



The 5 Marks of a Disciple

The Five Marks of a Disciple

MARK	VISION
1 GROWTH	We will imitate Jesus, because we are his followers. Every believer in Christ is a disciple and every disciple is a believer. We therefore live in glad submission to him, being transformed through the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit, as we live in the gospel.
2 PURSUIT	We will seek to know God personally and corporately. We will seek him through prayer, know him and his will through the Word, and worship him as a lifestyle, loving him with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength.
3 COMMUNITY	We will live life together in small groups, practicing the “one-anothers” of Scripture in loving, transparent, accountable, and truth-telling relationships.
4 SERVICE	We will be the hands and feet of Jesus to our church community and our city, through the sacrificial giving of our time, treasure, and talents. We will discover, develop, and use our gifts for the glory of God and building up of his body.
5 MISSION	We will make disciples and mature disciples, through evangelism and edification. We will share the gospel, in word and in deed. We will incarnate the gospel in our families, neighbourhoods and workplaces—or wherever Christ sends us to go.

Five Marks of a Disciple

Based on our Five Marks of a Disciple, we have provided below an expanded understanding of the responsibilities and practices that each member of the church will embody, both individually and corporately. As a covenant community, we aspire to each mark and hold each other accountable to them, in glad submission to one another.

GROWTH

God desires that his children imitate and become like him. As a result, members of Crosspoint will be disciples who:

- Grow to spiritual maturity through the lens of the gospel
- Seek to live a life of obedience to God's Word
- Are filled with the Holy Spirit as they give him control and trust him for empowerment
- Walk in obedience through believer's baptism

PURSUIT

God is knowable and desires that every believer will seek to know him and love him through worship, prayer, and his Word. As a result, members at Crosspoint will be disciples who:

- Pursue a personal relationship with God through study, prayer, and spiritual disciplines
- Gather regularly with other believers to celebrate communion and to participate in corporate praise and worship

COMMUNITY

God exists in perfect community of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and has created us in his image, to live in community. As a result, members of Crosspoint will be disciples who:

- Actively engage in a transformational Home Group
- Practice the "one-anothers" of Scripture, to build up the Body of Christ
- Resolve conflicts, as they arise, by truth-telling, forgiving, and reconciling
- Actively participate in the decision-making process of the church
- Submit to the loving leadership and oversight of the Board of Elders

SERVICE

God sent his Son as a generous servant who calls us to serve and give selflessly, just as he did. As a result, members of Crosspoint will be disciples who:

- Contribute to meeting the practical needs of those around them
- Commit to developing and using their spiritual gifts
- Participate whole-heartedly in Crosspoint's ministries and initiatives
- Give sacrificially of their time, abilities, and financial resources

MISSION

God commands his followers to go and make disciples of all nations, both locally and across the globe, through proclaiming the gospel. As a result, members of Crosspoint will be disciples who:

- Look for opportunities to share the good news with those around them
- Represent Jesus well as they live their life in the workplace and community
- Are willing to go and/or support others who go to take the message of Jesus around the globe



The 5 Marks of a Disciple Self Study

MARK 1: GROWTH

“I think we need to throw out this plant, it’s all withered and brown.”

“The company is in trouble; our net sales have leveled off for the last four quarters.”

“Christina is already two months old but hasn’t grown beyond her birth weight, we’ve got to do something, Doctor!”

What do the above statements have in common? They all assume that vital things grow. All living organisms are programmed by their DNA to go through stages of growth until they eventually reach maturity. To be alive, by God’s design, is to change and grow.

Why then do some Christians not mature spiritually? What steps can we take to protect our own spiritual health when we stagnate and stop growing? A word commonly used to describe our spiritual growth into Christlikeness is discipleship. Discipleship is the key to experiencing all God has for you in the Kingdom.

