

~ ~ MAYWOOD ~ ~
VISION & PURPOSE



Becoming a People to Reach
People FOR CHRIST

INTRODUCTION

Being a **disciple** of Jesus is synonymous with what it means to be a Christian. Christians are Christ-followers. Disciples are learners who actively follow their master and teacher – Jesus (Matthew 16:24). Discipleship is a lifelong process and has a depth beyond the pages of this handbook. The purpose of this handbook is to help eliminate the guesswork when it comes to **discipleship**. It also shows how being a disciple connects with the mission and vision of Maywood Evangelical Free Church. May God bless you as you follow Christ.



EXALT – Exalting the Living God, expressing God’s transformational glory and greatness through worship.

Worship is as essential to our souls as breathing is to our physical bodies. We are designed by our Creator to know Him. Knowing who He is brings the proper response of worship. In response to a growing awareness of His presence, we express, in various ways, His importance and worth. Since we have a Creator, then by definition we are the created. More to the point, we are God’s special creation because we are created in His image. We are the pinnacle of God’s creation! Worshipping God is best expressed when we are in right relationship with Him through Christ (John 15). We must embrace our Maker for whom we are made. As God’s special creation, when worshiping God, our lives become, or continue to be, properly aligned. When a person worships God they know where their proper place is under Him, and all facets of our lives are put in their proper place. We

express worship in various ways when our souls are satisfied in Him. The drift down paths of idolatry are prevented or reversed when we worship God (Romans 1).

Corporate worship as the Body of Christ is an important expression. Gathering with other like-minded believers helps to focus one's attention upon God in praise, thanksgiving, and reverence. The gathered solidarity of believers in worship fosters a further propelling attention upon God. Corporate worship is the first level of community with other followers of Christ.

Corporate worship includes various expressions like giving, singing, and communion—celebrating the Lord's Supper.

- **Giving** to God of one's resources is another heart response of worship that is important for the believer. Worship of God includes the act of giving, "for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7b).
- **Singing** is one way in which we can meditate upon the truth of God. The Psalms bring up this spiritual discipline (Psalm 96). Biblical meditation is filling the mind and heart with God's Word and what He has revealed.
- **Communion**—By celebrating the Lord's Supper, we continue to remember our identity as Christians – which was bought with the blood of Jesus (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

Gathering for corporate worship is only part of worship for the Christian. Jesus told us that loving God involves worship of heart, soul, mind and strength as well as loving our neighbors. Meeting in a smaller group of Christians brings about further worship of God through the growth that occurs in the individual life of a believer through deeper relationships. At Maywood we call these **life groups**.

Prayer, whether in corporate worship, in public, in groups, or in private, is also connected to worship. Through prayer we acknowledge our dependence upon God. Prayer is a spiritual discipline that is to pervade all of the Christian life. We express our hearts to Him along a continuum of adoration, thanksgiving and confession. We bring our requests to Him knowing that we need Him to be at work for anything of

lasting significance to happen. Prayer is indispensable for living the Christian life. If you are in a season of life where being part of a life group isn't possible, seek to have a prayer partner with whom you can share prayer concerns.

EXPLAIN – Explaining the word of God, studying and applying the scriptures

The **Word of God** is foundational to the lives of Christians. Because it is God-breathed it is essential for the Christian life in knowing who God is and what is His will (2 Timothy 3:16). The best way to live in light of scripture flows from first understanding scripture. Accurate interpretation leads to better application. Good pastors and teachers want to give correct explanations of what the Word of God says as well, moving people to applying it to their lives.



Biblical preaching and teaching is part of, but not limited to, the corporate worship services. **Life groups** are a great setting for discussing and interacting with scripture. For the believer, it is ideal when interaction with scripture takes place at the corporate, group and private level. One of the core commitments at Maywood EFC is living under the authority of the Word by applying what flows from accurate interpretation.

