

Wherever you are in your spiritual journey, we invite you to explore this pathway as a guide to move ever closer in relationship with the One who loves you with an everlasting love.



DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY

YOUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY



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Rooted, Growing,
& Branching Out
in God's Love

THE DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY

A Spiritual Journey

God created us and loves us completely, deeply, and abundantly. God is always pursuing us and inviting us into relationship. At St. John's, we have developed a discipleship pathway to help people find their place in this journey, learn and grow, and allow themselves to be transformed into the people that God created them to be.

The spiritual journey is marked by stages. At St. John's, we identify the stages as COME & SEE, FOLLOW, COME & BE, ABIDE & BEAR FRUIT, and THE WALL. This brochure describes these stages of faith. Our website offers a more complete description of each stage as well as opportunities to learn and grow at each stage. Check it out at www.stjohnsumctc.org.

COME & SEE



People in this stage of their spiritual journey are not yet believers in Jesus Christ. They might be curious about who Jesus is. They are drawn to authentic Christians and interested in discovering who Jesus is. The invitation to these curious people is "Come and See." This is the invitation that Jesus gave to the first disciples in the Gospel of John when he invited them to "Come and See." (John 1:35-39)

People in this stage are discovering more about Jesus and about the community of faith. At St. John's, there are opportunities to come and see what it is like to be in a faith community, meet some authentic followers of Christ, and experience the love of God and God's people. We invite you to come and see.

FOLLOW



People in this stage have declared their belief in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Lord of their life. Now people are learning how to follow Jesus. When Jesus gathered his disciples around him, he had to teach them about who he was and how to be a disciple. They learned just like we learn. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus invited his disciples to follow him and learn. (Matthew 4:18-22)

People in this stage of their spiritual journey are eager to do things—participate in worship, serve on Sunday morning, try out a bible study, learn to pray, join a small group, or help on mission projects. At St. John's, we have many opportunities for people to learn to follow Jesus. We invite you to join us as we follow Jesus.

COME & BE



People in this stage are shifting from DOING things to learning to BE in the presence of God. In this stage, we begin to allow God to shape our thoughts and actions. We are becoming more and more like Jesus in our own unique way. Jesus invited the disciples to just BE with him in Gospel of Mark as he called each one of his twelve closest companions. (Mark 3:13-19)

People in this stage are learning to be quiet and listen to God. Learning to talk to God and learning to listen to God's voice takes practice. In this stage, people are beginning to serve outside of the church and figure out how God wants them to use their spiritual gifts. At St. John's, there are plenty of opportunities to learn to come and be with Jesus.

ABIDE & BEAR FRUIT



People in this stage are working on completely relying on God in all circumstances and fully surrendering their life to Christ. In this stage, people are trying to discover how they can serve God with their spiritual gifts and talents. They are joining God in God's work in the world. As Jesus prepared to leave his disciples for the cross, Jesus invited his disciples to abide and bear fruit in the Gospel of John. (John 15:1-5)

As in all the stages, we are a work in progress and God is transforming us into the people God created us to be. As you think about how you might abide and bear fruit, we have plenty of opportunities at St. John's for you to consider.

THE WALL



There are times in our spiritual journey when we are filled with doubts and questions about God, our life of faith, or how we are to follow Christ. Not to worry—this is normal and Jesus talked with his disciples about it when he was preparing them for his death and resurrection. Jesus told them to take courage. He would bring peace to them. (John 16:31-33)

People can find themselves stuck at the wall at anytime on their spiritual journey. People who find themselves at the wall need help to move past the obstacles to a deeper relationship with God. If you find yourself at this place, St. John's has opportunities to help you move past your wall.