

YOUR

DISCIPLESHIP

PATHWAY





MAKING

DISCIPLES OF

JESUS CHRIST

FOR THE

TRANSFORMATION

OF THE

WORLD.



a disciple is...

...a beloved child of God.

....on a journey with Christ.

....growing in Christ.

....transformed by the stories of scripture.

....living God's love in our community.





what is a discipleship pathway?

A resource to help people move through tangible steps in their personal discipleship journeys.

You are invited to read through the following descriptions and next steps on the journey to see which ones best describe where you find yourself. While none of the descriptions will exactly fit anyone, hopefully this resource will give you specific and manageable actions to aid you in growing closer to Jesus and following Him more.

beloved.

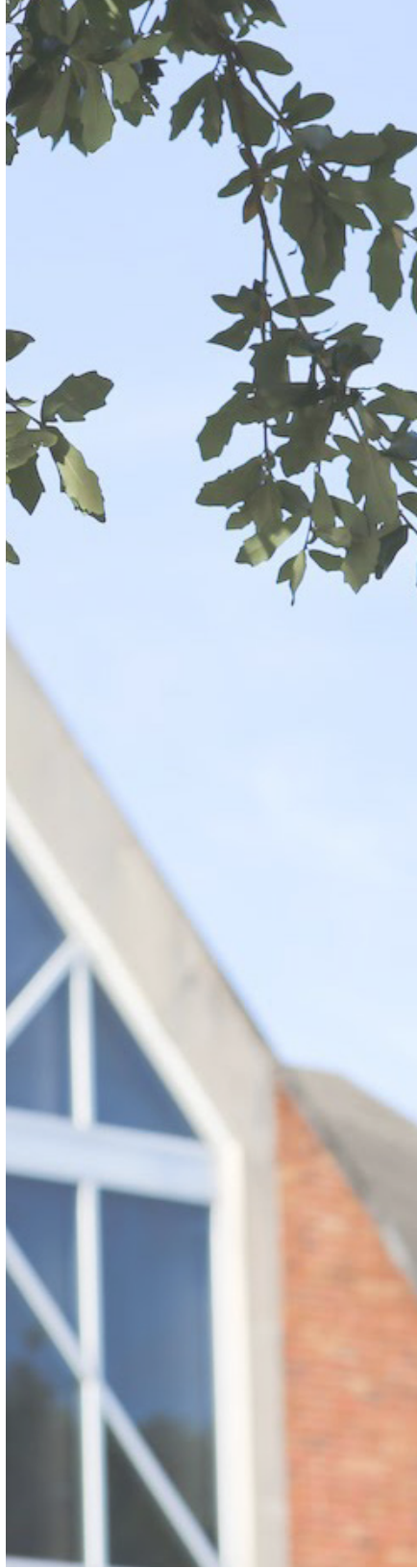


We are all, without exception, beloved children of God.

beloved: **exploring a relationship with Christ**

*Welcome! We are so glad you
are here as you embark on your
faith journey.*

*Do you wonder what it means to be
a beloved child of God? Have you
experienced road blocks in your path
that are leading you to investigate
how Jesus can guide you? Do you
question how the church can impact
your life? Have you had negative past
experiences that lead you to doubt
the community?*





beloved:
next steps on your journey



ATTEND WORSHIP SERVICES

St. Stephen's has weekly Sunday services at 8:30 & 11 a.m. Join us as regularly as you can! In our 8:30 a.m. service, we sing praise songs, celebrate communion every week, and worship together with a casual, relaxed feel. Our 11 a.m. worship service includes hymns and a more structured order of worship.

EXPERIENCE THE ST. STEPHEN'S COMMUNITY

Participate in Messy Church, Sunday Bible study, or small groups. stshtx.org and the church center app both have lists of opportunities to dive in and grow!

BEGIN EXPLORING THE BIBLE ON YOUR OWN AND IN A SMALL GROUP

Our worship guide has some weekly resources to help with this! Pick one up outside the sanctuary, or on the church website.

MAKE PRAYER A REGULAR PART OF YOUR LIFE

Don't know where to start? Check out the prayer resources listed at the back of this guide to help.