Worship flows out of our relationship with God, and begins with our first encounter of God’s grace. Discipleship is about our ongoing response to God’s grace over a lifetime. Our walk with God begins by grace and continues by grace. Some Kingdom dwellers fall into the trap of thinking their work, or following the rules, automatically produces spiritual maturity. To try to grow through one’s own efforts alone is as much out of harmony with God’s plan as not growing at all. Both lead to spiritual frustration.

Discipleship involves both owning the responsibility to grow, which requires resisting what keeps us from maturing, and trusting in the help and power of the Holy Spirit, to bring about Christ-like character in us. If we commit to moving forward, we will experience the blessings of Kingdom life in our everyday lives, and marvel at the miracle of spiritual growth.

The Gospel Story

Foundational to our faith journey is an understanding of the gospel story. Often, we shrink the gospel into a simple phrase like, “Jesus died for you, so if you ask him for forgiveness, you can go to heaven and be with him forever.” This, however, is a truncated version of the gospel. The gospel is much more than this, far more expansive, and far more cosmic in its implications. There are four fundamental elements to the gospel story: Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Re-creation (or Restoration). Below you will find a summary of each of these elements:

CREATION

God, who has always existed, created everything. He is good, right, perfect and holy. At the sound of his voice, galaxies formed and the smallest organisms came to life. Water was pure, creation was untainted, and the world was perfect. Then God created man and woman, Adam and Eve, and placed them in a beautiful garden and trusted them to rule over all of his creation on earth. God lived closely with them, spending time with them daily.

Why do you think it’s important to understand God as Creator?

FALL

Then Satan entered into the story. He twisted the words of God and promised a better way for Adam and Eve. Adam and Eve doubted God’s goodness and trustworthiness and so chose to rebel against him and his authority. Because God is good and holy, he could not allow evil and rebellion to abide in his presence. Adam and Eve were sent out from the garden, separated from their Creator. Sin entered the world, and they were now subject to sickness, pain, and death.

After leaving the garden, the number of humans on earth grew rapidly. Sin spread to Adam and Eve’s sons—and from generation to generation. The results have been war, violence, dishonesty, greed, relational breakdown, betrayal.

What does this teach us about the nature and consequences of sin?

REDEMPTION

God formed a covenant with a man called Abraham. His ancestors, the Israelites, were to be a new kind of people who would show the world what it means to know and follow God. He blessed them and they prospered, but they stopped trusting him and turned instead to idols. He sent them leaders, prophets, and priests to guide them, but still they would not listen. But God continued to love his people and promised that one day he would send a Messiah, one of their descendants, who would rescue and restore humanity and all of creation, back to the way God created it.

And so, God sent his own Son, Jesus, into the world, born of the Virgin Mary, fully man and fully God. He came to reverse the disastrous effects of sin, to free people from the clutches of Satan, and to restore people to God the Father. Having lived a perfect life, he died on the cross to pay the debt for our sin and to cancel the curse of death on our lives. On the third day, he rose from the grave to conquer sin, death, and the grave, once and for all. He then ascended to the right hand of the Father.

Why was it necessary that God send Jesus to Redeem us?

RE-CREATION

The empty tomb is not the end of the story—it's just the beginning. It's the beginning of what the Bible calls the Church, a community of people all over the world who experience his abundant life and continue his story, through the power of the Holy Spirit. The story of Christ exploded across the globe as the church proclaimed his story throughout the generations.

Now all creation is moving toward a great day when Christ will return and fix everything. He will right all wrongs, destroy evil, and bring about eternal peace as he ushers in a new heaven and earth. There will be no more sickness, pain, or death. His kingdom will come in fullness and everyone and everything will live under his rule.

Why is Re-creation such an important part of the gospel story to know and understand?

Growing through the Gospel

Mankind was created to have a direct relationship with God, as evidenced by Adam's conversations with God in the Garden of Eden. What was mankind's condition after Adam's fall?

Romans 3:10-18, 23

Romans 5:12

Romans 6:23

A restored relationship with God was impossible for us, apart from Christ. What do the following verses say about his plan to restore us into right relationship with him?

