

## Life on Life Discipleship (LOLD)\*

**LOLD can be described as:** Laboring in the lives of a few with the intention of imparting one's life, God's Word, and the gospel in such a way as to see them become loving, mature and equipped followers of Christ for the sake of family, community and global transformation to the glory of God, and who are committed to doing the same in the lives of others.

### LOLD requires:

1. a qualified leader
2. a faithful few, willing to follow
3. the intention to make mature and equipped followers of Christ
4. doing the right things that make mature and equipped followers of Christ

**LOLD is not curriculum-on-life.** Discipleship happens because of relationships, not because of books or materials; so it is not primarily about pen, paper, reading, and studying. Although there is a learning component to discipleship, it is more focused on living alongside a person and sharing truth, not merely learning it. Thus, our discipleship program is designed to support a life-on-life process of growth, not a curriculum-on-life process.

**LOLD is not merely a person's church activities and experience.** However, a disciple will certainly be active in church.

**LOLD is not merely about serving.** However, a disciple will certainly develop the heart and skills of a servant and put them in action.

**LOLD is not only about mission.** Yet, a disciple will develop and pursue a specific life plan that is fruitful in mission.

**WHAT IS A DISCIPLE:** Simply put, a disciple is a follower of Jesus Christ. S/he is growing in love for, and trust in, Christ. As a member of a discipleship group, s/he will covenant together with the other group members to meet weekly for the purpose of growing toward spiritual maturity as a follower of Christ.

### WHAT IS SPIRITUAL MATURITY?

Maturing spiritually involves having both the *spiritual life* and *spiritual skills* of a disciple. This is what it means to be a mature and equipped follower of Christ. We define a *mature and equipped follower of Christ* as a person who:

1. Lives consistently under the control of the Holy Spirit, the direction of the Word of God, and the motivation of the love of Christ;
2. Has discovered, developed and is using his/her spiritual gift(s);
3. Has learned to effectively share his/ her faith in both word and deed;
4. Gives strong evidence of being a faithful member of God's church and an effective manager of life, relationships, and resources;
5. A willing minister to others, especially "the least and lost", and
6. An available messenger to non-kingdom people

**Spiritual maturity is not just having a lot of Bible knowledge.** Although understanding the Bible is a significant factor that drives spiritual growth, simple head knowledge is not *sufficient in itself*. There is a difference between *knowing* and *living* God's word. Therefore, LOLMD is focused on *applying* God's Truth, not merely understanding it (head knowledge).

**Spiritual maturity is not merely having high commitment.** Commitment is an integral attribute of a spiritually mature life, but commitment, even combined with abundant biblical knowledge, doesn't equate to being a mature Christian.

\*SOURCE: LIFEONLIFE.ORG

## **WHY DO WE VALUE DISCIPLESHIP?**

Because Jesus calls us to make disciples (Matt. 28:18-20). During His ministry on earth, Jesus invested deeply in a few men - loving, teaching, and equipping them. We desire to follow His example.

## **WHAT DOES DISCIPLESHIP LOOK LIKE AT MESSIAH?**

Life-on-Life Discipleship at Messiah happens in small groups of 4-5 people (men with men and women with women) who commit to meet together for one year at a time. Each group has a leader called a Disciple, who has a heart to develop a safe community where the people can be known, loved, and care for one another. This community helps one another know God through His Word, grow in Christ-likeness, and become equipped to invest in others.

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## **HOW DO I KNOW IF A DISCIPLESHIP GROUP OR A CONNECT GROUP IS RIGHT FOR ME IN THIS SEASON?**

### **Discipleship (LOLD) group at Messiah:**

- Long-term (one year at a time)
- Time commitment: prepare for lesson, come to weekly meeting, spend time with leader outside of meeting, attend workshops on occasion
- Focused on daily walk with God, applying the Word, sharing hearts and lives, becoming equipped to invest in others
- Deep relationships with a few
- Disciple has already attended Starting Point or a similar class, and has most likely entered into Messiah's Membership Covenant

### **Connect Groups:**

- Short-term (6-12 weeks)
- Time commitment: prepare for lesson and come to weekly meeting
- Focused on learning specific topic or book of the Bible and being encouraged in your walk
- Get to know other people in the church
- Open to everyone!

Both Discipleship groups and Connect groups will help you grow closer to the Lord in community. We would love to discuss with you what would be best for you.

## **WHEN DO DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS START?**

Groups start in October and go through early June and meet weekly.

## **WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR JOINING A DISCIPLESHIP GROUP?**

If you are interested in joining a Discipleship Group, please click on the "What Can We Do for You?" box on the website. and express your interest and one of our church staff will contact you!