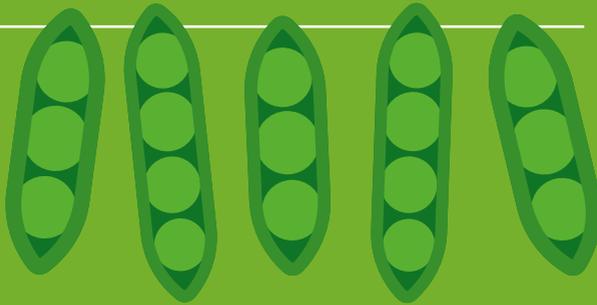

2

PATH OF DISCIPLES



Four lessons for
walking God's way



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For training, the Leader's Guide and booklet/downloadable pdf of this course, contact:

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Path of Disciples 2

POD is a fun and practical way to learn with others what it means to have Jesus as a firm foundation for life and to walk with God.

It is useful to complete POD 1 before starting POD 2.

POD 1 – A Summary

Come and you will see the Lord and Saviour (John 1:39)

POD 1 - A person needs to be open to learning to follow Jesus. We lay a foundation teaching the good news of Jesus and train people so that they in turn can disciple others. We lead them to understand that God is gracious towards each of us. He calls us to Himself with open arms despite the ways we have lived. We contrast the depths of our downfall with the wonder of knowing God. We then present a full panorama of Christ the King from when He was eternally with the Father to the day He will return. We consider how God wants us to respond to his rescue plan and indeed to the King Himself and so receive assurance of salvation.

Who is POD 2 for?

POD 2 is for those who have understood the good news of Jesus, trust Him as their Lord and Saviour and are open to learn to walk with God and his people, the church.

What is POD 2 about?

Now that we have Jesus as the firm foundation of our lives, POD 2 can help us to walk with God and to do this together as church, through four practical lessons:

1. **We are led by the Spirit on the way**
2. **We meet with our Father on the way**
3. **We stand with the Lord Jesus on the way**
4. **We walk together as church on the way**

This walk is the framework within which we delight to follow Jesus and obey his commands. As God has given you this desire to walk with Him, we encourage you to prepare for each lesson beforehand by reading the verses and writing a response to each question. The act of writing clarifies your thinking and helps you to remember what God teaches you. One or two thoughtful sentences for each question is appropriate.



1 We are led by the Spirit on the way

The Christian life is a walk of fellowship with God who has revealed Himself as three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Our Father wants to empower us to live as Jesus did. He makes this possible through giving us the Holy Spirit. Just as we cannot earn salvation by our own efforts, so the Spirit is given by grace and received through faith in the risen Lord Jesus.

Read Acts 1:4-5, 8; 2:1-4, 12-18, 32-33

As you read this, what most stands out for you in this account when God kept his promise to pour out His Spirit?

A. The Holy Spirit – our Helper

God had promised to send his Spirit.

Ezekiel 36:25-27

1. What was God going to achieve through his Spirit?

John 16:13-14

2. What did Jesus say the Spirit would do after He came?

As disciples of Jesus we will learn to listen to the Spirit who wants to help us hear and obey the word of God as Jesus did.

B. The Spirit nurtures us in God's family

"He (the Son of God) came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive Him. Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."

John 1:11-12.

When we welcome God's Son, Jesus, as Lord, God brings us into his family, the church. Since we have now become God's loved children, we can enjoy intimacy with Him. We also have entered God's kingdom with its joy and peace. We are learning together, as brothers and sisters, to walk with God as our Father and our King.

John 3:5-8

3. How can a person experience this reality where God is King?

The Son of God lived in the power of the Holy Spirit, full of grace and truth.

Galatians 5:16, 22-23

4. How will we develop a family likeness and become like Jesus in our character?

The Spirit has brought us into relationship with each other as church family. We now put to death sinful patterns, through the Spirit's power, and so live more and more like Jesus. He also reveals Himself by giving us, as God's children, special abilities - the gifts of the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:7-13

5. Why does the Spirit distribute gifts to us?

Verse 13 speaks of the baptism in the Spirit which is a work of God for each of us in God's family. What is your experience of the Spirit?

C. Receiving the Spirit

The Spirit comes in various ways; let us see the example of Paul.

Acts 9:10-20

6. What did Ananias do and what happened?

“Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, ‘Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.’ By this He meant the Spirit.”