Romans 5:6-8, 10

1 Peter 3:18

John 14:6

Repentance and Baptism

God is inviting each one of us back into relationship with him. We can choose to become active participants in God's plan of restoration. What do the following verses say about how we should respond to God's offer of relationship? On what basis do we pursue a relationship with him?

Romans 10:9-10, 13

Galatians 2:16

What did new believers practice after receiving God's gift of salvation through Jesus, *as demonstrated in Acts 8:36-38, 16:14-15*?

According to Romans 6:4-5, what does baptism signify?

In Acts 2:38, Peter commands those listening to "repent and be baptized". Many people, maybe you too, were baptized as a child. The pattern in the New Testament (example: Acts 18:8) is "believe and then be baptized". Why do you think it would be appropriate for a person to be baptized after his or her conversion instead of before it?

Sometimes we’re afraid to admit our sinfulness because to do so feels so hopeless. Many of us react to that sense of despair and decide to become “religious”. We try to change our behaviours so we appear better, and feel better about ourselves. After carefully reading Ephesians 2:8-9 and Titus 3:4-7, write a letter to yourself explaining why you can’t and don’t have to earn God’s acceptance.

Dear _____,

Becoming Like Christ

In Colossians 2:6-7, Paul uses several different words or phrases to describe the faith the people had. List below as many terms as you can find from those verses.

In Colossians 3:5-17, Paul describes two opposing types of character traits: what believers shouldn't be (vices), and what believers should be (virtues). List below as many of the characteristics of each that you can find.

Say no to ...

Say yes to ...

Peter paints a similar picture in 2 Peter 3:17-18. In this passage, as well as the above passage, who is responsible for your spiritual growth? What are you doing now in your own life to fulfill the command of verse 18?

Practically speaking, what else could you do to grow as a disciple?

When Growth Isn't Happening—Addressing Sin

What is the clear call of God on every believer's life in 1 John 2:4-6 and 1 Peter 1:14-16?

If we're forgiven, why does it make any difference whether we sin or not? (Romans 6:1-2)

What remedy is available to us as believers when we mess up and fall short of God's commands?
(1 John 1:9)

According to Romans 6:3-14, how does a believer find freedom from their natural tendency to sin?
How does this play out in your life?

What is the Holy Spirit's role in holy living? (Romans 8:9-16)

Further Thoughts

Followers of Christ understand that the grace of God that saved them is only the beginning of his work in them. They gratefully respond by actively pursuing a lifelong process of discipleship in Christ and seek to become conformed to his image. To this end, they consistently nurture their spiritual development through prayer, worship, and Bible study.

They regard the Bible as the final authority in all areas that it teaches about and desire to be wholly obedient to it. Citizens in the Kingdom honestly confront areas of personal sin and engage the Holy Spirit's power in seeking to turn from sin. Overcoming sin's temptation, with the help of the Holy Spirit, enables us to extinguish our worldly patterns of living and develop a strong kingdom life that honors the Lordship of Christ our Redeemer.

MARK 2: PURSUIT

We were created to have a personal relationship with God. God is not an impersonal force that we ‘tap’ into. God is a person, and has all the attributes of personhood: free will, intellect, emotion, creativity, and so forth. In the beginning, Adam walked with God in the garden – he had a relationship with God. Throughout Scripture, God reveals himself to humanity. He took the initiative and invites us into a personal relationship with himself. God is knowable.

We were also made to worship. If we don’t worship God, we will worship something or someone else. In other words, we will elevate it as our ultimate source of meaning or value. In our western culture, many turn to idols of sex, money, power, or reputation. But even good things in our lives can take the place of God, such as a spouse or a career. A good thing can become a god-thing and when that happens, it becomes a bad thing.

