



## Discipler

Filling in the picture of being a Discipler

The Discipler serves by actively discipling 1 - 3 other people within the group. By spending regular time encouraging them in their walks with Jesus, praying with them on a weekly basis, and being available to assist the small group leader in caring for the needs of those within the group.

### Characteristics:

#### Knowledge

- Able to clearly articulate the Gospel simply and directly including the impact on their life
- Understand the importance of the Sacraments in the Christian Life, our distinct Lutheran view of Baptism and the Lord's Supper and why they matter for Christian living
- Have a solid scriptural foundation, understanding the narrative arc of scripture and believe in the reliability of scripture
- Familiarity with Toolkit resources

#### Behaviors

- Have taken the Spiritual Life Assessment and are being coached in Family Values of Trinity
- Are teachable and are actively pursuing opportunities to grow in their scriptural and theological knowledge
- Life is enriched with regular time in God's Word throughout the week and are actively praying for their group and those they are discipling
- They have begun modeling the Family Values of Trinity

### What characterizes a good spiritual conversation?

- Honesty - Build a relationship that is clear and transparent with an open quality to your conversations.
- Trust - Knowing the full honest picture grows a security in the conversation when confidentiality is foundational in the relationship.
- Question Asking - Drive the conversation by asking a good question rather than being the one with answers. Value who they are and what they think. Give them space to make their own observations and ask their own question. Discover answers together. Point to God.
- Listening Well - The Christian's first and most important duty is to listen. If we don't listen to our neighbor what makes you think you will listen to God? (Bonhoeffer) Listening well includes choosing carefully where and when you meet to enable good communication. Give your focused attention and clarify the subtext with more questions. Ask follow-up questions like, "Why do you think that?" or "How does that show up in your living?"
- Prayer - Daily for the person you are discipling, in your preparation for the conversation, and together at any or all of the stages in the conversation.



A good spiritual conversation deepens the relationship. From that relational point, together you can identify where their thinking and response to God is currently operating from, the Now. This leads toward exploring possible differences in the picture that will bring alignment with God's Word and growth in their relationship with him. A next step will answer the question, "What am I going to do about what we've been discussing?" As a discipler you are listening, asking, and pointing to what you hear with the mutual goal of finding God's heart on the matter.