

4) A DISCIPLE LOOKS LIKE:

What does a disciple look like? The answer is the **7 Marks of a Healthy Disciple**.

These 7 core competencies will be more and more evident in our daily lives as an outflow of being in the **“Sweet Spot of Spiritual Growth.”** Why? The 3 elements feed into and open us up to the Holy Spirit’s work in our heads, hearts, and lives. All 7 are only possible when the Holy Spirit is at work in us.

INTRODUCING OTHERS TO JESUS



Representing and proclaiming (i.e. evangelism) Christ in practical and real ways to friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, and others in our sphere of influence. Looking to BLESS people with the good news of Jesus Christ because of being deeply concerned about people who are missing the fullness of life in Christ.

PRAYER: OUR PRIMARY WORK



Engaging in daily conversations with God that include **praise**, **repentance**, **asking**, and **yielding** and are a continual part of life. This includes listening and intercession individually, in community, and together as a corporate body.

STEWARDSHIP GOD’S RESOURCES



Using and managing well what God has given the individual and the church. This includes time, skills, gifts, and resources. It is recognizing that everything the disciple possesses actually belongs to God, whether little or much, so we are generous with these things out of gratefulness for His generosity toward us. Our giving is also joyful because our priority is to advance the Kingdom of God.

KNOWING & OBEYING GOD’S WORD



The Word is the rule of life for the disciple. It is our foundation of knowing and understanding God and living the life we’ve been created to live. It is recognizing that the essence of Scripture is Jesus Christ Himself, our Savior and Lord. We worship Christ for who He is and what He has done, and thus choose to live in loving obedience.

COMPLETING THE GREAT COMMISSION



The primary heartbeat of the disciple is the Great Commission. It involves praying, giving, and going – serving together to make disciples – both in our own backyard and to the ends of the earth. Nothing is more central to the purpose of the Church than this command of Christ.

DEPENDING ON THE HOLY SPIRIT’S EMPOWERING



The Holy Spirit is the life and power of the effective, growing disciple. While requiring our active participation, the call of discipleship cannot be accomplished in our own strength. As we fully surrender, the Holy Spirit imparts everything necessary for an abundant and holy life in Christ.

TAKING FAITH FILLED RISKS



Discipleship is not a spectator sport or a knowledge game. It is engaging in active living – our whole life directed by the Holy Spirit for the glory of the Father – out of obedience and love to Jesus Christ. It means following even when we don’t understand or it doesn’t make sense because we believe God is all-wise, in control, and always keeps His promises.

5) NOW WHAT?

In the end, discipleship is about *choices*. The choice to connect, to grow, and to engage. To pursue **something more**. To be a disciple.

Now that you know the why, the how, and the what, it’s time to answer a question:

› WHAT’S YOUR NEXT STEP?

- Develop your **spiritual disciplines**?
- Join (or start) a **Discipling Community**?
- **Serve** others through ministry?
- Be **mentored or mentor** another person?
- Or **something else**?

Take a step. Ask for help if you’re not sure. **Always keep asking “What’s my next step?”**

Go online or visit the Welcome Center to learn more.

DISCIPLESHIP

WHAT’S YOUR NEXT STEP?



FIRST ALLIANCE CHURCH TOCCOA
connect. grow. engage. together.

FACToccoa.com

1) WHY THE BIG DEAL?

At First Alliance, the making of disciples is at our core. Nothing is more vital than this. This command of Christ is both central to and essential for our existence.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. Matthew 28:19-20 NIV

This is what shapes the focus of our effort, energy, resources, priorities, and time.

Therefore, **our desire is that every person who is part of FACT grows as a biblical, loving, Spirit-filled disciple becoming more like Christ.**

It's a lifelong journey that is both messy and incredibly important. Being a disciple is a normal expectation for a Christian. As we follow Jesus we make new disciples who love, know, & follow Jesus.

2) SO, WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?

The Bible says a lot about who a disciple is, what a disciple does, and how to develop as a disciple. But for the sake of clarity, we see a disciple as:

One who is totally committed to following Christ, becoming like Him in supreme love for God, selfless love for others, and sacrificial love for the world.

Being a disciple is a journey filled with next steps, some we do together & some done on our own. A journey never too late to start.

3) HOW DO WE GROW AS A DISCIPLE?



There are 3 elements essential to grow as a disciple. They are to **Connect to Christ**, **Grow with Others**, and **Engage the World**. They are the **Disciple-Making Framework**. It's not a linear process but elements that work together to foster spiritual growth. Only when all are happening do you find yourself in the **"Sweet Spot of Spiritual Growth"** - you're growing as a disciple and the **7 Marks of a Healthy Disciple** are evident in your daily life.

The Disciple-Making Framework isn't a program or a process, but our construct for developing as disciples at First Alliance. It shapes the opportunities we offer and gives the context of what needs to be happening in our lives. *So, what is each element about?*

CONNECT TO CHRIST

It's our vertical relationship with God that begins with the Great Decision (John 3:16) of acknowledging Christ as Savior and surrendering to Him as Lord. It's the placing of our faith in Him for salvation and forgiveness. It is the determination to live according to God's Word as a true disciple of Jesus who worships and prays in spirit and truth. It is about following Christ and supremely loving Him with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength every single day.

(Eph. 2:8; John 3:3-7, 4:23-24; Rom. 6:16-19; Mark 8:34)

GROW WITH OTHERS

It's horizontal relationships where we embrace our connection with other disciples and are an active part of a church in large & small contexts. We learn and grow with others in community, demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit, and live the Great Commandment (Matt. 22:36-40) via selfless Christ-like behavior expressed through the "one-anothers" of Scripture. It is the daily work of sanctification (holiness) as we grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus in mutual accountability.

(Rom. 12:4-5, 14:1-7, 15:4; Eph. 4:2-3; Col. 3:13; Gal. 5:22-23; 1 Thess. 5:11)

ENGAGE THE WORLD

It's the outward relationships that express the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20) as we minister practically to those with needs, love others as Jesus did, proclaim the good news of Christ, act with justice and mercy, teach, give, and are part of multiplying disciples. It means sacrificially engaging with time and resources locally and globally to bless our community, region, and world so we bring the kingdom of God to bear as the light of Christ by being the hands and feet of Jesus.

(Isa. 1:17; James 1:27; Matt. 5:16, 6:2; Mark 12:31; Micah 6:8; 2 Tim. 2:2)