- † May 3rd - 3rd Year “Night of Witness” @ 6:30pm
- † May 6th - 3rd Year Confirmation Rehearsal & Pictures @ 8am until 11:30am
- † June 4th - Ignite: “Stepping Up” Event

CONFIRMATION
SUNDAY
May 7th at 1:30 P.M.