



Discipleship

***Knowing and Following Jesus
At Greyfriars Mt Eden and Epsom***

Jesus called his followers to be disciples and in our church, we seek to obey Jesus by being, making and growing disciples.

What is a disciple?

In Jesus' day a disciple was a **student** who learned from a teacher. We see in the New Testament the example of Jesus' disciples who listened to his teaching and followed the example he set for them.

In our church we speak of a disciple as a person who:

Knows Jesus – has begun a spiritual relationship with him

Follows Jesus – follows his example and teaching.

The mission of our church is **to help people to know and follow Jesus**. We would like to help you to know and follow him!

A help description of a disciple is a person who is FOR Jesus:

Follows Jesus – (Matt 4.19; Matt 9.9, John 10.1-4 & 14-16)

Obeys Jesus – (John 14.15 & 21)

Remains in Jesus – (John 15.1-8, Gal 2.20, Col 2.6)

A disciple should be constantly growing spiritually and being transformed to be more like Jesus, (2 Cor 3.18). In our church we expect that spiritual transformation to change us so we become spiritually mature and our lives are increasingly spiritually healthy.

This spiritual health is seen in disciples who are:

Living in Love

Growing in Faith

Uniting in Purpose

Devoted in Worship

Sharing in Fellowship

Proclaiming the Gospel

Serving with Compassion

No one is transformed overnight, it takes time as we learn from Jesus,

Following the model of his life

Obedying the commands he has given us

Remaining connected to him as our source of life.

People who chose to follow Jesus:

must intentionally decide to apply themselves to learning from Jesus and applying his truth in their lives. In this way **we take responsibility for our own spiritual growth.**

must be part of his church and build relationships with other disciples. In this way **we take responsibility for helping each other in our spiritual growth.**

Before ascending to heaven Jesus gave the great commission to his disciples saying,

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. Matt 28:18-20

In these verses we see three key stages of discipleship.

1) Make disciples – this points to conversion, becoming a Christian, starting the Christian life. In John's Gospel Jesus spoke of this as being *born again* (John 3.3).

2) Baptising them – this points to being identified with Jesus and with his people. Baptism is a sign of becoming a disciple of Jesus and a member of his church (Acts 2.38-41).

3) Teaching them to obey – this point to our responsibility to follow the commands and teaching of Jesus (Rom 6.26, 1John 5.2-3)

Our church is committed to helping you in your journey of faith.

We have developed a *Road Map* to help you with this journey. (you can find the *Road Map* at the end of this booklet).

The journey begins when you accept Jesus as your Lord and Saviour.

You do this by:

confessing your wrongdoing to Jesus,
asking him to forgive you,
trusting in and receiving the forgiveness he offers you
and allowing him to be the boss of our lives.

Early in this journey you will join the church by baptism (or if you have already been baptised as an infant, by confirmation or affirmation of baptism).

We will help you to grow as a disciple by

Accepting you into the faith community and giving you a place to belong spiritually.

Providing life changing church services, where by prayer, bible reading, preaching, worship and joining with others in the sacraments you will nurture your faith.

Teaching you to how to pray and get the most out of your bible

Expecting you to join a growth group (meeting with a small group of disciples) where together you:

will explore and discuss the teaching of Jesus
develop supportive, trusting relationships

find practical ways to serve others and apply what you have learned.

Encouraging you to stretch your faith by:

attending great courses like *Discipleship Explored*

attending seminars which are occasionally held at church

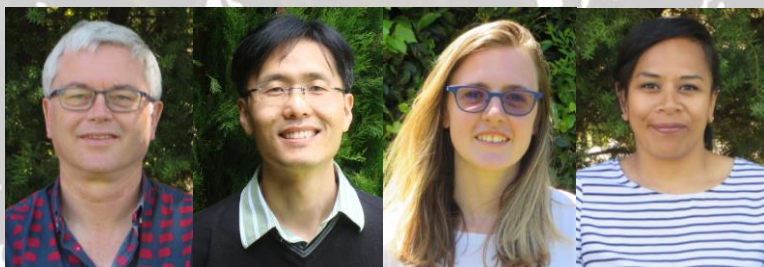
reading Christian books that are available in our church library.

Helping you to discover ways to share your faith with others.

Giving you opportunities to serve others with the gifts God has given you.

At Greyfriars Mt Eden and Epsom we are all disciples on a journey of faith and we invite you to join us.

If you would like to know more either speak to one of our ministers or contact Lia in the church office.



John

(Parish Minister)

Je Cheol

(Assistant Minister)

Hannah

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Lia

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Church office:

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MY ROAD MAP TO KNOWING AND FOLLOWING JESUS

Use this map to regularly assess your progress as a follower of Jesus.

Keep it in your Bible and ask God to help you grow as a disciple.

ROAD MAP SELF-CHECK

Date: _____

- I have progressed since I last assessed myself
- I need to retrace my steps and become better at:

- The following would help me travel further along the road:

- I will assess my progress again on _____



I am helping others to grow and become followers of Jesus



I am discovering and doing God's will for my life



I am able to study the Bible for myself



I have become a member of my local church



I have been baptised



I read my Bible and I pray regularly



I have decided to make Jesus the Lord of my life



I have come to faith and have put my trust in Jesus



