

# DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY GUIDE

## A GUIDE FOR LEADERS. VOLUNTEERS, AND FAMILIES.



Our church is committed to fulfilling Jesus' mandate to **make disciples who make disciples**. This manual outlines our unified discipleship pathway—from six weeks old to high school graduation, and provides ministry leaders, volunteers, and church members with a clear understanding of how each phase works together to form spiritually mature disciple-makers.

Our strategy is not a collection of separate programs. It is one **integrated pathway** intentionally designed to:

- Develop biblical knowledge.
- Build spiritual habits.
- Form relational community.
- Grow leadership skills.
- Equip every child and student to replicate their faith.

This guide includes:

- Detailed explanations of each ministry phase.
- Leader expectations and best practices.
- How each ministry supports the next.
- How the entire pathway fulfills the mission of our church.

## THE PATHWAY OVERVIEW

Our pathway is built on five connected environments:

- 1. Littles (6 Weeks – 5 Years)** – Introduction to the love and story of God.
- 2. 123 Ministry (1st – 3rd Grade)** – Building biblical understanding and small group foundations.
- 3. 456 Ministry (4th – 6th Grade)** – Learning Scripture chronologically, applying God's Word, and developing leadership.
- 4. Attic Student Ministry (7th – 12th Grade)** – Forming mature disciples capable of leading, teaching, and influencing culture.
- 5. Adult Discipleship Pathway (Post High School)**

Every step prepares children for the next phase, reinforcing faith and relational discipleship.

# SECTION 1: LITTLES MINISTRY (6 WEEKS-5 YEARS)

## Purpose

To create a safe, loving, and spiritually formative environment where children first encounter the love and character of God.

## Key Goals

- Introduce the concept of God as Creator and loving Father.
- Teach that Jesus is God's Son and loves them deeply.
- Share foundational Bible stories through repetition and simple language.
- Establish early trust, joy, and comfort in God's house.
- Lay emotional and spiritual groundwork for future discipleship.

## Teaching Focus

- Short Bible lessons and story-based teaching.
- Worship through song, movement, and repetition.
- Simple memory verses.
- Sensory and play-based learning.

## Leader Responsibilities

- Model God's love through nurturing care and consistency.
- Speak biblical truth in age-appropriate language.
- Maintain a safe and calm environment.
- Communicate regularly with parents.

## How Littles Supports the Overall Vision

This stage forms the **first spiritual impressions** that anchor all future learning. Children become familiar with:

- God's love,
- The church community,
- Biblical stories and characters,
- A warm, relational environment—setting the stage for small group discipleship later.



## SECTION 2: 123 MINISTRY (1<sup>ST</sup> - 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE)

### Purpose

To build upon early biblical knowledge and begin forming foundational beliefs about God, Jesus, salvation, community, and Scripture.

### Key Goals

- Reinforce understanding of who God is and who Jesus is.
- Explain salvation, sin, and the need for a Savior.
- Deepen understanding of biblical stories beyond facts.
- Introduce small groups as a core discipleship environment.
- Teach kids how to discuss Scripture with peers.

### Teaching Focus

- Bible stories with clear moral and theological lessons.
- Understanding sin and salvation.
- Basic spiritual habits (prayer, worship, Scripture memory).
- Guided small group conversations.

### Leader Responsibilities

- Facilitate engaging small group discussions.
- Help children understand biblical lessons.
- Encourage spiritual curiosity.
- Support parents in early faith conversations.

### How 123 Supports the Overall Vision

This ministry sets the stage for lifelong discipleship by:

- Introducing children to small group structure.
- Teaching the meaning behind Bible stories.
- Building early comprehension of salvation.
- Reinforcing relational discipleship.

123 is the **bridge from simple exposure to actual understanding.**



## SECTION 3: 456 MINISTRY (4<sup>TH</sup> - 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE)

### Purpose

To transition students from foundational learning to meaningful personal application, biblical comprehension, and early leadership.

### Key Goals

- Teach chronological biblical narrative from Genesis to the New Testament.
- Help students see how Scripture forms one unified story leading to Jesus.
- Move from observation to **application** of Scripture.
- Introduce cultural discussions and biblical wisdom.
- Strengthen worship participation and upfront teaching engagement.
- Deepen small group community.
- Develop confidence in leading and teaching.

### Teaching Focus

- Bible characters in chronological order.
- Themes of God's redemption story.
- Practical life application.
- Cultural challenges and how to honor God.
- Consistent midweek small groups.

### Leader Responsibilities

- Guide discussions that connect Scripture to daily life.
- Support students as they navigate early cultural pressures.
- Mentor students toward spiritual ownership.
- Encourage leadership through co-teaching and peer support.

### How 456 Supports the Overall Vision

This is the **formation stage**, where students learn:

- How the Bible fits together.
- How to apply Scripture in real life.
- How to discuss faith in community.
- How to begin leading others.



By 6th grade, many students are equipped to **co-lead**, setting them up for the student ministry.

## SECTION 4: ATTIC STUDENT MINISTRY (7<sup>TH</sup> - 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE)

### Purpose

To develop spiritually mature, Scripture-centered, culturally aware disciples who can confidently lead and multiply their faith.

