

DISCIPLESHIP at 1ST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*Being transformed together
into the image of Jesus,
for the sake of others*

A maturing disciple is someone who has said “yes” to God’s love in Jesus Christ and has become an apprentice of Jesus. Our apprenticeship is a lifelong journey of transformation to become like Jesus through the Spirit, growing to love the Triune God above all else and loving others and creation as Jesus does.

Discipleship starts before we take our first breath and continues until we finally see Jesus face-to-face. It involves the totality of life: all our choices, attitudes, actions, thoughts, and habits. While discipleship cannot be limited to a program, there are ways that we can order our lives together and individually that will create room for the Holy Spirit to transform us. We are calling these the “building blocks” of discipleship. It is our hope that everyone, no matter their age or where they are on their journey, will engage in each of these building blocks. The ways we engage will likely change over the years, depending on the Spirit’s leading. That’s okay! It’s more important *that* we engage and allow God room to transform us. These are the four building blocks, briefly defined:

EDUCATION

The goal is not only gathering information, but to be transformed into the likeness of Jesus. In particular, education invites us to see real reality – not just to learn true facts, but to actually see reality in a totally different way. The primary material for this transformation is Scripture.

PRACTICES

Practices can also be called spiritual disciplines or habits. Practices help us open our lives to the Holy Spirit’s work of transforming us into the image of Jesus. They are actions that help us form habits. As they become habits, it will become our nature to live life in and through Jesus Christ in the power of the Spirit.

COMMUNITY

Community is the place in which we learn and practice loving God and neighbor. It is the place in which we encourage each other in the Lord, bear one another’s burdens, and engage in education and spiritual practices together.

♥ JOINING GOD'S MISSION

God's love is so fierce and pure that God gave everything to love and redeem every inch of creation. When we are filled with that kind of love, we are compelled to joyfully join in God's mission to share His love and redemption with all of creation as well. The ways God asks us to join His mission may change over time, depending on the contexts in which God places us.

If you'd like to read a much fuller description of our views on Discipleship and the four building blocks, please go to: 1stpres.com/what-we-believe/

On the following pages, we've listed the various programs and tools we offer that help people of various ages to engage in the Discipleship Building Blocks. Many of the programs and tools fit within multiple building blocks, but for the sake of clarity we have parsed them out. In addition, there are other special events we do throughout the year that are not listed - make sure to check weekly and monthly church communication. If you'd like additional information about our specific goals for each age (preschool - high school) and what the children/youth are learning each week, these are also available on our website: www.1stpres.com Please don't hesitate to contact any of us. We'd love to journey with you as you follow Jesus.

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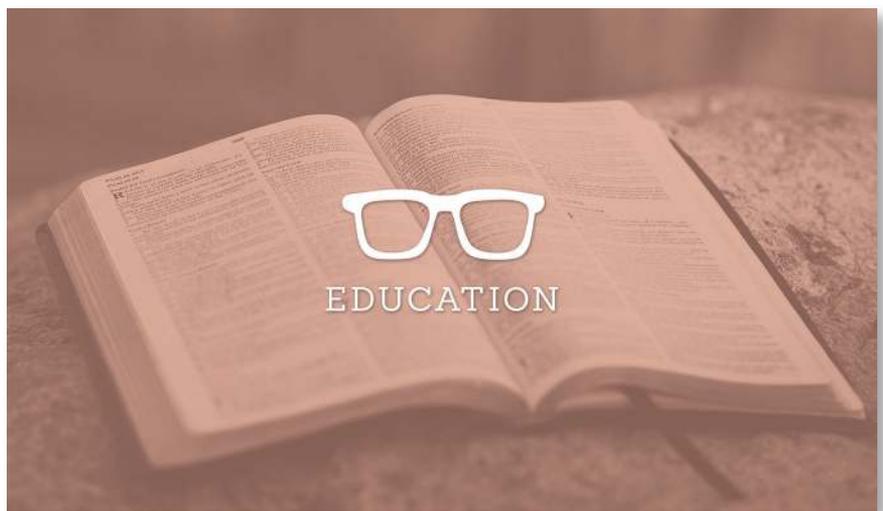
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EDUCATION

PRESCHOOL

1stpres.com/ministries/children

EDUCATION

Sunday School, 10am or 11am | Preschoolers gather to learn about Jesus and the true stories of the Bible, God's Word, each Sunday. For a complete list of what we teach during the years children are in preschool, please see: 1stpres.com/ministries/children

Mustard Seed Club, Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30pm | Preschoolers gather on Wednesday evenings to learn and be transformed.