God is the only worthy object of our affection. He calls us to worship him and him alone. Even the Israelites, set free from the bondage of Egypt, created idols to worship when they felt estranged from their God. Beyond the “golden calf” incident, the nation of Israel dealt with a recurring problem of worshipping the foreign gods of the earlier inhabitants of Canaan. The evidence, both ancient and recent, shows that human beings were created to worship and know God.

Worship, by its nature, is a continuum. We can worship out of fear, awe, and even hope. However, the highest form of worship flows out of adoration. As we comprehend the character of God, our adoration for his holiness and love naturally leads us to worship. For this reason, our worship experience is dynamic, being constantly refined as we come to a deeper and more intimate knowledge of our Savior and Lord.

God desires that we know him and worship him, not because he needs something from his creation, but because when God reveals himself, our natural inclination is to worship. In commanding us to glorify him, God is inviting us to enjoy him. God wants to restore to us the same relationship he once shared with Adam. God desires our worship because our freely offered adoration is evidence that we are entering into the relationship the Creator is offering us.

Knowing Christ

What do we learn about the importance of knowing Christ from Paul's words in Philippians 3:8-10?

How does Jesus describe this personal relationship with himself in John 10:11-14?

Abiding in Christ

Paul the Apostle knew well that Jesus had saved him, yet he talks of a "striving" and a "reaching" for something in Philippians 3:10-16. How would you put into your own words what Paul was working so hard to do in his life?

In light of what you just wrote, what does verse 16 mean?

What is Jesus describing about growing as a Christian in John 15:4-5?

How do you reconcile Christ's command to "abide" with the strong commands to "strive" in previous passages studied?

The Purpose of Spiritual Disciplines

Spiritual disciplines, such as prayer and reading Scripture, are not ends in themselves. By themselves, they can do nothing, but only get us to the place where something can be done by the Holy Spirit. They are 'windows of grace' that enable our hearts and minds to be attentive to Christ. How would you describe the result of a spiritually disciplined life according to Ephesians 3:16-19?

Prayer: Conversing with God

What do Luke 5:16 and 6:12-13 tell us about Jesus' prayer life and his need to get alone periodically? What are the implications for you personally?

How is it possible to obey Ephesians 6:18 in our day and age?

We are also called to pray with others. What can we learn from Matthew 18:19-20?

The Bible: Direction for Growth

What do the following verses teach about the importance of Scripture in the life of a growing Christian?

Psalm 1:2-3

Hebrews 4:12

Psalm 119:9-24

According to 2 Timothy 3:16-17, who is the real author of the Scriptures?

What are the different ways you are equipping yourself with the Word of God (v.17)?

How would you put in your own words the warning in James 1:22-25? What specific ways are you tempted in this area?

The Psalms are written as a book of prayers, praise and worship. What can we learn from the following passages about what it means to pursue intimacy with God?

Psalm 1:2

Psalm 42:1

Psalm 62:1

Psalm 84:1-2

Psalm 119:9-16

Psalm 122:1

Living as a Worshipper

The word “worship” in Scripture reflects both attitude and action towards God. What can we learn from the following verses about acceptable worship?

John 4:24

Hebrews 12:28

Romans 12:1-2

Matthew 4:8-10

Further Thoughts

Christ followers understand, and have individually received, Christ’s saving grace. They have abandoned all attempts to earn God’s favour through accomplishments of their own and find security only through Christ’s sacrificial death on their behalf. In obedience to Christ’s command, they have undergone water baptism as believers, giving outward witness to the inner cleansing and renewal experienced in him. They pursue him through spiritual disciplines such as worship, prayer, and reading Scripture.

MARK 3: COMMUNITY

God exists in perfect community of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As humans, we were created in the image of God. We were made for community. A cursory study of human behaviour indicates that we organize ourselves in social groupings for mutual benefit as is evident from our families, neighborhoods, community groups, and nations. When we come into relationship with God, he opens an entirely new way to belong by offering us his Kingdom community. Our local church is a manifestation of the universal Kingdom of God; our participation in this Kingdom is based on our relationship with God and with each other.

