

FOLLOWING
JESUS
TOGETHER

BELONG | GROW | MULTIPLY

DISCUSSION GUIDE

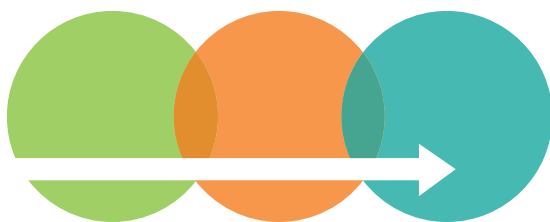


college park church

INTRODUCTION

At College Park Church, we exist to **ignite a passion to follow Jesus**. Our desire is not just to be passionate followers of Jesus ourselves, but also to be used by God to help more and more people become passionate followers of Jesus.

In order to accomplish this mission, we need a way of communicating *how* we ignite this passion in our congregation. As our pastors and Elders have thought about this, they've landed on three words to describe our strategy: **(1) belong, (2) grow, and (3) multiply**. Put simply, we ignite a passion to follow Jesus by belonging, growing, and multiplying.



BELONG | GROW | MULTIPLY

BELONG | You shouldn't walk alone.

We're meant to do life together with other believers. When we say we want you to belong, we mean that we want you to:

- ▶ *Belong to College Park in covenant membership*
- ▶ *Belong to a group where you can know others, be known by others, serve, and live out our mission together*

When we walk alongside other believers, we become part of something bigger than ourselves—we belong to a people.

GROW | Growth is healthy.

Growth is important for the health of your relationship with Jesus. Whether you're new to following Jesus or have been following Him for years, we are all called to grow in Christlikeness. When we say we want you to grow, we mean that we want you to grow in your:

- ▶ *Knowledge of God and His Word*

▶ *Character and pursuit of Christlikeness*

▶ *Ability to use the Word in your own life and in the lives of others*

At College Park this happens through classes, groups, discipleship, and serving.

MULTIPLY | We're on mission.

Igniting a passion to follow Jesus requires action! To be on mission means that we are actively taking part in making disciples. There are many ways to multiply:

▶ *Raising up the next generation of Christ-followers by discipling children*

▶ *Sharing the gospel near and far*

▶ *Being part of a discipleship relationship*

▶ *Serving at College Park or through our ministry partners*

▶ *Helping launch a new campus, church plant, or taking the gospel to the world*

These are just a few ways you can multiply your life in the lives of others—the possibilities are endless.

In the month of August, our sermon series will focus on our mission and strategy in order **to equip you to take your next steps** in the areas of belonging, growing, and multiplying. This discussion guide is designed to help you meditate on biblical passages, be sharpened by brothers and sisters in Christ, and discern the next step(s) to take in your walk with Jesus.

Each week's guide is broken up into three sections:

1. **Discussion.** This section includes questions that focus both on *understanding* the text and *applying* the text.
2. **Personal Assessment.** These questions are designed to help you reflect on your life and assess your personal walk with Jesus.
3. **Next Steps.** These suggestions are designed to encourage you to take practical steps to ignite a passion to follow Jesus.

The good news is that as Christians, we aren't alone in following Jesus. Through the local church, God has given each of us the gift of brothers and sisters in Christ. We can **follow Jesus together**.

DISCUSSION

1. College Park Church's mission statement is "*Igniting a passion to follow Jesus.*" Why is it important for a church to have a clear mission? What would happen if a local church did not understand its mission?
2. Read Eph. 4:11–16 together and make observations of the passage. What stands out to you? Why?
3. According to verses 11–12, what is the purpose of apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds, and teachers? Who is called to do the work of ministry?
4. According to this passage, what is the goal of the church's ministry? How does this relate to our mission as a local church?
5. What barriers can stand in the way of a local church equipping the saints for the work of ministry? How does a church overcome these barriers?
6. What benefits come from having every member involved in ministry in a local church? How does the diversity of gifts at College Park help us accomplish our mission?
7. How can you use this passage in the next week to share with an unbeliever or encourage a believer?

PERSONAL ASSESSMENT

How does your passion to follow Jesus and help others follow Jesus compare to your passion for other things in this world?

Are there areas of your life that are *out of step* with the mission of “igniting a passion to follow Jesus”? What are they?

What areas of your life are *in step* with the mission of “igniting a passion to follow Jesus”?

NEXT STEPS

Take opportunities to speak the truth in love to a brother or sister in Christ.

Reflect on the gifts that God has given you and ask God to provide opportunities to use your gifts to ignite a passion to follow Jesus.

