

# Discipleship



Plan

*Parkview*

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ALLIANCE CHURCH

**Our Mission:** Loving God and loving others in our church, in our community and in our world.

**Our Vision:** Imperfect people sharing hope and love in our community.

**Discipleship Defined:** The ongoing pursuit of becoming a fully devoted follower of Jesus as led by the spirit and guided by His Word.

**Our Heart:** We, as leaders, desire to see people grow in their relationship with Jesus. In fact, this is not simply our desire but part of our biblical mandate as Christian leaders; a mandate we take seriously. This process has been a long one for us as a church and has taken countless hours of reflection and planning for our Church Staff. The resulting plan is a recognition of what we have heard from the congregation, our staff's planning to see this happen in their specific areas of responsibility, and our Elder's stewarding of their role as overseers. We are committed to our leadership role and thus, this has been bathed in prayer and reflection throughout the process.

## Why are we creating a Discipleship Plan?

Over the last few years we have become aware of a trend toward apathy in regards to discipleship. Although this trend is not isolated to Parkview, we do not want to sit idly by while it continues. Therefore, we have chosen to be intentional about helping people grow in their relationship with Jesus. We want to strategically and intentionally shift this reality in and through every age group of Parkview's ministries.

This plan is our desire to lead God's people in greater love for Him and for others. We want to see more people have more opportunities to learn God's Word and our hope is to have a plan that is biblically based and culturally relevant.

**Please note** that the plan is an ongoing process and is therefore fluid. Since we desire different results from the current status quo, and because you can not expect different results from doing the same thing, we will be making some changes in order to see this happen. However, they will all constantly be re-evaluated and changed as needed, as we move forward.



# Actively Learn

In order to love God with all our hearts, souls, minds and strength, we need to know who God is and what He has said to us through His Word. Therefore, we want to be actively learning God's Word in more ways and to see this happen in every age group at Parkview.

**Children:** We will be moving our children's ministry program (birth to grade 6) from 9:45am Sunday morning to run concurrently with our Sunday morning worship time.. This will allow for more children to be involved as well as making better use of our volunteers and resources.

**Youth:** Our youth ministry will continue with Wednesday Night Fusion - a time of learning and growing in God's Word.

**Adults:** Adult Learning will take more shapes and expressions than ever before, with greater intentionality and planning.

Along with encouraging regular participation in our weekly Worship time (with a new "Carry Out" component), we will have Active Learning opportunities (classes) during Sunday mornings, during the week, Saturday seminars, as well as utilizing the internet.



# Purposely Practice

In our busy culture, taking time to read God's Word, to pray regularly and to practice spiritual disciplines often takes a back seat. We desire to see people (of all ages) grow in these important areas. This is an often ignored part of discipleship but it is a vital and Biblical component that needs to be a part of every believer's life and practice.

**Children, Youth and Adults** will be provided with tools (take home resources, library, online resources, etc.) to read and memorize God's Word as well as to pray regularly. It is our long term goal to synchronize these so that families are learning and memorizing together.

**Spiritual Disciplines** will be introduced to each and every age group, in age appropriate ways, bringing understanding for everyone and the encouragement to practice this important part of growth. We will provide resources as well as one to two opportunities a year for a Parkview spiritual retreat.



# Be In Community

We are called to be in authentic Christian Community with other believers to help build us spiritually. We define Christian Community as relationships among believers that is Spirit led, Christ focused, biblically guided, meets regularly and provides accountability. This is part of how we grow, how we are cared for and how we care for others.

**Children** will have this aspect as part of their Sunday Morning time together.

**Youth** will practice this through their small group time on Wednesdays as well as through mentoring relationships.

**Adults:** There will be three areas for Adults to intentionally practice this element of discipleship:

Small Groups

Mentoring Relationships

Christ Centered Recovery Groups

**Note:** These are different from Active Learning programs in that they are longer term, are not teacher/content focused and don't normally exist around a specific topic.



# GO On Purpose

We believe that our mission (*Loving God and loving others in our church, in our community and in our world*) is not just something we do as a result of growing in our relationship with God, but it is also spurs on growth through practice. Thus, using our spiritual gifts and sharing our faith are key elements to growing in our Christian lives.

**In our Church:** Every believer has been given gifts to use for the church, and it is our goal to see everyone knowing, regardless of age, and using their spiritual gifts at Parkview.

**In our Community:** We want people to see their roles in the community as someone who brings God hope and love through all their relationships, words and deeds.

**In our World:** It is our desire to see people engaged in what God is doing in our world. We desire to see everyone involved, in some way, in the work of our International Workers as well as personally "GOing" and serving.

# Parkview

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*This is the short version of our plan, if you would like a copy of the long version, please visit our website or pick one up from the church office.*