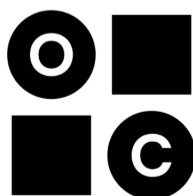


O R I G I N S
C H U R C H

Discipleship Anchors

Being a Christian is less about cautiously avoiding sin than about courageously and actively doing God's will.

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer



Origins Church Discipleship Tool

Discipleship is a vital part of the Christian faith. If accepting Jesus as our Savior is the most important decision we will ever make, deciding to follow every day is a very close second. In fact, when Jesus called his first disciples he did not call them to make a singular decision, but instead to take on a new lifestyle by following him. Tim Keller explains this when he says that “Discipleship is not an option. Jesus says that if anyone would come after me, he must follow me.”

Our heart beat here at Origins is to help people on their faith journey and that includes not only creating environments where people can check out faith and explore what following Jesus means, but also creating resources and tools to help believers in their daily efforts to surrender ourselves and follow Jesus.

This resource is about exactly that. The OC Anchors are the check points in our discipleship that help us evaluate and faithfully follow Jesus. The list of things we evaluate are not things that save us, but they are the fruit of the salvation we have already experienced. If we’ve been changed by the love of God then these are the fruit we can expect to see and foster in our lives.

Origins Church Discipleship Anchors



Abide



Serve



Generous



Group



Gather



Bring

Abide



When we abide in something, we find our rest in it. Its the thing we feel at ease, we recharge, and we sit peacefully in. In this way, we're called to spend time simply abiding with Christ. To be in his presence, to know his truth, and to be at peace because it, is the ultimate goal of faithful abiding.

In John 8:31, Jesus actually told his followers they were to abide in his very words. They were to spend time resting in his truth, his comfort, and his promise.

We experience this abiding in multiple ways. Sometimes its when we sit in the reading and studying of God's word while other times its when we are singing of his greatness. Yet still at times no words are needed and simply sitting in a moment if reflection, awe, and wonder at who God is enough for us to abide in his presence.

There are so people who experience God more when they sing, others when they pray, and some when they open the Bible. Whether we experience one more intimately than others, we should practice multiple ways in order to grow and see God in a new and more impactful ways.

Below is a list of some ways in which we can abide in the presence of God.

- Reading the Bible
- Prayer
- Worship
- Scripture meditations
- Quiet contemplation
- Silent moments in nature
- Fasting
- Faith conversations

From the list below, what are some of the ways in which you experience God? Whether your example is on the list above or not, where do you see examples in scripture of this type of experience? While scripture does not give a specific list of "how" we can abide in God, we should see it as a solid foundation for directing and protecting our worship.

What are some area where you might need to spend more time in awe of God, abiding in His presence?



Scripture teaches that every person has been gifted by God. Our talents, our resources, and every good thing we have comes from Him (James 2:7). Those gifts then, given to us by God, are to be used for His purposes and his mission. Peter presents this to the church in his first epistle when he says “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another.”

So we are called, with everything that God has given us, to be a servant to others. Being a servant is not just a task though, its about a condition or status of our heart.

A servants heart sees the opportunities to care for those around them. A servants heart is sensitive to the needs of the people God puts in front of them. A servants heart is ready and joyful for the chance to be more like Jesus and serve those in their life.

Here at Origins, as we work towards fulfilling the mission we feel God has given us, we create opportunities for our community members to serve and give back using their unique gifting. Whether you can sing, cradle babies, or smile and hold the door, we do our best to help facilitate and partner with you as you. So if you're not currently, we'd definitely encourage you to plug in, find a team you can serve alongside, and help develop your servants heart.

A few things to consider when it comes to not only having a habit of serving, but developing a servants heart;

1. How do I respond to needs I see around me?
2. Am I able to easily see when others are in need and hurting?
3. Is it easy for me to share what God has gifted me with or do I see it as a burden?

Jesus left us the ultimate example of a servant and then asks us to follow in His example.

Generosity



Everything we have is a gift from God. We show our faith, trust, and obedience to Him by taking a small portion of what he's given us and give that back to His purpose and His mission.

Here at the OC your generosity is used to help not only fund and support our local mission, but to also support the global mission of the church. Through partnerships with mission collectives and individual missionaries our generosity goes to the front lines of making sure the gospel is spread to the ends of the earth.

Generosity is about so much more than financial donations. Generosity is about the way we see our possessions and how we view them in light of the world around us. The most common perspective is to see our financial blessings as ours for our ends and our means. Yet in scripture we see that everything is ultimately God's and we're called to steward those resources. What God gives us should freely flow to those around us in need. 1 John 3:17 actually says that if we have the worlds goods and see another in need, its sinful for us to not meet that need.

So as we follow a God who has given so much and paid such a great price on our behalf, we too are called to be generous with those around us.

Some things to consider in our generosity;

1. Am I planning for generosity? Is there intentional room in my budget for it?
2. Do I give with a cheerful heart? Or is my giving guilt/obligation based?
3. Am I confident my generosity is going to a good cause?
4. Do I look for opportunities to be generous outside of scheduled donations?