DISCUSSION

1. When you think of the word “belong,” what synonyms, examples, or stories come to mind? Share a story of a time or place where you felt like you belonged.
2. Based on Eph. 2:11-22, what are some of the relational, or “horizontal,” effects of redemption in Christ?
3. Ephesians 2 teaches that through the Spirit and our union with Christ, we already truly belong to His body. Subjectively, why or why not might people experience belonging to a community within the local church?
4. According to Eph. 2:11-22, what unifies all people in Christ? (Cite specific verses when possible.) What are applications or consequences of this truth? For example, what does this mean for reconciliation among believers? Should we prioritize community with people we share an “affinity” with (gender, age, marital status, etc.)?
5. Why is truly belonging to a group of people who care for our spiritual lives so important? What are the negative consequences we may experience if we drift into isolation?
6. How can you take a step, even within your existing Small Group, to move deeper in belonging to the people at College Park? How can you move past just being *around* people to truly being known and knowing others for the sake of helping one another mature in Christ?
7. Why is it significant that God dwells with us as individuals and as believers when we gather together? How can we specifically encourage and build one another up as we gather?
8. How can you use this passage in the next week to share with an unbeliever or encourage a believer?

PERSONAL ASSESSMENT

How do you truly belong to other believers at College Park?

How can you take a step in deepening your commitment to them, your openness with them, and the ways you serve and are served by them?

NEXT STEPS

Become a member of College Park Church. Visit yourchurch.com/membership to learn more.

Join a group at College Park and live out the church covenant with a community of people.

DISCUSSION

1. According to this passage, what is the foundation of growth? Why are we even able to grow?
2. What is the goal of Christian growth? How do we know whether or not we are growing?
3. What are some ways Colossians 1 says that believers grow? What are the means that move us toward growth?
4. What barriers or challenges hinder us from growth? How can we overcome these barriers through the gospel?
5. Paul writes that he proclaims Christ with the goal of presenting everyone mature in Christ. What are characteristics of a mature believer? How do you know whether someone is mature or immature?
6. As you look at your life, what areas do you need to grow in? How can your Small Group members help you grow in these areas?
7. How can you use this passage in the next week to share with an unbeliever or encourage a believer?

PERSONAL ASSESSMENT

As you look at you life, how can you grow in your:

- a. Knowledge of the Bible
- b. Spiritual disciplines (prayer, Bible reading, etc.)
- c. Christlike character and holiness

Who in your life can help you grow in these different areas?

NEXT STEPS

Choose a way to grow in your knowledge and application of the Word.
Consider being equipped by:

- a. Taking a Soul Care training class
- b. Joining a men's or women's Bible study
- c. Taking the Evangelism Class

Invite someone from your Small Group to study the Bible with you one-on-one to help each other grow.

DISCUSSION

1. Read Matt. 28:18–20. What is offered as comfort or encouragement for believers as we seek to make disciples?
2. Why is it important that all authority has been given to Jesus? How does this make a difference in our multiplication?
3. Jesus instructs the disciples to, “Go.” What does it mean to “go”? What are ways that you can “go”?
4. What does it look like to follow Jesus on a practical level? How does following Jesus relate to multiplication?
5. Based on this text and other passages of Scripture, what is a disciple? What do disciples believe? What does a disciple’s life look like? What do disciples do?
6. What fears and anxieties do you have about disciple-making, and how can you get past them? How can your brothers and sisters in Christ help you make disciples?
7. How can you use this passage in the next week to share with an unbeliever or encourage a believer?

PERSONAL ASSESSMENT

Who has God placed in your life that you can encourage spiritually? Family? Friends? Co-workers? Small Group members? Neighbors?

What are you currently doing to help people in your life ignite and grow in their passion for following Jesus?

When was the last time you participated in multiplication?

NEXT STEPS

Invest in discipling our next generation by serving with Next Generation Ministries. There are opportunities to invest in children and students from nursery age through high school age.

Continue to invest in the neighboring initiative that began this summer by building relationships.

Consider leading a Small Group or finding another way to serve.

APPENDIX: NEXT STEP ASSESSMENT

MISSION

- ▶ How does your passion to follow Jesus and help others follow Jesus compare to your passion for other things in this world?
- ▶ Are there areas of your life are *out of step* with the mission of “igniting a passion to follow Jesus”? What are they?
- ▶ What areas of your life are *in step* with the mission of “igniting a passion to follow Jesus”?

BELONG

- ▶ How do you truly belong to other believers at this church?
- ▶ How can you take a step in deepening your commitment to them, your openness with them, and the ways you serve and are served by them?

GROW

- ▶ As you look at you life, how can you grow in:
 - a. Knowledge of the Bible
 - b. Spiritual disciplines (prayer, Bible reading, etc.)
 - c. Christlike character and holiness
- ▶ Who in you life can help you grow in these different areas?

MULTIPLY

- ▶ Who has God placed in your life that you can encourage spiritually? Family? Friends? Co-workers? Small Group members? Neighbors?
- ▶ What are you currently doing to help people in your life ignite and grow in their passion for following Jesus?
- ▶ When was the last time you participated in multiplication?

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