### Key Goals

- Deepen biblical understanding and theological reasoning.
- Teach students how to interpret Scripture independently.
- Engage cultural topics with biblical truth.
- Reinforce small group discipleship as essential to Christian life.
- Equip students to lead small groups, teach Scripture, and disciple others.
- Help students stand firm in faith as they transition into adulthood.

### Teaching Focus

- Advanced Scripture study.
- Cultural apologetics.
- Spiritual leadership.
- Personal ownership of faith.
- Discipleship principles and replication.

### Leader Responsibilities

- Model authentic faith.
- Guide students through complex cultural and spiritual questions.
- Equip students to lead discussions and teach.
- Prepare students for post-graduation independent faith.

### How Attic Supports the Overall Vision

This final stage **completes the pathway**, producing students who:

- Can share and teach God's Word.
- Make God-honoring decisions in a sinful culture.
- Value biblical community as essential.
- Enter adulthood prepared to lead and disciple others.

The Attic is where discipleship becomes **replication**.



## HOW THE FOUR MINISTRIES SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER

Stage	Focus	Outcome
<b>Littles</b>	Introduction	Children sense God's love and learn basic stories.
<b>123</b>	Understanding	Kids learn meaning, salvation, and small group basics.
<b>456</b>	Application & Leadership	Students apply Scripture and begin leading.
<b>Attic</b>	Maturity & Multiplication	Students influence culture and disciple others.

Together, these form a complete pathway that produces **disciple-making adults**.

## LEADERSHIP PRINCIPLES FOR ALL MINISTRIES

### Leaders must:

- Model Christlike behavior.
- Build relational trust.
- Teach truth faithfully.
- Encourage spiritual ownership.
- Support parents as primary disciplers.
- Keep small groups relational, safe, and consistent.
- See every child and student as a future disciple-maker.

## SECTION 5: ADULT DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY (POST HIGH SCHOOL)

### From Student to Adult Disciple

As students graduate from the Attic Student Ministry, our hope is that they enter adulthood as disciple-making believers who naturally connect into biblical community through small groups. However, we recognize that not every adult at CF has grown up through our children and student ministries.

For this reason, CF has designed a purposeful adult discipleship journey that meets people where they are and builds their faith from the ground up. This journey is implemented primarily through our small group model, ensuring that no one is overlooked and that spiritual growth is intentional rather than assumed.

## Our Philosophy of Adult Discipleship

We do not assume that:

- Every adult understands the basics of the Christian faith.
- Every Christian knows how to study the Bible.
- Every believer knows how to share their story or disciple others.

A common mistake in discipleship is teaching what the leader prefers rather than what the people need. At CF, we intentionally start with foundations, because maturity is built, not assumed.

## The CF Journey: Adult Entry Points

Every adult's journey begins based on one key question:

**Have you accepted Christ?**

### If NO – New Believers Class

**New Believers** is a class designed to introduce individuals to:

- The gospel and salvation
- The basics of the Christian faith
- What it means to follow Jesus biblically
- God's expectations for believers

This class establishes a solid foundation for new believers before moving forward in discipleship.

### If YES – Next Steps Class

**Next Steps** is CF's partnership class and serves as the first step for believers. In this class, participants learn:

- The history of CF
- What we believe doctrinally
- How we operate as a church
- Opportunities to partner and serve

Next Steps aligns individuals with the mission, values, and structure of CF.

## My Story Course

Following New Believers or Next Steps, adults move into **My Story**, a 4-week course often taught through small groups but can be taken individually. My Story helps individuals:

- Discover the power of their personal testimony
- Identify how God has worked in their life
- Learn to share their story clearly and confidently
- Use their story evangelistically

This course equips adults to take ownership of their faith and begin influencing others.

### **Small Groups: The Core of Discipleship**

After completing foundational classes, adults are connected into small groups, which are the primary environment for spiritual growth and discipleship at CF.

In small groups, leaders teach the Pathways Study, written by CF staff to align with our discipleship philosophy. This study ensures consistency, depth, and intentional growth across all groups.

### **The Nine Pathways for Spiritual Growth**

1. **Salvation**
2. **Baptism**
3. **Studying God's Word**
4. **Prayer**
5. **Worship**
6. **Generosity**
7. **Fellowship**
8. **Discipleship**
9. **Leadership**

These pathways form the essential framework for producing mature, multiplying disciples.

### **The Goal of the Adult Pathway**

The adult discipleship pathway exists to ensure that every adult at CF:

- Understands the foundations of their faith
- Grows in spiritual disciplines
- Lives in biblical community
- Learns to disciple others
- Develops leadership capacity

Whether someone enters CF as a child, teenager, or adult, the destination is the same: **a fully devoted disciple of Jesus who makes disciples.**

## HOW THE ENTIRE PATHWAY WORKS TOGETHER (LITTLES THROUGH ADULTS)

Stage	Focus	Outcome
<b>Littles</b>	Introduction	Love of God and Bible awareness
<b>123</b>	Understanding	Salvation concepts and small groups
<b>456</b>	Application & Leadership	Biblical literacy and early leadership
<b>Attic</b>	Maturity & Replication	Cultural engagement and disciple-making
<b>Adults</b>	Multiplication	Lifelong discipleship and leadership

### ONE CHURCH, ONE PATHWAY, ONE MISSION.

From six weeks old through adulthood, CF offers a clear and intentional spiritual journey. Every ministry, every class, and every small group exists to fulfill Christ's mandate:

**To make disciples who make disciples.**