God has given us his Word, the Bible; prayer, direct communication with him; and his Holy Spirit, to live in us and help us grow. These are valuable tools but they aren't all he's given us - he also gave us the body of Christ.

At Crosspoint, our local church has two wings that offer unique types of community. Through our weekend services, the large group wing, we unite with our entire church community; and in the small group wing, we build personal and caring relationships with each other.

God uses community to transform us. When we come together in community, we provide encouragement and edification to one another. The entire community is enriched by the uniqueness of each individual member.

When we worship together in the large group wing, we experience God's beauty and majesty in a unique way. But when we sit face-to-face with members of our small groups, we can be reminded of what we can't see: that God is working in us, that we're going to make it, that we are dearly loved by the Father, and that we have a new identity. When we're together as fellow kingdom dwellers, someone might literally say "You, _____ (insert your name), matter to God so much that he made a personal room for you in his family home." Or we might hear, "I know you're going through a tough time, but you're not alone; God is with you, and we're all with you." These are the moments of beauty can only be experienced in deep community.

The Community of Believers

The early believers in Christ did not want to live their new life alone. What can you learn about their relationships with each other from the following verses?

Acts 2:44-47

Acts 4:32-35

James 5:16

The writer of Hebrews gives a command about community life in Hebrews 10:24-25. How would you rephrase this passage in modern terms?

The Few in the Midst of Many

Jesus did not merely speak to masses of people during his ministry. What reasons can you give for his strategic decision in Luke 6:12-13?

Mark 3:14 describes the same incident, but adds the simple phrase “with him” to the appointment of the Twelve. What do you think is meant by that phrase and why was it important for them to be “with him” for that time?

In addition to large groups, where else did Christians get together according to Acts 2:46 and 1 Corinthians 16:19?

What do you suppose they got out of these smaller, house-sized group meetings that they didn't get out of larger gatherings?

Why would it be impossible to fulfill the following biblical commands if you were only attending weekend gatherings without having any close relationships?

Galatians 6:1-3

Proverbs 27:17

Colossians 3:16

At times, it appeared Jesus wanted just a few disciples by his side. What is the relational significance of what Jesus did in Mark 14:32-35?

Concerning Jesus' actions, can you draw any parallels to your own life and needs? If so, what are they?

Christ-like Attitudes in Every Relationship

Colossians 3:18-23 and Titus 2:2-10 describe several spheres, or roles, in which we are to behave in Christ-honoring ways. How many can you identify? List them below.

What would you say is the common thread through all of them - in other words, what is Paul saying that applies to everybody on the above list?

Each of us plays the role of 'follower' in our Christian experience. What do the following Scriptures teach about the characteristics of a good follower in the church?

1 Corinthians 16:15-16

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

Hebrews 13:17

As we see in 2 Timothy 2:23-24, quarreling can happen among members of the church. Put in your own words what our response should be, based on this text.

Put in your own words the procedure Jesus outlines for conflict resolution in Matthew 18:15-17.

With the passages from 2 Timothy and Matthew as a background, what are some of the common ways of handling conflict that are not in harmony with what the Bible teaches?

What is the issue Romans 16:17-18, Titus 3:10, James 4:1-3, and Jude 1:19 have in common?

Why do you think the Bible is so strong about its message not to cause divisions or factions in a church?

The One Anothers

The One Anothers are New Testament imperatives for how the people of God should do life together. What do each of the following verses teach you about how you should live in community in the body of Christ?

Romans 12:10

Romans 15:7

Galatians 6:2

Ephesians 4:32

1 Thessalonians 5:11

1 Corinthians 12:25

Hebrews 10:24

James 5:16

1 Peter 4:10

Further Thoughts

Christ-followers honour God's call to live in community, in order to live transformed lives, and build the church. Personal relationships are the vehicle for expressing and receiving Christ's love. These are nurtured through small groups, where we can experience biblical "one another" community and grow as disciples together. Everyone is encouraged to belong to a small group so that they may experience the complete community/church experience at Crosspoint.

