



PATHWAY NEWSLETTER

IN THE KNOW

JUL-SEPT 2025

FOLLOW
ME



MARK THE CALENDAR

Kids Church Kickoff
Kids Ministry

September 14, 2025

City Center Youth Kickoff
Youth Ministry

September 11, 2025 (Sr)
September 17, 2025 (Jr)

All Teams Training
Ministry Event

October 18, 2025



What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?

We have all heard it said when someone becomes a Christian, “they invited Jesus into their heart.” I cannot help but wonder what that actually means. Does the Christian life merely consist of a one-time prayer or decision? Does that one time prayer secure for us a sure passage to heaven, or is going to heaven the only motivation for praying that prayer? Lest you think I am trying to create doubt in your mind I do believe our walk with God begins with a decision, a decision that requires us to surrender control of our life to a loving and gracious God. The Christian life without a doubt begins with us receiving the gift of salvation offered to us through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. It requires us to accept the offer God extends to us. (John 1:12). “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.”

To my understanding however, the Bible speaks more of being a disciple of Christ, a follower of Jesus, then merely the making of a decision. At least twenty times in the gospels we find Jesus using the words, “follow me.” Often people get stuck on the decision to receive Christ and live their lives as if that is all there is. It is a bit like planning a vacation and then staying at home and read the map for two weeks.

Although using the term Christian is biblical, the words “follower of Jesus” might better describe our journey of faith. In the biblical sense the term Christian means to be Christ-like. To some believers the term Christian represents a position arrived at rather than the beginning of a life-long journey with God. On the other hand, the term “follower of Jesus” has the idea of growth, adventure, movement, and progress. This idea declares that we are on a journey with the God who loves us and has saved us. (Luke 9:23-24)

Here are a few characteristics of a follower of Jesus Christ.

A follower of Jesus Christ reads the Bible with the intent of hearing God speak and responding in obedience to what they hear Him saying (John 8:31).

A follower of Jesus seeks to live in accordance with God’s word and allows it to transform his or her life.

A follower of Jesus lives an exemplary life based on the character and example of Jesus Christ. (cp. John 13:15; 1 Corinthians 11:1; Ephesians 5:1).

A follower of Jesus has a living active relationship with God. It is more than simply living a religious life of doing good and going to church.

A follower of Christ is actively showing and telling others how to become a disciple of Jesus, thereby fulfilling the great commission. In Matthew 28:19-20 Jesus teaches a passionate pursuit of making more disciples. (cp. II Tim. 2:1-2; Acts 1:8)

Therefore, biblical discipleship implies a deeper commitment and more active involvement than merely accepting Jesus into your heart. Although a commitment to Christ is where it must start it is only the beginning of a most worthy adventure. I invite you to come on board and join me on this journey of being a follower, a true disciple of Jesus Christ.

- Pastor Walter

Making the jump to volunteer for kid's church was a challenge for me, but once I did it everything else seemed easy, and I knew Jesus was going to be alongside me and the kids throughout the journey.

There were still spots to fill before Kid's church was in full swing last year, and a good friend who had been volunteering asked if I was interested. I wanted to serve in the church, but I was unsure where to at that point. I prayed and asked God for a sign, making excuses that if I didn't feel 'called' to serve in children's ministry that I would move on to the next, but in that moment God reminded me our calling is to serve, and this was the opportunity that He clearly laid out in front of me to take.



As classes slowly approached, I had anxieties and doubts. I didn't think I would be good with the kids or know how to lead and teach them, but I prayed for strength from the Lord and continued to do so throughout the year.

As the school year flew by, I had some rough days, behaviors I wasn't always sure how to handle, and some days I struggled to keep the kid's attention long enough for a lesson, but I also had countless really great ones. Watching the younger generation learn about who God is was such a blessing, and it encouraged me to grow in my faith and seek Him even more than I had before. Whether it was during large group worship, our classroom discussions, or during activity times before the class started, I loved seeing my group of kids grow in how they asked questions, had discussions with me and chatted amongst each other about what we had learned that day.

For anyone who is looking for serving opportunities in our church, or is hesitant to take on one, I encourage you to take a new and exciting journey in your faith. God calls us to serve Him through serving others, just as Jesus did during His time here on Earth.

FROM THE PASTOR

It was just before the Passover Festival. The streets filled with the bustling of crowds eager to settle into Jerusalem to celebrate the Festival with family and friends. There was excitement in the air that was palatable. The Disciples were enjoying their meal and conversation when Jesus did the unthinkable. He rose from the table, took off his outer clothing and wrapped a towel around his waist. The room filled with confusion as Jesus poured water into a basin and lowered himself towards his disciples' feet.

This is not what rabbi's do. Rabbi's are above their disciples, they are followed and mimicked by them. Rabbi's do not serve them. Yet, we see Jesus doing exactly that...serving. In verse 15, Jesus says:

"I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you."

Jesus washes the feet of the Disciples and tells them that they are not above him and should do as He did. Think about that for a moment. Jesus calls his disciples to serve as he served. Jesus modeled that belonging to him should result in serving. Not because of some mistaken sense of obligation, but from a joyful desire to be like Jesus. In verse 17, Jesus informs the disciples and us:

"Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."

Serving like Jesus leads to blessing in life. The blessing is being like Jesus. The truth is very simple; when we serve like Jesus, we become more like Jesus and are blessed through it. So, perhaps it is time for every one of us to wrap a towel around our waist, fill a basin of water and start washing feet. Ask yourself, "Am I serving like Jesus and experiencing the blessing that comes with it?" If you are not serving...grab a towel. If you are serving...**serve like Jesus.**

- Pastor Rob

