



Personal Discipleship Plan CG Discussion

2025

Introduction

In 2025 we're introducing the Personal Discipleship Plan (PDP), a tool for helping folks at Vintage thoughtfully and intentionally engage their discipleship in the year ahead. Below you'll see a guide to help your group members talk through their PDP. We're not going to discuss every check box, nor are we going to ask everyone to list out all the things they have and have not checked. Here's the point of this discussion:

>>The Goal: To help our CG members thoughtfully engage in their discipleship in the year to come and to enable our members to help one another in that endeavor.

Obviously, this week is a little bit different than our typical community group discussions. We'll be talking through the discipleship plan and, the most different aspect, there are little scripts for you to read. **Your speaking parts are in bold.** These scripts are simply there to relieve you of framing the whole conversation by yourself, but use them as much or as little as you find helpful. However, please do use the discussion questions here; feel free to add to them or elaborate upon them as your group would find helpful, but just don't skip any.

Also, before you get started, please give people in your group who haven't filled out the form the opportunity to do so as you go through discussion. Note that this will mean having some extra copies of the form and pens on hand.

THE FOUR SPHERES: BEING, BEHOLDING, BELONGING, BECOMING

Discipleship is a big concept, particularly since it covers the whole of life, so the four main sections of the discipleship plan—the four spheres—are meant to break discipleship down into more manageable portions. However, as you discuss them, you'll realize they overlap quite a bit.

- Being with Jesus – this is our personal devotion to and fellowship with Jesus.
- Beholding Jesus – this is participating in corporate worship with the people of God.
- Belonging to Jesus's People – this is maturing as followers of Jesus by being in relationship with other followers of Jesus.
- Becoming Like Jesus – this is maturing as followers of Jesus through learning the teachings of Scripture, theology, and training for ministry and service.

The Discussion

INTRODUCTION

After you've passed forms back to their owners or blank forms to people who need them, plus pens.

Leader: [Take a moment to open in prayer (or ask someone else to do so), asking Jesus to use our time talking through discipleship to ultimately help us grow closer to him and to one another.]

Leader: This week we're talking through our discipleship plans, and the main point here is to talk about how we each want to grow in our discipleship this year and how we can support one another in that. So, we won't talk through every check box, and you won't have to say what you did and didn't check. We'll discuss each of the four sections one-by-one, focusing more on what that section is about and how we hope to grow in that specific area of discipleship.

BEING WITH JESUS

Leader: Let's start with Being with Jesus. This section is about our personal devotion and fellowship with Jesus, meaning time we spend in prayer, Scripture, and other spiritual disciplines.

- **First off, how would you say your personal devotion is right now?**
- **What do you think "fellowship with Jesus" is meant to be like for followers of Jesus?**
- **In what ways do you hope to grow in this area?**
- **Any questions about any of the checkboxes in this section?**
- **Any input you'd like from the group on specific things you want to grow in?**

Notes about certain checkboxes in this section:

- Participate in another Bible reading plan – there are plenty of helpful Bible reading plans out there. Two that include a podcast for diving into the passages are The Bible Recap and Windows and Mirrors (just Google them and you'll find the podcasts and relevant resources).
- Attend a Selah event – some Vintage locations hold weekend prayer gatherings called Selah events, which give an opportunity for long, quiet, prayerful reflection. Folks from any Vintage location can attend; see the website for details about the next Selah event.
- Learn more about Sabbath – For resources, check out John Mark Comer's book *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry* or chapter 6 in Pete Scazzero's book *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality*.
- Fasting – Check out the chapter on fasting in Richard Foster's *Celebration of Discipline*.

- Other – This is meant to both give space for things we didn’t think to put on the form and to help people take further ownership of each section. However, you’re certainly not expected to have ideas or input for anything someone could put in that spot. Feel free to kick it to the group for input, as people seek it, or to reach out to a pastor or staff member for help.

BEHOLDING JESUS

Leader: Alright, now let’s talk about Beholding Jesus, which is about participating in worship on Sundays and through other means.

- **Why do you think the Bible puts such an emphasis on worshipping God alongside others?**
- **Worship is an all-life thing, and you can worship Jesus through all sorts of things including, but not limited to, singing. So, in what ways do you hope to grow in this sphere?**
- **One box to point out is the box about baptism; if you’ve never been baptized, I’d encourage you to check that box and talk to someone about being baptized this year. I be happy to put you in touch with (see below for contact).**

Notes about certain checkboxes in this section:

- Participate in baptism – If folks are interested in getting baptized, or would like to talk to a pastor about whether or not they should get baptized, reach out to Eric for Downtown (eric.spivey@vintagenc.com) or your Local Pastor for other locations.
- Other – You can encourage folks to look for upcoming worship nights or other non-Sunday events like Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, etc.

BELONGING TO JESUS’S PEOPLE

Leader: Okay, now Belonging to Jesus’s People. This is obviously what we do in community group, but this sphere is especially about growing and maturing in our faith and relationship with one another. So...

- **In what ways do you hope to grow in this sphere?**
- **What are some ways we think our community group could get better at this together?**

Notes about certain checkboxes in this section:

- Membership – Folks can contact Savannah for Downtown (savannah.carroll@vintagenc.com) or your Local Pastor for other locations.

- Engage in diverse community at Vintage – This will mostly be a self-led endeavor. You can look for certain events that will provide avenues for this (quarterly potlucks at Downtown, for instance), but hands down the best way is to connect with someone on a Sunday morning who is different from you in some way. Offer to go to lunch after service, or meet up another time. Whatever you decide, this is simply a checkbox meant to help people commit to closing the gap between themselves and other folks at Vintage who look, talk, or live differently.
- Serving – Folks can contact Megan for Downtown (megan.mccool@vintagenc.com) or your Local Pastor for other locations.

BECOMING LIKE JESUS

Leader: Finally, there's Becoming Like Jesus, which is about maturing in our walk with Jesus through intentional learning and growing opportunities.

- **What are some of the things you would like to learn and grow in when it comes to your faith and/or your knowledge of the Bible?**
- **This is something you can put under Other—does anyone have any book or other resource recommendations they'd like to share?**

Notes about certain checkboxes in this section:

- Classes – Keep your eyes peeled for information about upcoming classes at Vintage. Some of these will be offered at only one Vintage location, but you can attend them even if you belong to a different location. Also, some of these classes will be in-person and some online.
- Other – There are so many resources out there for learning more about the Christian faith. Obviously, there are books galore, but there are also podcasts like Bible Recap and Windows and Mirrors that walk through whole books of the Bible. Here are some more:
 - The Bible Project – Videos about every book of the Bible and a ton of other Bible content.
 - Free seminary courses – Many trustworthy seminaries like RTS, Covenant, Southeastern, and Southern offer their course material for free online, and many of them have an app (just give it a Google). Often you can simply listen to the lectures, and courses on certain topics or sections of the Bible are almost always available.

CONCLUSION

Leader: Okay, let's finish out our time with prayer. I'd like for us all to pray for each other. We can go around and just pray for the person on your left, for their discipleship in the year ahead and how they might grow closer to the Lord through it. I'll close us.

- You can also give people the opportunity to pray for specific requests while doing this, if your people will otherwise revolt.
- Note: folks get to keep their PDP for their reference, so make sure they go home with it.