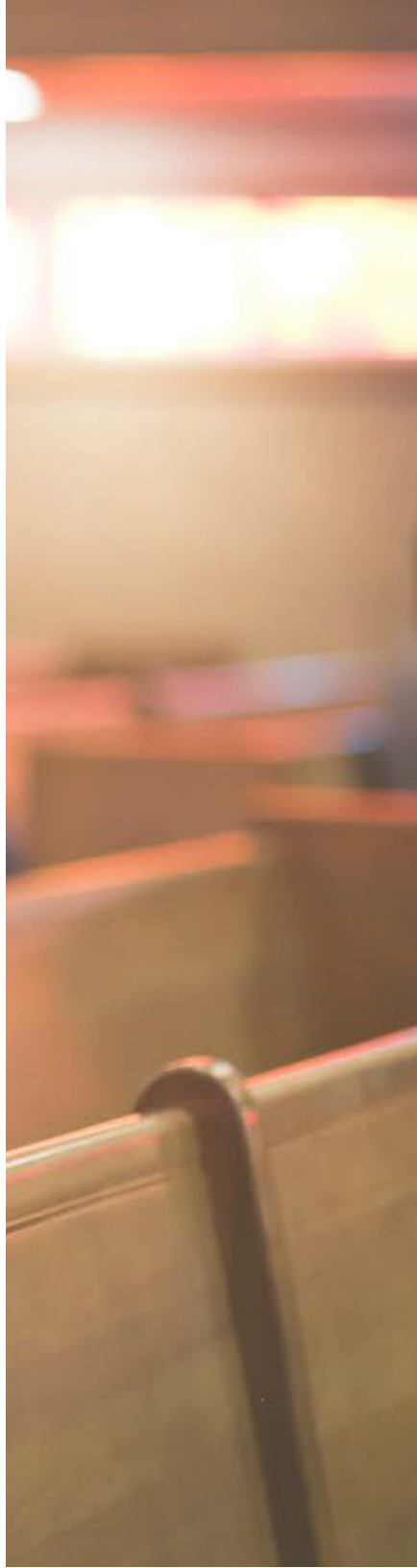


The church does not belong to us.

belonging: **growing in Christ**

You have accepted Jesus into your heart and know you belong.

You are starting to embrace prayer, Bible study, and leaning on others in your faith community. You regularly attend Sunday school and church services, but your commitment to Christ is concentrated on church activities. You give to the church and the community with both time and resources, but rarely share your faith with others.





belonging:
next steps on your journey

SERVE

Fill out the “my discipleship pathway” form with your interests, and someone will be in touch to help you make service to God and community part of your routine.

TAKE YOUR BIBLE STUDY TO A NEW LEVEL

Participate in a Bible study group! We have women’s studies, men’s studies, short-term studies throughout the year, and much more! Look at the groups page on our website for more details.

READ SCRIPTURE DAILY

There are several great smartphone apps (check the resources guide in this book), or you could buy a bible with a built-in devotion guide, but making scripture reading a part of your daily practice can really transform your life.

DEVELOP SPIRITUAL PRACTICES THAT WORK FOR YOU

Take some time to find the spiritual practices that work for you! There are many different ones that ground people: prayer or meditation, reading a daily devotional, journaling, or art making.

BECOME A REGULAR GIVER

Making financial support of the church into a regular or recurring event is an act of praise and commitment that helps you grow. There’s no “correct” dollar amount, but give in a way that is meaningful to you.



building.

God is in our neighborhood and not just in our building.

building: **close to Christ**

*You are building a relationship with
Jesus and making it a part of your
everyday life.*

*You feel confident in God's
presence and power and connect with
God daily through personal spiritual
practices. Your faith is beginning to
shape your routine, attitude, and
how you approach decisions and
situations. You seek to serve others in
the community. Your actions and your
words show your relationship with
Christ.*





building:
next steps on your journey

TAKE ON A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN YOUR SERVING

We all have gifts and skills that make us unique. Start praying about and exploring the ways you can use your own gifts and skills to bless the church and the greater community.

SEEK RELATIONSHIPS WITH NEW PEOPLE

Whether they are new to a relationship with Jesus or just new to St. Stephen's, you are called to help them learn, grow, and belong.

READ BOOKS THAT HELP YOU GROW SPIRITUALLY

Challenge yourself to read things that help to stretch and form your faith. Look at the suggested resources at the end of this booklet, or visit the church library.

DEVELOP YOUR ABILITY TO TELL THE STORY OF WHAT GOD HAS DONE IN YOUR LIFE

God has done incredible things in, for, and through you. Share your personal story about that God and you will bring new people to faith and help build the Kingdom.

WORK TOWARDS TITHING

Tithing, or giving ten percent of your income to the church, is a significant sacrifice that requires a big shift in priorities for most people. Consider making a plan to give sacrificially.

transforming.