Our community is a precious gift from God and, as members of the Kingdom, each of us is responsible to protect the unity of our fellowship. Below are several guidelines for governing ourselves within the Kingdom:

- Pursue Christ-honoring relationships at home, within the church, and in the work place, and be committed to pursuing the biblical pattern of reconciliation when conflict arises.
- Support the leadership of the church and be biblically submissive to it and the rest of the body of believers.
- Affirm and uphold the fundamental truths of Scripture (as summarized in our Statement of Faith) and refrain from promoting doctrines that cause dissension.

MARK 4: SERVICE

Why does service matter? We serve because we want to live like Jesus did. Jesus was (and is) the “Servant of Servants.” On the night before he was betrayed, he dressed himself as a servant and washed his disciples’ feet – he then told them to do the same by serving others. Paul tells us in Philippians 2 that Jesus emptied himself and took on the nature of a servant – and he asks us to have the same attitude as our Lord. If you want to be like Jesus, you will seek to have the heart of a servant. As has been said before: “The fastest way to the throne room is through the servant’s entrance.” Taken one step further, the church is a community of servants, who sacrificially give of their time, treasure, and talents, to build up the body of Christ. The church is a people, called by God, on his redemptive mission in the world. The church is not an organization. It takes a community of people to build the church. Every contribution matters.

Each member of the body of Christ has been given spiritual gifts – Spirit-empowered capabilities – that enable him or her to serve in unique ways. It is important that we grow to understand how God has uniquely designed us. Having done that, we can discover how we can best serve him and others. True joy comes when we live according to our design, and for God’s glory.

Service is rooted in God’s generosity. Jesus, even though he was rich, became poor for our sakes (2 Cor 8:9). Like Jesus, we are to live with an abundance mentality, so that our hearts are always postured toward generosity. Disciples of Jesus prayerfully and thoughtfully consider how they can use their resources to build God’s kingdom, and bless others. As stewards of everything that God has given them, they continually ask, “God, how can I use *your* time, treasure, and talent to bring you glory?”

A Community of Servants

Read John 13:12-17, the story of Jesus washing his disciples' feet. What does this teach us about our identity as followers of Christ?

What does Philippians 2:5-7 teach us about having a servant's mindset?

What do we learn from Galatians 5:13 about our motivation for serving one another?

What was Paul's attitude as he worked in God's service in 1 Timothy 1:12?

What do we learn about being a servant from Matthew 20:25-28?

Do you think we have a "laborer" shortage at Crosspoint today? Explain your answer.

What factors or attitudes have hindered your service in the church at times?

Often, we think of service as being limited to what we do in church. According to Matthew 25:31-46, what “criteria for service” will be used by Jesus to separate those who truly followed him from those who did not?

James 1:27 describes a kind of religion that is pure and faultless and accepted by God. In your own words describe what this would look like in your own neighborhood or city region.

Where, if anywhere, are you involved in these kinds of service?

Different Parts, One Body

The Bible compares the Church to a human body, with Christ as the head and all of us as different parts, or members, of the body. Summarize in a sentence or two what Paul is trying to convey in 1 Corinthians 12:14-26.

What is the reason we each have differing abilities within the church? (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

Why do you think Paul stresses the singular source behind the various spiritual gifts he describes?

Romans 12:4-8 also speaks of our differing functions in the body of Christ. What is the source of these differences?

Knowing that we're differently gifted in the body of Christ, what do you think are some of the potential problems to be avoided?

Serving with Our Resources

When it comes to giving, what is the common percentage used, in the following biblical stories?

Genesis 14:18-20

Leviticus 27:30, 32; Malachi 3:8-10

What do we learn about generosity from 2 Corinthians 9:6-15?

