

College Street Discipleship Growth Plan

Living What We Believe

September 2019 - April 2020

This **Discipleship Growth Plan** is being used by Bishop Allen and the leadership team to shepherd College Street congregation to grow in faith and our commitment within the Pentecostal heritage otherwise expressed as the 'knowing, being and doing' of discipleship and turn the concept of Christian discipleship into a sustainable lifestyle.

We expect to see evidence of transformation and growth in each individual expressed through changed lifestyles, testimonies, greater commitment to Christian service

To this end, we will focus and examine the way we do Church inside and outside the building in line with Scripture and prayerfully minister to our congregation and visitors through our various sphere of ministry to bring about the growth and maturity to be expected when we live what we believe and become more and more like Jesus.

In summary therefore, the aim of this underpinning paradigm shift in the approach to our mission and ministry is to engage the entire Church – members and visitors through all ministry areas in intentional learning opportunities for growth in Christian discipleship.

We expect to see evidence of transformation and growth in each individual expressed through changed lifestyles, testimonies, greater commitment to Christian service and the optional use of a personal development plan, enriched and enhanced ministry teams and ministries and an empowered and mature community of believers at College Street.

A Believing People

September 2019

Introduction/Overview

The Bible is a key reference point for our theology, worldview and lifestyle Choices.

As Pentecostal disciples of Jesus Christ our belief is guided by an understanding of the 'Fivefold Gospel i.e. Jesus is our Saviour, Jesus is our Sanctifier, Jesus is our Spirit-Baptizer, Jesus is our Healer and Jesus is our soon coming King.

[NB. Browse the internet for clarity on the Fivefold Gospel e.g. Toward a Pentecostal ecclesiology: The church and the fivefold gospel edited by John Christopher Thomas]

Week 1 (1-7 September)

God Makes Himself Known

We believe in the verbal inspiration of the Bible.

2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21; Psalm 19:1-2; Romans 1:18-20

- † What does it mean for us to say that the Bible is 'inspired'?
- † In addition to Scripture, how has God revealed Himself to yesterday's and today's generation?
- † List 20 reasons why believers need to read the Bible.
- † What are some caution to consider for guarding against heresy, nonsense and misperception about the inspired Word of God?
- † What are some important principles that we need to bear in mind as we try to interpret the Bible?

Prayer

Invite the group you lead during the course of this Discipleship Growth Plan to let prayer become a greater part of their routine and allow themselves to become transformed into Christlikeness by the work of the Holy Spirit.

Ask the group to use the following prayer as a starting point:

Lord, I thank You that You desire to make yourself known to me and that you found ways to do so from the very beginning of creation. Help me to pay attention to what You might want to say to me today. Help me to pay attention to those things that I might otherwise write off as coincidence, or that I might simply take for granted. Open my eyes, my ears, and my mind to what You are doing all around me in Your beautiful creation. I give myself to You today. In Jesus name, I pray. Amen.

Week 2 (28-14 September)

We believe in one God eternally existing in three persons; namely, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Gen 1:26; Deut 6:4; Isaiah 42:8; John 14:13-31; Matt 3:16-17; Matt 28:19-20; John 16:5-15; 2Cor 5:19; 2 Cor 13:14; Eph 4:6; 1 Tim 2: 3-5

- † What does the doctrine of the Trinity mean?
- † How would you use Matt 3:16-17 to defend the doctrine of the Trinity to a Christian senior citizen, a millennial: Generation Y (people born between 1981-1991) and Generation Z (born between 1991-2001), a 7-year-old, a person of another faith?
- † How does your prayer life measure up to your belief in the Trinity?
- † Give some practical examples what 2 Cor 13:13 looks like in the life of a growing Christian disciple.

Week 3 (15 – 21 September)

We believe that Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of the Father, conceived of the Holy Ghost, and born of the Virgin Mary. That Jesus was crucified, buried, and raised from the dead. That he ascended to heaven and is today at the right hand of the Father as the Intercessor.

*Matt 4:1-11 Luke 1:34 -35 Luke 4:1-13 Luke 4:18-19 Luke 24:5-7 Luke 24:51
John 1:14 John 3:16 John 14:12-17
Acts 10:34-42 Romans 6:4 Romans 8:3-4 Gal 2:20Gal 4:4-5 Hebrews 1:1-4 Hebrews 7:24-25*

- † What does the word 'incarnation' mean in relation to this statement of our belief?
- † 'The fullest revelation of God is given in the person of the Son: Jesus Christ'. What is the implication of this truth

claim for the growing Christian disciple?

- † What does the word 'atonement' mean in relation to what God has done for us in Jesus?
- † How Luke 4 does: 18-19 inform to your life and Christian service?
- † When we pray as we are led by the Spirit, we join in unity with Jesus' ongoing prayer for the world. Use this third declaration of our faith to guide your prayers as the Spirit leads you and reflect on the impact on your prayer life: the words you use, the ways in which you pray, your expectations, how you intercede for others in prayer.

Week 4 (22 -28 September)

Pentecostalism is centred on the person and work of Jesus Christ. Pentecostals proclaim Jesus as Saviour, Sanctifier, Spirit Baptiser, Healer and soon coming King otherwise known as the 'fivefold gospel'.

