



2023

# MVBC Discipleship Process

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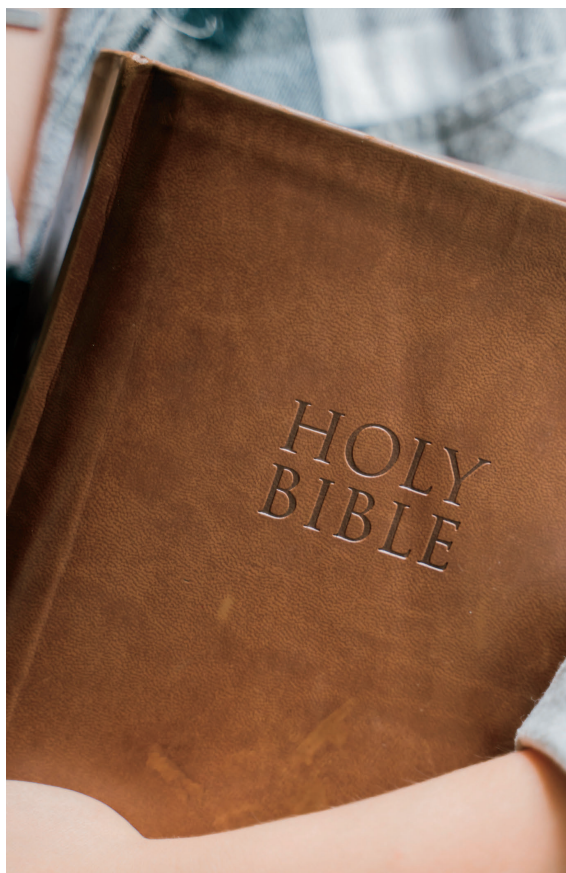
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Joe Bouchoc



# MERRIMACK VALLEY

— baptist church —

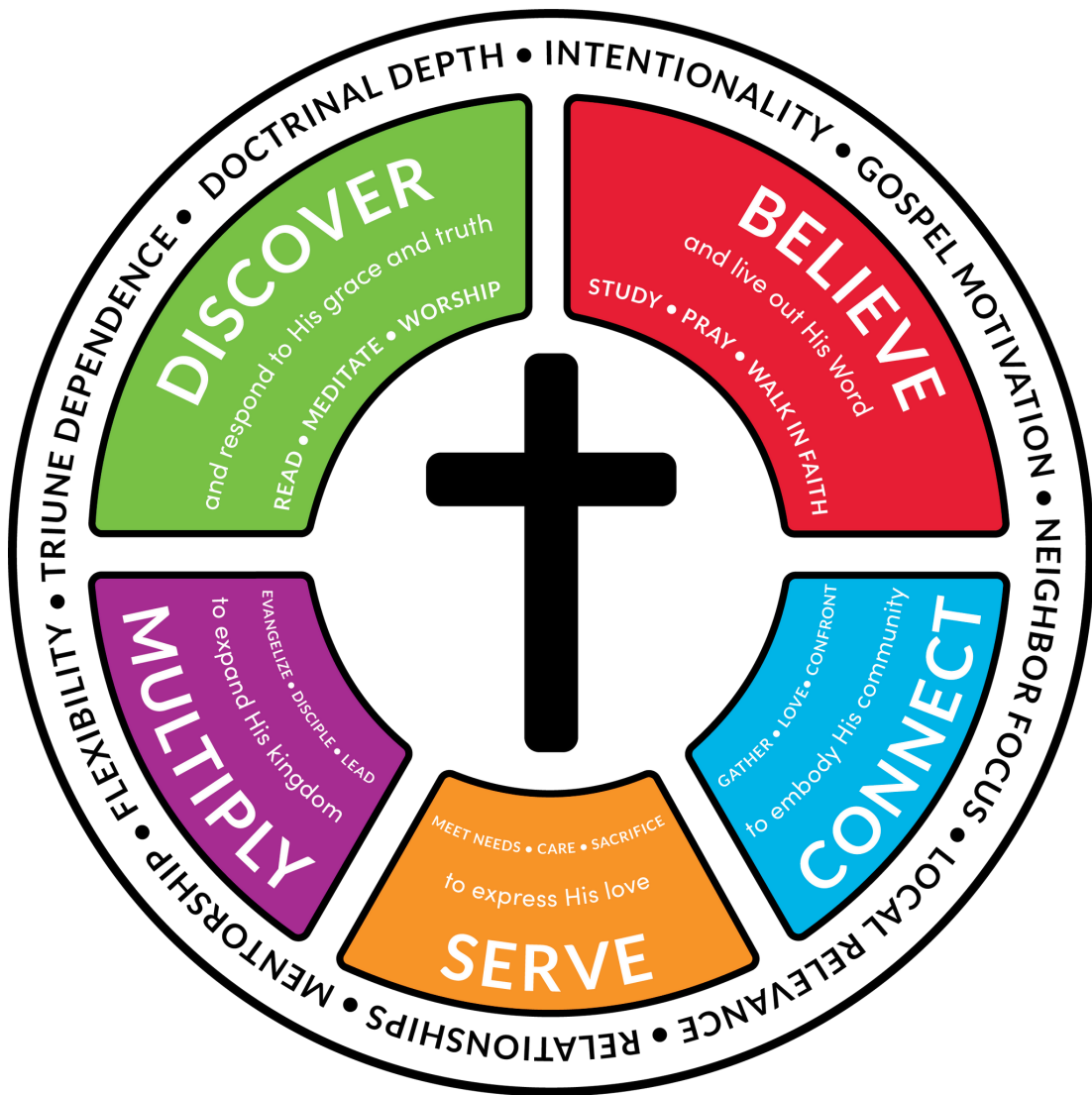


## Introduction

Our Mission is to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ. Our discipleship strategy describes what Scripture teaches a healthy disciple to be and to do. We have summarized this in five stages of discipleship: Discover, Believe, Connect, Serve, and Multiply.

