

January 18, 2026

Series: Be a Disciple

Title: Where are You?

Scripture: 1 John 2:12-14

Speaker: Ian Bonthron



It's important to know your _____ of development.

What stage of _____ development are you in?

What is a disciple?

Love Jesus - Sacrificial

Love One Another - Relational

Live with Purpose - Transformational

Doing Christian things doesn't make you a Christian, but a Christian will do Christian things.

1 John 2:10-11 ESV

10 Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. 11 But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

2 Corinthians 4:4 ESV

4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Stage 0 - _____-Believer

Skeptic

Spectator

Seeker

Stage 1 -Child - _____ Believer

1 John 2:12-14 ESV

12 I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake. 13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father. 14 I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

New Believer

Gratitude

If you are in the New Believer phase, don't be _____, but _____ share that your sins are forgiven!

Stage 2 - Young Men

1 John 2:13-14 ESV

I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have **overcome the evil one**. I write to you, children, because you know the Father. 14 I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

Stage 2 - Young Men - _____

Godly Discipline

The Institute for Biblical Research: Bible Reading effectiveness

Bible reading 4x a week and up =

- 228% more likely to share faith
- 47% more likely to memorize scripture
- 59% less likely to view pornography
- 30% less likely to struggle with loneliness and depression

"There is a power to getting into the Word and all of a sudden the Word starts getting in you, It's gonna get on you and start changing things. So what God does, is he's like a surgeon... He starts cutting things out of your life that are destroying you. When the Word and not the world becomes the majority of your week, your life will start to change." — Josh Howerton

Stage 3 - Fathers

1 John 2:13-14 ESV

I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father. 14 I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

Stage 3 - Fathers- _____

The father's call is to know God _____, and _____ it along to others.

Are you all in on Jesus and his mission, knowing God and sacrificing so others can succeed?

Stage 4 - Grandfather

Stage 4 - Grandfather- _____

Identify your stage of spiritual development and take your _____ step, _____ step at a time.

1/18/26

Series: Be a Disciple - Lasting Impact

Title: Where are You?

Scripture: 1 John 2:12-14

Instructions:

- The Growth Process has been written for one-on-one mentoring and group studies, such as Community Groups. Completing one chapter at a time is recommended for a group setting or a person who has been a Christian for a long time. Each week, review your answers and spend time discussing them.
- For newer Christians, it may be helpful for some people to look up verses with their mentor and work through each answer together. It may take more than one session per week to complete. That's fine; work at the best pace for learning and personal application.

LIFE CHANGE 1 - God's Good News to Us:

1. Tell each other about your faith story; what do you believe about God and Jesus?
2. What do you hope to gain from our time spent together?

When reading the Bible verse below, use an app like YouVersion. It can make it much easier to find the Bible passages. Try it out....it's free! After reading each verse, ask each other what the verse means.

How do I know for sure that I am a Christian?

The Bible uses a word that may seem foreign to us: GOSPEL. Simply put, the word Gospel means GOOD NEWS. The Gospel is the GOOD NEWS of Jesus Christ.

The GOSPEL starts with some **BAD NEWS**. God created mankind to have a relationship with Himself, but sin separates us from a holy, perfect God.

Romans 3:23 “ _____ have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”

Romans 5:12 “Therefore, just as _____ came into the world through one man (Adam), and _____ through _____, so _____ spread to all men because all _____.”

But the **GOOD NEWS** is that Jesus provided a solution for our sin. His death, burial and resurrection allows us to have a restored relationship with God.

Romans 5:18 “Therefore, as one _____ led to condemnation for all men, so one act of _____ leads to justification (or being made right with God) and life for all men.

How does John 3:16 describe the good news?

What does Romans 10:9 say our response to the GOOD NEWS should be?

DISCUSSION:

What is your response to this GOOD NEWS? Have you put your faith and trust in Jesus to save you from your sins? If YES, share your story below. If NOT, what questions do you have about the GOOD NEWS?

Sharing the Good News with Others

How do I share my faith?

If you have some really good news, don't you want to share it?! We have the best news of all time. We should want to share it with everyone!

Read John 9:1-38

The blind man Jesus healed had no theological training (training about God), but he could give a simple and effective testimony.

In verse 25, what facts did he relate?

Just like the blind man who was healed by Jesus, sharing the story of your changed life is the simplest way to share your faith! We all have three parts to our story.

My life _____ Jesus (my background)

How I _____ Jesus (my encounter)

My life _____ Jesus (my experience)

Write your “three-part story” of Life Change here:

Baptism:

1. What is baptism?

Baptism is a **SYMBOL** of what Jesus did for you. Colossians 2:12 says: "having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead." Baptism symbolizes God's faithfulness and promise of life to us. Baptism does not save you or make you right with God. Faith in Christ saves us; baptism is an outward sign and seal of that inward reality.

2. Why should I get Baptized?

Jesus **COMMANDS** baptism. Matt. 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Baptism also **PROCLAIMS** to the world what Christ did for you. Jesus said, "Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will acknowledge him before my Father in heaven" (Matt. 10:32). Baptism is an opportunity to proclaim 3 things: 1. The gospel to the world (that Jesus died and rose again for you), 2. That Jesus is the Lord of your life, and 3. That you intend to follow Jesus in your new life.

3. How should I be baptized?

Our church typically baptizes people underwater (baptize generally means "to immerse or submerge"). We love the symbolism of this method: Going down into the water symbolizes our death to sin, and coming up symbolizes our resurrection to new life in Christ! We allow pouring but prefer immersion.

4. When should I be baptized?

In our church, we believe every Christian should obey Jesus' command and be baptized. We believe the when (as an infant of believing parents or after you have trusted Christ) and how (immersion or pouring) of Baptism are non-essentials of our faith. We typically encourage new Christians to be baptized. Acts 2:38 shows this pattern. The passage says, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins..." In this passage, Baptism comes after repentance. To promote unity, we will allow parents who have trusted Christ and are members of the church to baptize their infant child (picturing God's faithfulness to the child and the blessing of being part of the church community). Infant Baptism does not save the child, but it symbolizes our hope that one day, the child will trust Christ for themselves.

NEXT STEPS:

1. Share your three-part story of Life Change with someone who needs to hear the Good News.

Remember that the GOOD NEWS is not complicated: 1. God is holy and desires a relationship with us. 2. Man is sinful and separated from God. 3. Jesus Christ is our substitute for the penalty of our sin. 4. We must believe Jesus died, was buried, and rose from the dead on the third day.

2. Prayerfully consider obeying the command to be baptized. For more info and to take the step of baptism, go to princetownchurch.com/baptism.

3. What challenges might you face in your walk with God? How can we pray for each other this week? Take time to pray for each other.