Words to hide in our heart as we seek to grow in our discipleship and Christian service:

Luke 22:27 Phil 2:5-7 Col 1:9-20 Phil 2:12-13 Phil 3:14

- † Try to memorise the following three declaration of our faith:

We believe...

...In the verbal inspiration of the Bible.

...In one God eternally existing in three persons; namely, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

...That Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of the Father, conceived of the Holy Ghost, and born of the Virgin Mary. That Jesus was crucified, buried, and raised from the dead. That he ascended to

heaven and is today at the right hand of the Father as the Intercessor.

- † What is Phil 2:12-13 asking us to do?
 - With what are we supposed to work out our salvation?
 - What two ways does God work in us as we work out our salvation?
 - Does 'fear and trembling' in this text mean that we should live in anxiety and fear? If not what does it mean?
- † What have you learned about God, Your Discipleship, Our fellowship and Christian witness at College St. What can you celebrate? What do you need to work on to progress the process of your/our transformation into Christlikeness?

Examples/Suggestions for Department/Ministry leaders to facilitate opportunities for members to read, reflect and respond to the components of this growth plan:

- † Search the Scripture (selected Scripture readings),
- † Ask /Answer reflective questions relevant to the Scripture selection,
- † Consider and discuss practical outworking of what we believe as Pentecostal members of the body of Christ in three sub-sections:
 - KNOW – relating to our intellect/knowledge (our mind)
 - BE – relating to our passion (our heart)
 - DO – relating to our behaviour (our actions)
- † Study a range of prayers in the bible to enrich our prayer life
- † Encourage each other to share testimonies

Use creative ways to practice your ministry, for example:

Cell Groups

During week 1 ask group members to prepare and bring a list of reasons why believers need to read the Bible. Facilitate a time of sharing, reflecting and learning during the Cell Group meeting to identify at least different 20 reasons why believers need to read the Bible.

[NB. List available from Rev Phyllis Thompson on request]

Prayer Groups

During week 2 Prayer Group leaders focus on 2 Cor 13:13.

Encourage prayers for creative prayers for richer and stronger relationships: more grace, love and fellowship, communion, unity, empathy, closeness in our homes, friendship groups, our congregation, our neighbourhood and the world.

Adult and Other age related Sunday school classes

During week 3 ask 4 people in the adult class or 4 groups of people to prepare and give 5 mins presentations in response to the four listed questions. [NB. Folks should be informed during week 2!]

Youth and Children – Engage this group in the preparation and the performance of a creative drama to explain who Jesus is to their peer group.

Bible Study

During week 4 Prepare and deliver a teaching session on the following statement:

Pentecostalism is centred on the person and work of Jesus Christ. Pentecostals proclaim Jesus as Saviour, Sanctifier, Spirit Baptiser, Healer and soon coming King otherwise known as the 'fivefold gospel'.

[NB. Contact Phyllis Thompson for further resource if required]

Worship Leaders

During week 1 lead worship with hymns and songs to reinforce the model prayer.

Men/Women ministries

During week 2 Facilitate discussion to answer the following question - How would you use Matt 3:16-17 to defend the doctrine of the Trinity to a Christian senior citizen, a millennial: Generation Y (people born between 1981-1991) and Generation Z (born between 1991-2001), a 7 year old, a person of another faith?

Youth and Children's ministries

During week 3 Check and help this group to understand what prayer is. Use photographs of a range of situations – good and bad, exciting and boring, old and young people etc. etc. and ask the youth/children to say how they think Jesus would pray in/for/about that situation. Invite them to pray as appropriate to the session eg. for each other/about particular needs in their homes/schools/the church etc. etc.

All HOD/Ministry Leaders

As from now, purchase a copy of the John Maxwell Leadership Bible and begin reading a chapter per day from Genesis to Revelation as part of your daily devotion and effort to grow in your role as a Christian leader. For further information, visit:

<https://www.thomasnelsonbibles.com/maxwell-leadership-bible/>

Expected outcomes for this month:

- † Greater knowledge and understanding of the first 3 Church of God Declaration of Faith
- † Heightened awareness of the need to engage with Scripture if want to grow in our discipleship
- † Greater commitment to Bible Reading and 'honest wrestling with Scripture'
- † Commitment to growth and development in Christian discipleship and practice of ministry

Further Resources for HOD/M and members of the group you facilitate

The Church of God Declaration of Faith

College Street Vision Statement

Copies of 'Living what we believe - Volume 1 'A believing People' - can be ordered via Annie Dzwaka or Paulette Wright

The Amplified Bible (Study Bible or compact edition)

Testimonials in the Weekly News Bulletin

Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir -Worthy is the lamb https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LApIJO_jDFc

Courses related to Ministry areas and Growth Plan topics on offer at the LTC

Weeks 1-4 September 2019

Lead Facilitator: Rev Phyllis Thompson

Facilitating Team:

Bishop Allen, Sis Paulette Peters, Rev Phyllis Thompson, Bro Louis Wright, Sis Paulette Wright

Feel welcome to contact us anytime via email: growth@ntcgnorthampton.org.uk