

discipleship, noun

is the means by which those who are disciples of Christ help make other disciples of Christ. To reiterate, a person must be a disciple of Christ in order to do Christlike discipleship. The reality is that we reproduce ourselves in the discipleship process. In the words of the Apostle Paul, **“Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ”** (1 Corinthians 11:1, NIV).

Institutional (Church) Statement

The Asia-Pacific Region is committed to exalting the Lord with and before others, by guiding others toward experiencing the saving and transforming work of the Holy Spirit, by equipping others through the Word of God, by empowering others for godly service, and by leading others in engaging the nations for Christ.

The “Being” of Discipleship

A Disciple of Christ is:

- Passionately worshipping the Triune God (Exalting)
- Filled with the Holy Spirit and continuously growing in relationship with God (Experiencing)
- Actively shaped by God’s Word (Equipping)
- Intentionally mentored in the faith journey and living a life of service with others (Empowering)
- Purposefully discipling others (Engaging)

Six foundational aspects:

- 1. Discipleship is Relational** – Being a disciple is entering into a relationship with God, with God’s church, and with God’s world. In other words, we cannot be a disciple of Christ in isolation. Being a disciple of Christ is always both communal and personal.
- 2. Discipleship is Communal and Personal** – Discipleship is a “Body” activity rather than an individualistic activity.
- 3. Discipleship is Holistic** – The five elements of exalting, experiencing, equipping, empowering, and engaging represent a more holistic way of viewing what it means to be a disciple and what it means to do discipleship.
- 4. Discipleship is Interconnected** – Experiencing, equipping, empowering, and engaging, while each having their own unique aspects, blend together and intersect at multiple points. This interconnected model invites people to enter into the discipleship process at different places (e.g., worship service, Bible study, service project, etc.).
- 5. Discipleship is Inclusive** – We recognize that God is at the center of who we are and what we are doing; God is our core. No one is truly “outside” the circle of his grace and love.
- 6. Discipleship is Continuous** – Discipleship does not have a stopping place. Christians are disciples of Christ for life and this means they must be continuously involved in the discipleship process—both being discipled and discipling others.



ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL DISCIPLESHIP MODEL AND EXPLANATION

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Disciples of Christ are filled with the Holy Spirit and are continuously growing in relationship with God. The Holy Spirit works in and with the believer (1 Corinthians 3:16) in a life-long process of transformation into the image of God with ever-increasing glory (2 Corinthians 3:18). This is a personal experience that happens in the context of the believing community. The goal is becoming more like Christ (Ephesians 4:13), so that everywhere they go is holy ground where Christ is reflected to a watching world.

EXPERIENCING

Disciples of Christ are actively shaped by God's Word. They daily grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ (2 Peter 3:18) and are equipped for service and the building up of the Body of Christ (Ephesians 4:12). As members of a royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:9), all believers are servants, called to be proficient in the Word and prepared for every good work (2 Timothy 3:17).

EQUIPPING

EXALTING

Disciples of Christ are purposefully discipling others. They are called and equipped to engage others by all means possible for the sake of the Gospel (1 Corinthians 9:22-23). As ambassadors of Christ, disciples are compelled by God's love to embody a ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:14, 18, 20) and to make disciples in all nations (Matthew 28:19-20).

ENGAGING

Disciples of Christ are intentionally mentored in the faith journey and living a life of service with others. They are an empowered people. This empowerment is firstly by the Holy Spirit, but disciples are also empowered and held accountable by the Church to be stewards of the gifts and graces they have received (Romans 12:6). Disciples are mentored in their Kingdom service, guided by the truths of the faith and godly example (1 Timothy 4:6, 12).

EMPOWERING