This is part of our WNL all-church program (see ADULT Community section).

Worship Care, Sunday morning | The main "education" of Sunday morning is at the 10 o'clock Sunday school hour. But children also continue to learn while they are in worship care during the 8:45 and 11:00 worship services.

PRACTICES

Preschool is a perfect time for disciples to start spiritual practices. We want children to know it is good and natural to make space for God and to form habits that can be built on for a lifetime. We have developed a book called "Spiritual Habits," designed specifically for preschoolers and their families to use at home. You may find it at the Preschool Window or online.



COMMUNITY

While participating in Sunday School and Mustard Seed Club is a good way for children to begin forming community, their primary community for formation is their family. We encourage parents to talk with their children about what they are learning, to help them understand that Jesus wants to be friends with us, wants us to grow to be like Him, and to engage in practices with them.

♥ JOINING GOD'S MISSION

In everything we do, we try to encourage children to understand the connection between being friends with God and sharing God's love with others. We want them to know that "simple" ways of sharing God's love - like kindness and forgiveness - are important ways to Join God's Mission.

ELEMENTARY

1stpres.com/ministries/children

EDUCATION

Sunday School, 10am | K-5th grade students experience God in an environment where they are offered opportunities to pause, wonder, imagine, and marvel at God's story and then live into and live out of it together.

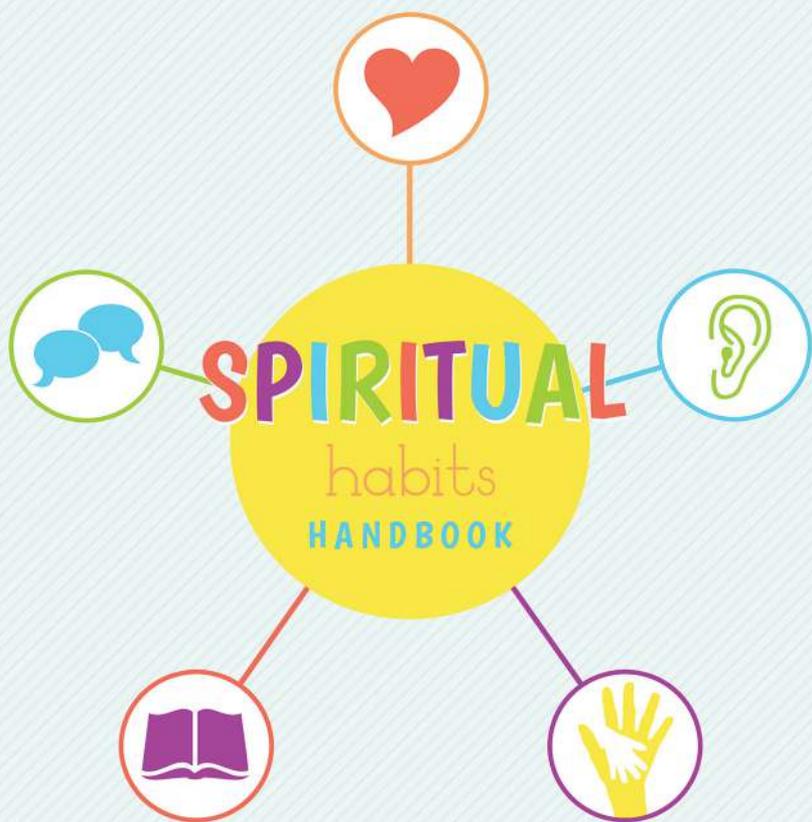
Children's Church, during worship (Oct-May) | K-2nd grade students will learn about the meaning of worship and what it means to worship God, not only in church, but with their whole lives.

PRACTICES

Kid Connection, Wednesdays; 6:30-7:30 pm (Sept-April) | K-5th grade, Wednesday night is a time of spiritual formation. Students will practice habits that will help train them to be like Jesus and form their love for Him. We have developed a book of spiritual habits for families to use at home, so everyone can grow into Christ-likeness together. These books will be distributed to students who attend Kid Connection or can be picked up at the Children's Ministry Window.