ENCOURAGE – Encouraging the family of God, participating in Body life and interpersonal engagement

As Christians we are encouraged to encourage. Encouragement is one key element of building up the body of Christ. Building up others can be done through words, but it can also be done through serving. **Serving** is encouraging. **Spiritual gifts** are part of the sphere of serving (Ephesians 4:11-12). Spir-



itual gifts are given ultimately to the church or body of Christ as a whole, but they are employed by believers individually. Understanding one's spiritual gift or gifts is helpful in getting involved in the life of the church. A great way to help in discovering or affirming one's gift/s is to use an assessment tool. One recommended assessment tool is produced by "Uniquely You." At various times, Maywood will have classes that focus on helping people discover their gifts and how to understand them. It is ideal when people can serve in a capacity that matches their spiritual gifts. However, sometimes areas of ministry within a local church are already filled, in which case, serving can and must be done in other areas. We are called to serve, and sometimes that may mean helping out where help is needed.

Life groups are a deeper level of community where Christian relationships grow. Participation in Life groups is an expression of serving. We need each other. The church is to be a collection of symbiotic relationships. That is why Paul exhorts that no part of the body can say to the other "I have no need of you."

EXTEND - Extending the Love of God, making the love of Christ known through outreach.

The church is comprised of people who have been changed by the **gospel** of Jesus. They in turn should be "showing and telling" the gospel to others. The cross and resurrection of Jesus is the hope for a lost world (1 Timothy 1:15a). Communicating the good news about Jesus can be done in many ways. Personally telling someone about Christ, after having established a rapport through some level of relationship, is often most effective. Inviting someone to an event or



service where some level of the gospel is communicated can be another way – even if it’s an entry point. However, acts of kindness and love are essential as being a precursor to speaking about Jesus. Sometimes the hearts of people are prepared to listen when they have experienced love in action. Followers of Christ need to be, and should be looking for opportunities to make Christ known.

DISCIPLE’S PROFILE

Please find the attached **Disciple’s Profile** and take the time to fill it out and then return it to the Welcome Center. This serves at least two purposes. One, it will help us as a church have necessary information about the congregation for future decisions. Secondly, it will further help you understand what a disciple does as well as perhaps indicate areas in which you need to engage.

The 7 “Why’s” of Disciple-Making

1. The western church is declining due to a lack of disciple-making.
2. Jesus expected His church to make disciples.
3. Mature disciples evangelize.
4. A disciple-making church is never void of leaders.
5. Disciple-making transforms the church dynamic.
6. Disciple-making transforms households.
7. Disciple-making engages the entire church body in the meeting of one another’s emotional, spiritual and physical needs.

A church that makes the gospel known is a magnet for those far from Christ and for believers seeking to be part of a healthy congregation.

<http://www.churchleaders.com>

DISCIPLE’S PROFILE

As disciples of Jesus Christ, our **vision** is to respond faithfully to His call by **Becoming a People to Reach People FOR CHRIST**. Our mission, or 4E’s, supports and fulfills our vision. **Please take some time to complete the following and return it to Pastor Dave or the Welcome Center.**

NAME: _____

(please print)

Age range (circle one):

High School	50-59
18-24	60-69
25-29	70-79
30-39	80-89
40-49	90+

EXALT the Living God –
worshipping together

What worship service do you usually participate in? _____

EXPLAIN the Word of God –
growing together

Are you in a Life Group? _____

ENCOURAGE the Family of God – serving together

What is/are your spiritual gift/s?

Have you ever taken a spiritual gift inventory? _____

In what capacity do you serve at Maywood, or would like to serve?

If you are not in a Life Group, do you at least have a prayer partner?

Yes _____ No _____

EXTEND the love of God – reaching out together

How do you reach out to people outside the church? (circle your answer/s below).

- a. Personal Evangelism
- b. Inviting to events at Maywood
- c. Involved in a ministry that includes evangelism
- d. All of the above
- e. None of the above



3621 Samuelson Road
Rockford, Illinois 61109