
5. Simplicity

As God guides us in the Way of Jesus, we will find ourselves letting go of many things. God is converting us to things of lasting meaning and purpose. We will experience the call to let go of things, let go of old thoughts of self, addictions, and habits. God will make room in our lives for what is new, eternal. In place of complexity and distraction, we aim to become available for God and others.

Gospel References: Matt. 6:25-34; Matt. 16:21-26; Mark 8:34-38; Matt. 6:19-24; Matt. 11:25-30; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 10:38-42; Mark 10:13-31; Luke 7:46-49; Luke 9:23-25; Luke 14:25-35;

6. Hospitality

As we become less distracted, our lives less cluttered, we will see Christ and his work more vividly. We will see God's presence in the face of a friend or stranger.

We desire to receive those who come into our lives as though we were receiving Jesus himself. We will love them as we hope to be loved and share with them the gifts of God. We will practice receiving others, even inviting others into our lives.

Gospel References: Matt. 7:1-5; John 20:19-23; Luke 17:3-4; Luke 6:36-38; John 13:1-20; Matt. 5:4-12; Matt. 14:13-21; Matt. 19:13-15; Mark 10:35-45; Luke 7:36-50; John 6:35-39; John 21:1-14;

7. Compassion

When God comes to us in grace, it isn't long before he's calling us to join him in taking hope and love to others. We will be called to follow God into places yet unknown and create something out of nothing with God.

Our lives, filled with God's presence and grace will pour that love for those we'll meet there. Sometimes we won't know who did this, God or us. We will see in hindsight that something beautiful happened through us by God. This will be a great gift to receive and to give.

We will practice becoming available to God and to others. We will listen for God's call to move into people's lives for their benefit.

Gospel References: Luke 10:29-37; Luke 5:17-26; Luke 10:1-12; Luke 17:7-10; Matt. 25:31-40; Luke 12:4-12; Matt. 10:24-31; John 4:1-42; Luke 16:19-31; Luke 14:12-14; Luke 3:10-14; Mark 10:46-52; Matt. 15:29-39; Matthew 9; John 21:15-19

Disciple Formation Practices

COMMON PRACTICES
FOR THE CHRISTIAN
LIFE



Here is a list of practices for the Christian journey. These will help us pay attention to Jesus and the life he brings us. They are simple steps in walking as a disciple of Jesus. All of what we do as a Christian community flow from one of these.

[+]

Seven Practices for Christian Life:

**Scripture,
Prayer,
Discernment,
Community,
Simplicity,
Hospitality, and
Compassion.**

This is what they mean:

1. Scripture

We begin with the Story, God's Story. God comes to us in Jesus. We become part of God's redemptive story in baptism. We are nourished by study and meditation on Scripture, on our own and with others.

We desire to receive God's word for us and will nurture curiosity toward the Word of God.

Gospel References: Mark 1:14-15; John 15:9-13; John 1:35-39; Luke 8:4-15; Luke 6:46-49; Matt. 17:1-8; Luke 10:38-42; John 10:27-30; Matt. 11:28-30; John 5:39-40 (with surrounding context).

2. Prayer

In prayer, we attend to the gift of God's love and we rest in Christ. We become present to God as he is to us. The heart of prayer is presence.

From presence, we enjoy conversation and we address God with our gritudes, confessions, intercessions, and petitions. We trust that God listens because Jesus has told us that's what God does.

Gospel References: Matt. 6:5-15; Matt. 6:25-34; Luke 18:1-8; Luke 2:19; Luke 6:12-13; Luke 22:39-46; John 17.

3. Discernment

God's Spirit leads to ask, "What is God saying to me and us? What does he want me and us to do about it?" This question is sometimes caused by the Law and sometimes caused by

the Gospel, but is always working for our good and for the good of God's creation.

Discernment is found in our hearts desiring what God desires (this is most clearly revealed in Jesus). Good action come from this. It's an experience of discovery, of revelation born from Scripture and prayer. Discernment is best done in community.

Gospel References: Matt. 6:33; Matt. 7:21-27; Luke 11:27-28; Mark 1:14-15; Matt. 6:22-24; Matt 13:10-17; Matthew 6-7; Mark 8:22-38; Luke 3:1-18; Luke 4:1-13; Luke 12:35-40;

4. Community

The heart of the Christian experience is community. We listen to Jesus and follow Jesus with others. We practice being loved and showing love. We notice one another. We become curious toward one another, about God within one another, and about what God may be doing in our world.

Gospel References: John 13:33-35; Luke 5:17-26; Matt. 28:18-20; Matt. 22:34-40; Matt. 5:23-26; Matt. 5:43-48; Luke 11:1-4; Matt. 26:26-29; Matt. 18:19-20; Matt. 7:12-20; Luke 9:1-6; Luke 15; Matt. 18:10-20; Luke 1:46-55; Luke 1:68-79; Mark 5:18-20;