Kid Connection is part of our WNL all-church program (see ADULT Community section).

Children's Choirs, Wednesdays; 5:50-6:30pm (Sept-April) | Singing Scripture is a wonderful way to instill the grace and truth of Jesus deep in our bones. Practice is during WNL all-church program (see Community section under ADULT below)





COMMUNITY

While participating in Sunday School and Kid Connection is a good way for children to begin forming community, their primary community for formation is their family. We encourage parents to talk with their children about what they are learning to help them understand that Jesus wants to be friends with us, wants us to grow to be like Him and to engage in practices with them.

♥ JOINING GOD'S MISSION

5th Grade Ambassadors | God provides people of all ages with spiritual gifts to enrich their lives and equip them for growth in faith and service to God and others. Our 5th graders are no exception: they are leaders, servers, teachers, encouragers, givers, and they are compassionate. The goal of the the 5th Grade Ambassadors is to help preteens understand that serving God is something that each of us can do and that God has given us special abilities to do just that.

5th Grade Mission Week is a four-day program each summer that provides an opportunity for students to put biblical concepts of service into practice.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

1stpres.com/ministries/middle-school

EDUCATION

Sunday School, 10am, B Building | Middle Schoolers gather on Sundays at 10 AM to be transformed together by the story told in Scripture about the God who created the world, reveals His love for the world in Christ, and draws people to Himself through the Spirit. Middle School students have a group of dedicated and enthusiastic teachers who seek to engage students in relationship and model the love of the Triune God as they dive into Scripture. For a more complete description of what we teach each semester in Sunday school, please visit our webpage.

Confirmation | Each spring, we offer a Confirmation class for 7th grade students. This 12- week, immersive experience invites students to dig deeply into the foundations of Christian faith through class discussions, retreats, service, and mentorship. The purpose of the comprehensive study is to give students an opportunity at the end to become members of our church community and affirm a desire for lifelong discipleship.

CONNECT, Wednesdays, 6:15-7:45 PM, B-100, Sept-May | This is our large group ministry which combines wacky games, worship, and teaching. We gather together to grow our faith while having fun together. It's an awesome time to grow as a group and to grow in our faith.

This is part of our WNL all-church program (see ADULT Community section).

PRACTICES

MOVE Groups, Sundays afternoons, Sept-May | MOVE Groups are our youth ministry's small groups. They meet weekly in the homes of church families during the school year and are divided up by grade and gender. In MOVE Groups, students explore how Scripture shapes our daily habits, practices, and friendships.



COMMUNITY

Middle School students are social animals. We strive to create a warm, welcoming environment among all our ministry events such that all students know how deeply they are loved by God and by our community. Our dedicated volunteer leaders love young people and are committed to walking alongside our students as they grow in faith. We also see parents and families as partners in ministry and seek to equip parents because we recognize that families are the primary area of discipleship.

♥ JOINING GOD'S MISSION

This generation of students loves to serve. We strive to create opportunities to serve throughout the school year. We have several mission trips and retreats, including God@Christmas, and summer mission trips. Joining God's mission is not just going "over there" to foreign countries but embodying God's love wherever we are.



PRACTICES



COMMUNITY

HIGH SCHOOL

1stpres.com/ministries/high-school

EDUCATION

Sunday School, 10am, B Building | High Schoolers gather to be transformed together by the story told in Scripture about the God who created the world, reveals His love for the world in Christ, and draws people to Himself through the Spirit. Sunday School equips high school students to step into life after high school with the tools to continue growing in their love for Christ in whatever context they find themselves in. High School students have a group of dedicated and enthusiastic teachers who seek to engage students in relationship and model the love of the Triune God love as they dive into Scripture.

PRACTICES

MOVE Groups, Sundays afternoons, Sept-May | MOVE Groups are our youth ministry small groups, and are divided up by grade and gender. In MOVE Groups, students explore how Scripture shapes our daily habits, practices, and friendships.



COMMUNITY

Relationships are a vital part of the lives of high school students. We strive to create a warm, welcoming environment in all our ministry events where every student knows how deeply they are loved by God and by our community. Our dedicated volunteer leaders love young people and are committed to walking alongside our students as they grow in faith. We also see parents and families as partners in ministry and seek to equip parents because we recognize that families are the primary discipleship arena in the lives of our students.

