

The Discipleship Pathway

Blessed is the one...whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on His law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers. -Excerpted from Psalm 1

They say a picture is worth a thousand words. That is our hope as we launch into a new season of discipleship ministry at MDPC using the picture of a tree by a stream of water to illustrate the path of spiritual growth. The tree represents four stages in the spiritual life:

“I don’t believe” to “I believe.”

In stage one, we first come to Jesus by way of experiencing the Living Water that Jesus offers us, the new life that never runs dry.

“I am growing in faith, learning about God, and serving the body.”

In stage two, we move into that sturdy foundation of our life with Him, the trunk of the tree. This is where we first experience the wonder of unpacking God’s Word in Christian fellowship, participate regularly in authentic worship, and are inspired to give our lives away in meaningful service.

“God is purifying my faith. I am experiencing a deeper understanding of who I am in Christ and who God is in all His fullness.”

As we transition into stage three, we find in ourselves a growing hunger for deeper experiences in Christ: the deep-dive Bible study, the prayer retreat, accepting the responsibilities

of leadership, and other, more costly opportunities to give our lives away.

“It’s all about God.”

In stage four, we find our greatest joy in giving our lives away completely for His glory: wherever He sends us, we gladly will go.

Where are you? Have you tasted the Living Water? Are you eager to learn more about the Bible and begin serving God? Are you craving the deep-dive? Has God equipped and called you to give your life away to serve as a spiritual shepherd and teacher for others?

Jesus is with us, no matter where we are. Through the Holy Spirit, He wants to equip you fully and give you the opportunity to enjoy Him at every stage. The stages cannot be raced through, but represent the unfolding process of Christian maturity over a lifetime.

Let us come alongside you in that process. Ask God to show you, honestly and without judgment, where you can best grow in your faith this season – and then sign up for an opportunity to help you do that.

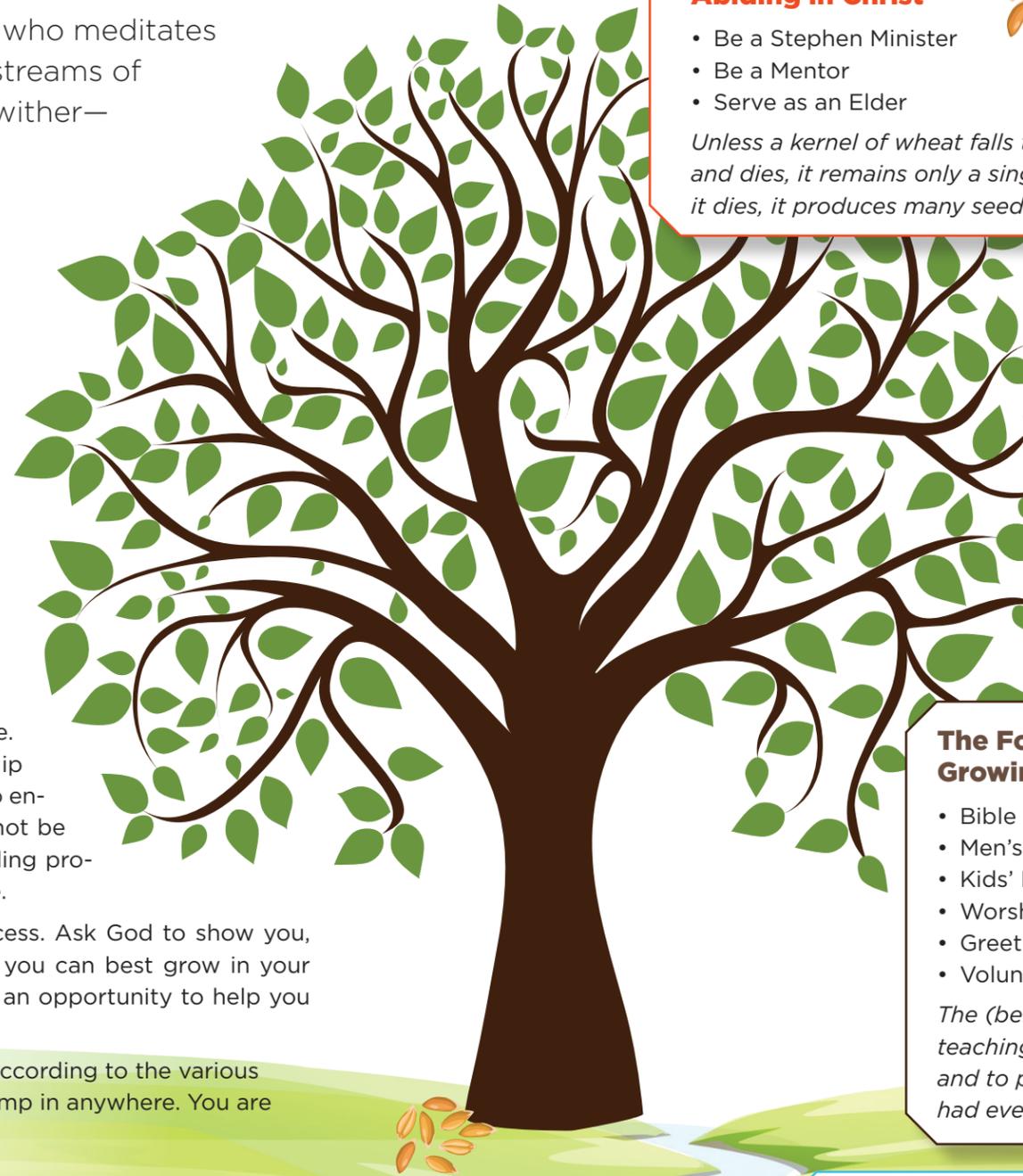
While we have made suggestions here according to the various stages of spiritual growth, feel free to jump in anywhere. You are always welcome.

Questions? Don’t hesitate to reach out to your Equipping Ministries leadership team:

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The Seeds: Abiding in Christ



4

- Be a Stephen Minister
- Be a Mentor
- Serve as an Elder

Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. -John 12:24



Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. -Romans 8:5

3

Branching Out: Journeying Deeper in Christ

- BSD
- Mission Trips
- The Sanctuary Choir
- Women’s Spiritual Retreat
- Serve on a Committee
- Start or join a Small Group

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing. -John 15:5

2

The Foundational Trunk: Growing & Serving Christ

- Bible Study / Sunday School Classes (all ages)
- Men’s Life / The Living Well
- Kids’ Meals
- Worship
- Greet or Usher
- Volunteer in Children’s Sunday School

The (believers) devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer... All the believers were together and had everything in common. -Acts 2:42-44

1

The River of Life: Exploring Christ

- Discover **MDPC**
- New Member Class
- Bible Basics
- Alpha

Let anyone who is thirsty come to Me and drink. Whoever believes in Me...rivers of living water will flow from within them. -John 7:37-38