Jesus was extremely generous with us. He gave everything on our behalf. As his followers he calls us to give as well. We give our lives Paul teaches, as living sacrifices (Gal 2:20) as we give generously to the greater cause.

Groups



You can't do it alone, and you're were not created to do that. God is relational and he made us in His image to be relational as well. We find value, purpose, and strength in the community around us.

The early church was not a service people attended, but a movement that you became a part of instead. That movement included services, but it was so much more about the people. The church spread, not when services started and building popped up, but when the church reached people in new areas. Churches flourished as they shared they spent time together, breaking bread, praying and living life together. The church was made of these little groups of people who met daily in their homes to learn from the apostles and share their stories, victories, and struggles.

Is that the kind of church you've experienced? Is that the kind of community you desire? At Origins, groups are one of our anchors because its in these environments that we can begin to foster and create those types of relationships. Maybe you don't stop by their house every day but you can't text. Maybe you're not literally "breaking bread" but you could sit down over coffee, a pipe, or at the golf course. You could go to the gym together, text each other, spend time praying with and for each other. You could have a real community of believers. That is the way God designed us to flourish and its the way the church was meant to be.

Ask yourself this about your relationships and the groups you're involved in.

1. Do you connect regularly with people in the church, outside of Sunday mornings?
2. Are you excited to share big news with the people in your church?
3. Have you plugged into environments and situations outside of Sunday morning?
4. How would your faith and life be different if the constant voices in your life were from others believers?

Jesus spent three years with a group of everyday men and women. He mentored them. He cared for them. He turned them into a small group of people united under a common cause. Those people would go on, after the resurrection, to turn the world upside down. If you want to see God move in your life, maybe you don't need to try harder. Maybe you don't need to do more. Maybe you just need to stop going at it alone.

Gather



There is something unique about the local church. There is something important, personal, and life changing about attending church.

You've probably been to big christian concerts or maybe had coffee with a few other believers, but there is something important about the church gathered.

The day we gather can change. Some churches do Sunday nights and others on Saturdays while most just do Sunday morning. The style can be drastically different. Some churches are more reserved while others are more free and loud. Still some are somber and reverent while others meet in bars, old grocery stores, and basements. In all of those gatherings though, something important happens; the church comes together.

What makes the local church different from the random all the things we often want to compare to it (concerts, christian events, and more) is the commitment to the local church. Its people in your corner. Its intentional growth and dedication. Its a level of accountability that in those other environments just doesn't exist.

We've all had a book, watched a sermon, or seen a YouTube video that made us want to change. We've all slo experienced the embarrassment of that desire quickly tampering down and being ignored for the events of every day. When we connect to the church, not the event, but the gathered, committed church of Jesus there are relational dynamics in play. There are support system to help us grow. There are leaders to point us in a direction. There are other believers to keep us strong when we waver.

When we think about the church gathered, there are some important things we must ask ourselves to determine if we're truly finding a healthy commitment to the church gathered.

1. Do you regularly attend the church gathered?
2. Are you consistent in your attendance?
3. Are you intentional in the condition and heart you bring to church?
4. Do you take time during the week to reflect on what we've learned as the church gathered?

Sunday morning should not be your only experience with Jesus this week. In most cases it shouldn't be your deepest moment with him either. Sunday should be our restart, our commitment, and our direction in fulfilling God's mission in my every day life.

Bring



God loves you more than you could ever imagine. He loves you enough to provide mercies new every morning. He loves you enough to die for you and he loves you enough to come and live a sinless life.

We have this amazing love of God that gave it all to bring us near again. In that, Paul writes in Romans that nothing can separate us from the love of God we have in Jesus because God has brought us near.

If we're to share his love with the world around us, that means we need to bring others as well. We need to bring others into our lives, we need to bring others into our community, and we need to bring others to see Jesus and experience his life changing love as well.

Sometimes this bringing looks like an invite to church, but a lot of times it looks more like a friendly text, a quick phone call, a cup of coffee, or watching the game with a bunch of people who don't know Jesus. We're all called to bring the lost in and that starts with bringing them into our lives.

The good news in there are lost people every where. We often think that reaching the lost around us means going out of our way to find them, but in our world, the lost are everywhere. You can find people who don't know Jesus at work, in your neighborhood, in the stands at kids sporting events, and sometimes even in our own family. Bringing the lost in is not about adding things to our schedule, its really about redeeming what's already there.

Going to the gym? Invite someone. Watching the game? Invite someone. Got dinner plans Friday night? Invite someone. Bringing isn't asking you to add more, its just using what's already there more wisely.

In the space below, write down some of the people God has brought into your life that might need to come in a little closer. That might be inviting them to church or just to coffee.

Now, in the space below, think about your normal schedule. What times, places, and activities could you walk into with new eyes for helping bring people closer to Jesus.