♥ JOINING GOD'S MISSION

This generation of students loves to serve. We strive to create opportunities to serve throughout the school year. We have several mission trips and retreats, including God@Christmas, summer mission trips, and helping with Vacation Bible School. Joining God's mission is not just going "over there" to foreign countries but embodying God's love wherever we are.



JOINING GOD'S MISSION

ADULTS

EDUCATION

Sunday School, 10am | Sunday school is a rich tradition at 1st Pres. Our classes range in style and format, but all are Biblically-based and welcoming to anyone, anytime. For a full list of classes with descriptions, see 1stpres.com/ministries/sunday-school. In 2018, we will begin short-term classes that cover the core of what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

Women's Bible Study, Wed. 6:30-7:30pm & Thurs. 9:30-11:30am, Sept-Apr | WBS is open to all women, no matter their age, stage, or spiritual maturity. WBS includes large group teaching and discussion groups. Join anytime: 1stpres.com/ministries/women.

Men's Bible Study, Tues. 6:30am, Sept-Apr | Men's Bible study includes teaching, table group discussion, and prayer. All men are welcomed.

PRACTICES

Church-wide | Practices are things that individuals do, but we also believe God is calling us to commit to practices as a whole community. As a way to engage communally, and equip us as individuals, as a church we focus on one practice at a time for a 2-3 month period. There are resources on the current practice available at each book cart (by the Welcome Desks). We also talk about the practices and actually engage in the practices in our various groups and in corporate worship.

Day Apart Retreats | These retreats are held locally 4 times per year, usually on Saturdays. They are days of guided solitude and silence with the Lord, with personal time and optional group sharing. For details, see 1stpres.com/connect/retreats.

Weekend Retreats | We offer 3 retreats per year in which we pull away

ADULTS CONT'D

ADULTS CONT'D

from WS to be together and with the Lord: The All-Church retreat (for ALL!) is the last full weekend in September; the Women's Retreat is the first full weekend in February, and the Men's Retreat is in March. See 1stpres.com/connect/retreats.



COMMUNITY

Wednesday Night Live (WNL), Sept-Apr | WNL is a time when the whole church family comes together. We gather for dinner served from 5:15-6:25pm, followed by programming for all ages, 6:30-7:30pm. Programming includes Mustard Seeds (preschool), Kid Connection (Elementary), Connect (Middle School), both women and men's Bible studies, choirs (children and adult) and small groups. Visit 1stpres.com/connect/wednesday-night-live to RSVP and for details.

Small Groups | Small groups are a wonderful way to build relationships with others so that we may help one another grow in the image of Jesus. If you are interested in joining or starting a small group, please contact Amy Carlan.

Lenten Small Groups (short-term) | Each Lent, we offer 6-8 week small groups that are open to everyone. Look for information at the beginning of each calendar year.

HOUSE (Young Adults), Mondays 7:30pm | HOUSE is a gathering for men and women aged 22 to their early 30s. Our philosophy is simple: to connect Biblically and socially. We do this through Bible study and fellowship, supporting one another through prayer and encouragement, and being active in the community and life of First Pres. See 1stpres.com/ministries/young-adult for details and to connect to the Facebook page.

MOPS, 9:30-11:30am 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, Sept-May | MOPS is a gathering of mothers with preschoolers. See 1stpres.com/mops.

Friday Morning Men's Group, 6:30am | This group meets year-round for Scripture study, prayer, and encouragement. All men are invited to join anytime.

Neighborhood Groups (NG) | NG is a program designed to help us connect to our church family in our actual neighborhoods. NG meet 2-4 times each year with the simple goals of increasing our connections and caring for one another. Each Covenant Partner (member) is placed in a NG. We are currently looking for NG Captains and Hosts. If you are interested, please contact Amy Carlan. Visitors are also welcome! If you are visiting and want more information about your NG, please also contact Amy.

♥ JOINING GOD'S MISSION

There are myriad ways to join God's mission: by using our God-given gifts and resources, by faithfully living out our vocations, by extending hospitality to our neighbors and sharing Christ with them, and by pursuing God's wholeness, peace, and justice in our communities and the world. The best way to know how to Join God's Mission is to ask the Lord and explore possibilities. As a part of your exploration process, consider checking out some formal opportunities at 1stpres.com missions or pick up a "Global and Local Missions" Guide at one of the Welcome Desks. The website and the guide both contain contact information for each service opportunity.



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