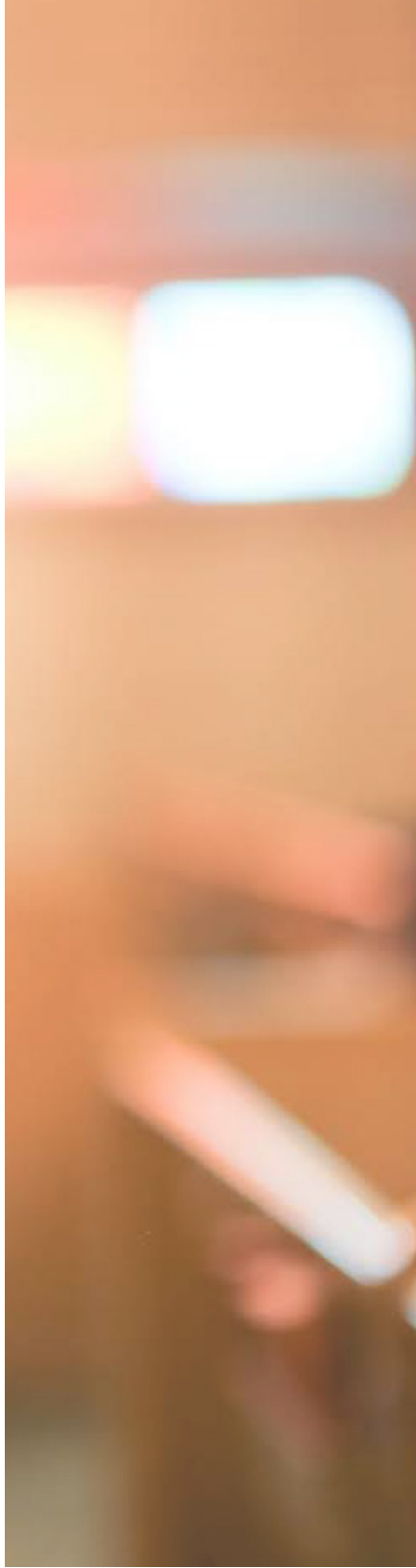


The stories of scripture transform our own stories.

transforming: **Christ-centered**

*You have been transformed by
the love of Jesus, and you have
surrendered to Him.*

*You love others as Christ loves
you and Jesus is your guiding light.
You are comfortable witnessing about
God's love and no longer rely on the
Church to provide opportunities
to serve others. You look for
opportunities to challenge your
spiritual growth and mentor others on
their journey.*





transforming:
next steps on your journey

INVEST IN PEOPLE

Transforming Christians are leaders who make more leaders. Help those you know to grow and to take on more leadership and service themselves.

BUILD SOMETHING NEW

Use the gifts and skills you have to birth new ministries, write devotionals, and create opportunities for others to grow and serve.

EXPLORE GOD'S CALL ON YOUR LIFE

God calls all of us, and God is calling you to something incredible. Consider courses or seminars in theology or lay ministry, spiritual retreats, serving as a missionary, or possibly ministry as a vocation.

GO AND TELL WHAT GOD HAS DONE

On your journey to this stage of faith, you learned how to give your testimony. Now, it is your turn to tell that story and to teach others how to do the same.

MAKE CHRIST-CENTERED FINANCIAL CHOICES

Making financial decisions that start from a place of faith is a counter-cultural act of surrender to God. Consider what it means to put Christ first in all things, including finances, and take steps to accomplish those goals.

RESOURCES



check out our website: ststxtx.org >



SCAN ME

Our best discipleship resource as a church is our relationships. To make an appointment with part of our discipleship team to learn more about these opportunities, visit ststxtx.org/discipleship and click on “connect with a mentor.”

If you aren’t sure which of the stages best fits you, visit ststxtx.org/discipleship for a quick assessment tool, or pick up a paper copy in the library.



We realize that resources change over time. Because of this, we’ll keep this resource list live and updated at bit.ly/ststdiscipleship, and we will also have resources in the library.

PRAYER RESOURCES

We are a church that believes in the power of prayer. You can submit a prayer request at any time, or sign up to join our email prayer chain, at bit.ly/stsprayer.

If you’re looking for resources on how to pray, we recommend:

- + Visit bit.ly/stshowtopray and download the linked file.
- + *Praying the Scriptures with Your Children* - Jode Berndt
- + *Praying the Scriptures* - Judson Cornwall

DEVOTIONAL RESOURCES

There are lots of wonderful devotionals available! We recommend The Upper Room, available in the Narthex or at upper-room.org.

We do a church email devotional at certain times of year. Sign up for that at bit.ly/stsdevo.

BIBLE STUDY RESOURCES

Never read the bible regularly and don't know where to start? Our yearly worship guide includes suggested weekly bible study readings. For a plan to read the entire bible in a year, we recommend the Bible In One Year app or a study bible with a reading plan.

HOW TO SERVE RESOURCES

Serving is an integral part of discipleship. Service happens inside and outside the church, and with our whole lives. For more information on how to serve, visit bit.ly/stsserve.



SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

Celebration of Discipline; The Path to Growth - Richard Foster

Go deeper! Take a seminar, go on a retreat, or schedule a meeting with a spiritual director. Sign up at bit.ly/stsformation. (If you want to learn how to better share your story, this is the next step for you).

GIVING RESOURCES

Are you someone who's never had regular giving be part of your spiritual practice? We recommend:

+ *Enough* - Adam Hamilton

Are you someone who gives, but is ready to learn about what radical generosity can do for your life? We recommend:

+ *Not Your Parents' Offering Plate* - J. Clif Christopher

GOD'S CALL RESOURCES

If you think God might be calling you to vocational ministry, make an appointment to see one of the pastors.



ST. STEPHEN'S
united methodist church

2003 W 43RD ST | HOUSTON, TX | 77018
713.686.8241 | STSHTX.ORG