In Matthew 23:23, Jesus affirms the Old Testament concept of the tithe. What is your reaction to his teaching in this verse?

Further Thoughts

Kingdom participants recognize that the church is composed of interdependent members, each uniquely gifted by the Holy Spirit, for the purpose of building up the body and furthering the ministry of the church. They therefore seek to discover, develop, and deploy those God-given gifts within the church, with the support and affirmation of the body.

Further, they desire to be responsible stewards of the resources that God has entrusted to them. They recognize the tithe (ten percent of one's earnings) as the historic standard of giving in Scripture. Moreover, they seek to be generous, just as Christ was generous.

MARK 5: MISSION

The San Francisco Call Bulletin, August 14, 1945, headlined the good news, “War Over!” People poured into the streets, overjoyed that no more young men would have to be sacrificed on the altar of world peace - at least for a while. The end of World War II has been imprinted on our collective memories by the images of ticker tape parades welcoming soldiers home. Yet a more profound good news story continues to resound from 2000 years ago.

If a headline had been printed it might have read “Death is Conquered!” The Greeks may not have had newspapers, but their word “gospel”, which means “good news,” became permanently associated with the redemption story of how Jesus Christ claimed victory of sin, death, and the grave, through the Cross, and will one day renew all things when he returns a second time.

Christ finished his mission of redemption on the cross for all people across all time. Yet every year the world’s population grows with new people that need to hear the gospel message. As we have received Christ as Lord, he has commanded us to also tell others the good news that they too might be saved from the penalty, power, and, ultimately, presence of sin.

Our lives form a complex web of connections with people at our workplace, home, and every space between. Beyond our friends and colleagues, we recognize countless people whose names we don’t yet know - the cashier at the grocery store, the barista at the coffee shop, the person who delivers our newspaper, and so forth. How we live and how we love should demonstrate the good news so that we can have an opportunity to declare the good news. We are to be salt and light to a world in need.

The church is God’s people, following him in his redemptive mission in the world. Our God is a sending God. The Father sent the Son. The Father and Son sent the Holy Spirit. And the Triune God sends the church out on mission, while the Holy Spirit empowers us to do the mission. Mission, then, does not happen only in the coordinated ministries and programs of the church. Mission is something that every disciple of Jesus is responsible for.

The Great Commission

It has been said that the church doesn't have a mission; rather, the mission has a church. Christ gave a mission to his disciples, called the Great Commission, and his means of accomplishing his mission is through the church. The Great Commission can be found in Mathew 28:18-20. What commandments does Jesus give to his disciples? How can we be confident that it will be accomplished?

Scripture teaches us that without Christ, people are bound for eternal separation from God in hell. What does 2 Peter 3:9 tell us about God's desire for ALL people?

What is God's means for communicating his plan of redemption for humanity? (Romans 10:13-15)

Incarnational Mission

One of our main thrusts in mission through Crosspoint is “living incarnationally”. Jesus became flesh and lived among us, not separate from us. We do not believe the church should isolate itself from the community, but rather live as salt and light in a world that desperately needs it. We want our church community to incarnate the gospel wherever they are, by being the hands, feet, and voice of Jesus in their neighbourhoods, workplaces, families, and places of recreation. What do the following verses teach us about living on mission?

1 Peter 2:12

Colossians 4:5-6

1 Peter 3:13-17

Share a personal story of how God has given you opportunity to communicate the gospel to others.

God's Part

As we fulfill our part, sharing the gospel with others, what do the following scriptures state God will do?

1 Corinthians 3:6-7

Luke 15:10

Further Thoughts

It is daunting to realize that God, in his infinite wisdom, has chosen us to announce his plan of salvation to our generation. Our responsibility to the gospel is captured in Marshall McLuhan's famous quote, "the medium is the message." God has chosen us as the medium to deliver his message. How fitting that the message of life everlasting is carried in living messengers whose daily actions speak louder than words.

