

Harbor DISCIPLESHIP PLAN

Part 1 The Three Loves

God's power is alive in the city of San Diego! That power comes to us as our love grows—for Christ, for the Church that he died for, and for the World that he seeks to save. Harbor Church is experiencing and sharing God's renewing power through the good news of Jesus Christ.

Harbor's DISCIPLESHIP MATRIX

What is Discipleship

A disciple is a learner, someone who has committed to learn from and follow someone else. In the church, Discipleship is the process where people learn how to follow Jesus in each area of their lives. While all Christians are disciples of Christ, we also need to “disciple” each other. We disciple each other when we help each other grow to follow Jesus. In fact, being a disciple includes discipling others. Discipling each other is one of the most powerful ways that we grow as disciples of Christ. Discipleship happens as people spend time with each other and with Christ. We describe a mature disciple at Harbor as someone *who is growing* (not who is perfect) in the following areas:

	Love CHRIST	Love THE CHURCH	Love THE WORLD
KNOW	Understand Christ's work for you and in you	Knowing the Church's identity and mission	Fluent with diverse worldviews. Know what it means to be “City Positive”
BE	Be in loving relationship with Christ	Living as though the Church is your family	Good relationships w/non-Christians. Seen as a blessing.
DO	Serve Christ with all of your strength	Serving the Church and its people	Promote the good in God's world. Restore what has been broken.

Part 1: The Columns of the Matrix

Spiritual maturity consists of three loves that are growing in your life: a love for Christ, the Church, and the World. Jesus summarizes these three loves: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations (LOVE WORLD), baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (LOVE CHRIST), teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you (LOVE CHURCH). And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age”(Matthew 28:18-20).

This also describes Harbor's values as a church. Our emphasis on the gospel fuels our love for Christ. Our focus on building community expresses our love for the church. And being “City-Positive” reflects our love for the world. If we are growing in these three areas, we can have confidence that we are growing in the ways that God wants us to, and we are learning to represent him fully in San Diego.

How to Use this Resource

Discipleship is a life-long process. Everyone is at a different stage in knowledge, relationship, and service to Christ, the Church, and the World. Healthy Christianity aims to have at least some of each love, and to see it growing over time.

The three loves overlap. If you really want to love Christ, you must love the church he died for and the world he is seeking to save. You can't love his church without loving him and the world that he has called the church to reach. Finally, your love for the world will be incomplete if it doesn't include a desire to have it experience the love and grace of Christ and his church. Let the strength of one love fuel love for the others.

Here are some next steps:

1. Identify how you are doing in living out the 3 columns of the Matrix to see where you need to grow. Seek God through his word and prayer. Talk to others to get a sense of where you are strong and weak.
2. Work through the three columns of the Matrix by describing what each could look like in your life. You can do this in prayer, in writing, or with other people. The clearer idea you have of these three loves, the more powerfully you will grow in them.
3. Determine your Main Approach to Spiritual Growth (Part 2 of the Discipleship Plan). Are you a Know-er, a Be-er, or a Do-er? Follow your Main Approach in growing these three loves.
4. Ask God to show you which relationships in your life can help you to grow.
5. In your friendships, community groups, and ministry teams talk about these with others and offer to help others in their growth process.
6. Celebrate the people in the church who are strong where you are weak. Learn from others how you can grow.



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Love CHRIST

General Description

You are growing in your understanding of who Jesus is and what he does for you, in you, and through you.

You are growing in your relationship with Jesus. You are experiencing closeness with him and your desires reflect his.

You are growing in the depth of your service to Jesus. Your actions, words, thoughts, and emotions are increasingly conforming to Jesus' character and his will. You desire to see his will done in the church and in the world around you.

How this Love Fuels the Other Two

Jesus came to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10). Jesus' passion to see the world know him begins to influence the minds, hearts, and actions of those who love him (Matthew 23:37).

Jesus' love for the church was demonstrated in the ultimate sacrifice that he paid to see her saved and set free from her sin. His love cleanses the church, washing it with the water of his own word. His heart's desire is to see her holy and without blemish (Ephesians 5:25-31). As your love for Christ grows, his love for the church will inspire your love for it as well.

Growing this Love on Your Own and with Others

Read the Bible and books that help you understand the Bible. Fill your mind with Jesus and his word. Find verses in Scripture that apply to the different areas of your life.

Spend time with Jesus in prayer. Apply his promises to your own heart so you can experience his love personally.

Seek to do everything—including what you eat and drink—in service to Jesus. Do it for him, to reflect him, and with thanksgiving to him. Recognize that he works through you to love and serve others.

References

John 8:42; 1 Corinthians 16:22; 2 Corinthians 6:14; Ephesians 6:24

Love *the* CHURCH

General Description

You are growing in your understanding of the church as the family of God, the body of Christ, the temple of the Holy Spirit, the community of disciples, and the heavenly city.

You are experiencing the joy, friendship, accountability, support, and confrontation of the church. You are experiencing the results of not living your spiritual life in isolation: your joys and your sorrows rise and fall with those of others in your relationships at church.

You are serving the church and its people according to your gifts and strengths. You are using your gifts and strengths to love and serve others within the church.

How this Love Fuels the Other Two

The Church is the body of Christ, with Jesus himself as the head (Ephesians 4:11-15). He is the savior of the church, so all that is good and right about the church flows from him and his work of salvation. He gets all the credit for what you love about the church.

The church's mission includes loving the world. As the father sent Jesus, so also Jesus sends the church (John 20:21). There are only two things the church can do on earth that it can't do in heaven: sin, and love those who are lost. Which do you think God left us here to do?

Growing this Love on Your Own and with Others

Read the Bible and understand what it teaches about the Identity, Character, Duties, and Mission of the Church.

Spend time with people in the church. Join a community group. Have meals together. Develop a group of people you can be real with. Be open to the encouragement and confrontation of others. Reach out and love others. No one is meant to live as a Christian alone!

Serve the church. Learn your spiritual gifts and strengths. Your love will follow your service. As you devote time and energy to the church, your love for it will grow. Look for ways to help out, and serve with others.

References

John 20:21; Ephesians 5:25-27; Ephesians 1:15; Ephesians 4:15; 1 John 3:16-18

Love *the* WORLD

General Description

You are growing in your understanding of the world—both its God-imaging beauty and its sin-cursed brokenness.

You are in growing relationships with non-Christians and are usually perceived to be a friend and blessing to your neighbors and co-workers.

You are ordering your life so that your time is invested in serving the people around you. Your efforts bring healing and restoration to God's world.

How this Love Fuels the Other Two

Our appreciation of the beauty, enormity, and intricacy of the world gives us a greater love for and celebration of its creator and savior.

Our growing awareness of the brokenness of the city (its suffering, oppression, frustrations, and problems) drives us to a greater dependence on Christ. His power saves us and gives us the strength to persevere.

The world's brokenness also causes us to love the church, which is a solution to the world's loneliness and isolation. The church is also a family where genuine love, care, and support proves that part of Christ's salvation comes through community.

Growing this Love on Your Own and with Others

Keep things in perspective: all of creation was created good, *and* all of creation is fallen. Celebrate and affirm what is good, seek wise, patient solutions for what is bad.

Love the World so much that it would understand and be blessed by your faith. Recognize that our efforts are a foretaste of the restoration of the entire world that God plans for the future.

Where you see brokenness, serve! Find ways to make a difference. Preach the gospel at all times. If necessary, use words.

References

John 3:16; Matthew 28:18-20; Revelation 7:9-10; 1 Timothy 3:7; 1 Peter 2:12