Maturing disciples are never static but change constantly. We want to progress from one stage to another while constantly growing deeper in each area.

# What does a healthy disciple of Jesus Christ look like?

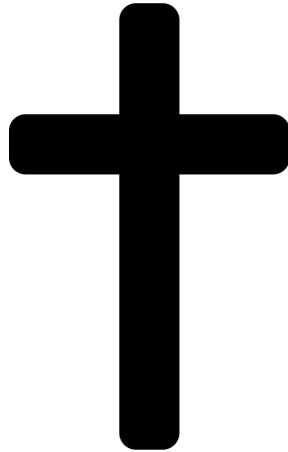




## Our principles keep us on track.

Our principles are qualities we desire that provide decision guidelines. We want to be characterized by these principles as we seek to follow Christ's design for discipleship.

# The Cross



All aspects of discipleship revolve around the **cross** because Christ is the center of the Christian faith. Our faith only makes sense in the context of the gospel. We are only saved and sanctified in the power of the gospel. Attempting to mature apart from Christ is a false Christianity. The cross at the center ensures that making and maturing disciples is always gospel motivated.



The **Discover** stage reminds us that becoming a Christian and growing as a Christian both happen through **discovering who Christ is**. This should never be only intellectual but a personal relationship as we **respond to His grace and truth**. This happens most naturally in the daily life of a Christian as we **read** and **meditate** on His Word and live lives of **worship**.



The **Believe** stage reminds us that we are constantly growing in our belief in Jesus Christ. This is a holistic belief, encompassing all of who we are, and results in **living out His Word**. We grow in belief through **study, prayer, and walking in faith**. The Discover and Believe stages highlight that maturity in Christ is always a matter of being and doing. Our church offers the **Beginnings Class**, which helps us mature in belief through the basics of the Christian faith and the basics of our church.

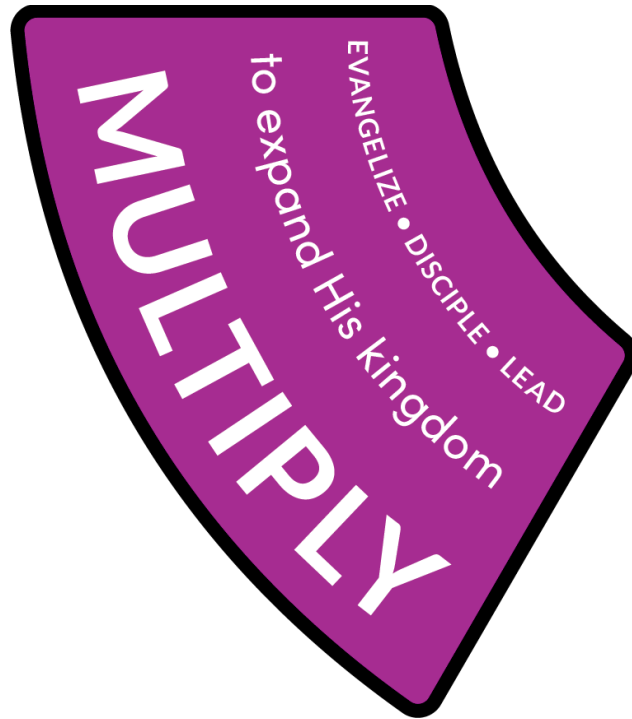


Christ's work has saved us and united us with other Christians in Christ. The **Connect** stage reminds us that we are unified in Christ and **embody His community** as the local church. This happens as we **gather, love, and confront** one another when we sin. Growth happens best in relationships. In our **Community Class**, we describe the Bible's teaching on Gospel-centered community.





Christians who have placed their faith in Christ have received His Spirit, which is uniquely expressed in each believer through a spiritual gift. The **Serve** stage teaches us to use this gift and gives us opportunities to do so in the local church. Like Christ, this looks like **meeting needs, caring** for others, and **sacrificing** our desires for the sake of others. Our **Serve Class** outlines the biblical teaching on spiritual gifts and gives practical ways to understand and use your gift in the local church.



Our final stage of discipleship reminds us that disciples make disciples who make disciples. A healthy Christian is constantly multiplying what he knows in the life of others. We **multiply** to **expand His kingdom** through **evangelizing, discipling, and leading.**

# Healthy Disciples at MVBC



A healthy disciple best grows in both personal and corporate settings. The top half of our discipleship wheel emphasizes that a healthy disciple continually grows towards closer **communion** with Christ in personal daily rhythms.

The bottom half of our discipleship wheel emphasizes that **community** with the church is necessary for that communion with Jesus, both for ourselves and others. In practice, those who attend our church are encouraged to attend our Sunday morning service, join a serve team, and connect with a group.



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