

MAKING DISCIPLES AT CROSSPOINT

WHO: EVERYONE

In both Ephesians 4 and Colossians 1, Paul identifies who should be a disciple in a community of believers. The terms he utilizes (Eph. 4:13; Col. 1:28) are “all” and “everyone.” If you are a regenerate member of CrossPoint then the biblical expectation of you is that you would be growing as a disciple. As a church, our strategy is to leave no person behind, but come alongside each willing member for their growth and the good of the entire congregation (Eph. 4:16). In the event a member is unwilling to pursue growth in Christ, which will be measured by a lack of spiritual fruit (John 15:1-5) over an extended time CrossPoint will follow biblical guidelines for discipline and when necessary remove a member from fellowship with the community of believers in hopes for repentance (Matt. 18:15-17).

WHAT: MATURITY

The goal of biblical discipleship is that “we all attain the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (Eph. 4:13). Though this process will not be complete until glorification (1 Cor. 15:51-53), as we journey through sanctification our progress should be identifiable from year to year.

WHERE: HOMES

God’s greatest strategy for making disciples begins in the **home**. He instructed the ones who would enter into the Promised Land to teach “diligently” His ways to their children. They were to instruct their children in God’s teaching on a daily basis and have a visible commitment to His law in their homes (Deut. 6:7-9). In Nehemiah 8, the heads of the households received instruction from the Levites in order to lead their homes (Neh. 8:13). In order to make disciples in their homes, fathers and mothers need to be equipped, which is the overwhelming burden of the pastoral staff of CrossPoint and the biblical mandate set forth by God.

WHEN: THE COMMUNITY GATHERED

Unlike other churches, CrossPoint is not a program driven church. **Disciple-making is our program**. The conviction of the pastoral staff is that Jesus, our true Senior Pastor, has revealed to us a strategy for making disciples. The five broad areas of emphasis are Worship, Biblical Literacy, Equipping, Doctrine and Devotion, and Service.

The area of **Worship** is addressed most directly in our Sunday morning service, but is also the goal of the other four areas of discipleship. We believe CrossPoint’s worship services are to be God-exalting, Christ-centered, and Spirit-empowered. The Word should inform all aspects of the service and play a dominant role in our prayers, musical worship, and teaching. Because we believe the Spirit utilizes His own Word to instruct disciples, the preaching strategy of CrossPoint Baptist Church is to walk verse-by-verse through each book of the Bible.

The focus of our **Sunday Morning Bible Study** is Biblical literacy. Over the next five years, there are ten Bible books that we will walk through as a community of believers. The books will be from both testaments and representative of different genres. Our desire is for disciples at CrossPoint to grow in the full counsel of God. In an attempt to encourage families to study the Word together, children, youth, and adults will examine the same portion of Scripture each Sunday. Parents will no longer wonder what their children are learning on Sundays because they will now have the chance to lead them the preceding week in that portion of Scripture.

The purpose of our **Sunday Night Equipping Groups** is to train members of CrossPoint in specific areas of discipleship. Over the next five years, our goal is to equip members in the areas of Theology, Missions/Evangelism, Church History, Apologetics, Biblical Languages, Spiritual Formation, Relationships, Parenting, and Teaching/Mentoring. Our desire is for these classes to be intergenerational with youth and adults so that each can profit from the other. In addition, the pastoral staff has a desire for CrossPoint disciples to encounter great works authored by believers throughout the history of the church. At times, different reading colloquiums will be offered in a year where members will be encouraged to read the same book and then meet and discuss it.

The emphasis for the **Wednesday night Gathering** is doctrine and devotion. All theology should lead to doxology. In other words, the more we learn about God the more we should praise Him. Over the past year and half, CrossPoint has utilized a program for learning doctrine in its children's ministry called Kids 4 Truth. Under the leadership of the Lord, the pastoral staff is expanding this emphasis to CrossPoint 4 Truth. The emphasis will still be on children learning 12 foundational doctrines, but the benefit will be that the entire congregation benefits from the teaching. There are four goals in moving in this direction. #1. Intergenerational - as we gather as the community each age group will get to know one another better and spur one another toward growth. #2 Mentoring – We will give our youth an opportunity to work with the children directly in their memorization and as a result help youth learn one aspect of mentoring. #3 – Memorization – As our children and entire congregation encounter these doctrines they will be given the chance to hide them in their hearts. #4 Doctrines – Wednesday nights will now provide a chance for CrossPoint members to learn foundational truths from the Word. In addition, devotion will be emphasized as we include elements of corporate praise and prayer.

WHEN: THE COMMUNITY SCATTERED

The final area of discipleship at CrossPoint is **Service**. Our desire is for people to have local, regional, national, and global opportunities to make disciples of others. Whether serving in a soup kitchen downtown or serving at a seminary in Uganda, Christ's emphasis of "go" is to be always before us. CrossPoint's greatest evangelism strategy is its members being ambassadors for Christ every day in their schools, offices, and neighborhoods. In addition, we have specific goals that 4th-6th graders will have local and regional opportunities, that 12th graders will have been on at least one national and one global disciple making opportunity, and that every adult member will commit at least one week a year to a disciple making opportunity.

WHY: GOD'S GLORY

The greatest reason for disciple-making is to fulfill the purpose of our existence – living for the glory of God (Is. 43:7; Eph. 1:12). We who were once objects of Holy Wrath have been transformed for Eternal Purposes and Significance (Eph. 2:1-10). A secondary reason for disciple-making is that the members of CrossPoint can stand firm in the Truth (Eph. 4:14-15; Col. 2:2-5).

HOW: GOD'S SPIRIT AND WORD

Two gifts God has given His Church in order to produce disciples are His Spirit (Matt. 28:20; John 14:15-18; 16:5-14; Acts 1:8) and His Word (Psalm 119; 2 Tim. 2:14-16; 3:10-17; 1 Pet. 1:22; 2:1-3; 2 Pet. 1:16). Our continued prayer is that God would raise Spirit-empowered teachers of His Word and that each disciple at CrossPoint would be as Ezra who "set his heart to study the Law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach His statutes and rules in Israel" (Ezra 7:10). We also pray that like Levi each father and mother at CrossPoint would stand in awe of God's name, possess true instruction in their mouths, walk with God in peace and uprightness, and turn many from iniquity (Mal. 2:5-7). Praise God He provides all that we need to be His disciples!