John 7:37-39.

7. Since Jesus has now been glorified and poured out his Spirit, now is the time we can all receive the Spirit. How?

8. The Father has promised to give his Spirit to those who are thirsty. What is your response today to God's promised Spirit?

If you want to receive from God's goodness, then spend some time thanking the Father for his love and power expressed in his Son, Jesus. Then ask God to fill you with his Spirit. You can expect God to pour into your heart his love and the joy of knowing you are his child. The Spirit will lead you and equip you in a unique way, and the love of Jesus will overflow as you serve others in the Spirit's power.

2 We meet with our Father on the way

As children of God we walk with our Father and converse with Him. We spend time with Him in prayer, with his word and in worship, thus learning to grow in faith and intimacy with our Father God.

Read Mark 1:33-39

As you read this, what strikes you about this time Jesus spent with his Father?

A. Prayer to our Father

In the Old Testament we read a prophecy of how the Lord listened to his Father:

“The Sovereign Lord has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught.”

Isaiah 50:4.

As followers of Jesus, we speak and listen to our Father when we pray.

Read Matthew 6:5-15

In this prayer that Jesus taught his disciples, we learn much about how our relationship with God as our Father can grow. Let us ask God to change us as:

- We focus on his honour, rather than on our own reputation.
- We seek his kingdom, instead of trying to take control ourselves.
- We consider what God wants, before our own desires.

Take a moment to ask God to make Himself known more and more and pause to listen as you pray.

Matthew 6:9. God's name

1. Pray asking our Father to show you how He wants his name to be honoured. Write what you hear God say.

Matthew 6:10. God's kingdom

2. God's kingdom refers to the realm over which our Father reigns. In what specific thing(s) do you want to say to God: 'Come and take control'?

Matthew 6:10. God's will

3. Ask God to help you to obey Him cheerfully, completely and in his timescale. Note down an area where you need to ask God to change you - and then ask Him to do that.

After three requests in which we focus on our Father God, our hearts are in a better place to speak to our Father about other concerns.

Matthew 6:11. Our daily bread

4. We ask our Father to help us. Jot down an example of how God has freed you from fear or anxiety, and thank Him.

Matthew 6:12,14-15. Forgiveness

5. Is there anyone you need to forgive? Why is it important to forgive others?

Matthew 6:13. Temptation and the evil one

6. Ask our Father to free you from all influence and snares of the evil one.

B. The word of God - the Bible

1 Peter 1:23-25; 1 Peter 2:1-3

7. How does someone start, and then grow, in their new life with the Father?

We have seen how the Spirit of God and the word of God work together to bring change to our lives.

8. How has God changed you through his Word?

C. Worship of our Father

As we get to know the Father through prayer and the Word, we want to worship Him.

9. What kind of worshippers does the Father desire?

It is essential to set aside time to meet with God, not only to get to know Him better but also to serve others with his love.

How to meet with God, our Father

- Tell God you want to spend time with Him.
- Spend time worshipping God through song.
- Read a part of the Bible and listen to what God is saying to you.
- Use the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) as a model and starting point for a conversation with your heavenly Father, giving space to listen as well.

3 We stand with the Lord Jesus on the way

In the New Testament when someone put their faith in Jesus as their Lord and Saviour, they openly aligned themselves with Him. We will see how they did this, and learn to follow in their steps.

Read Acts 22:4-16

What strikes you just now about Paul's change of attitude to Jesus?

A. Baptism

For the early Christians water baptism was one of their first steps of obedience. They had become Christians and were willing to identify themselves publicly with their Lord and Saviour by being baptised in water in his name. Frequently the new believers were persecuted as a result.

Romans 6:1-4

1. These verses teach about being baptised or immersed into Christ. What evidence have you seen that you have "died" and been "raised" to a new life?

Acts 8:34-39

2. How was a person baptised?

Acts 16:29-34

3. What is necessary to be baptised?

Are you ready and willing to be identified with Jesus through being baptised in his name?

B. Words: We speak of Jesus

It is natural to talk about someone who is very important to you. In the same way, disciples of Jesus Christ find that their new life gives much reason to testify to others.

Acts 1:8

4. What is the expectation of Jesus?

John 1:40-46

5. What did Andrew and Philip do after they met Jesus? Who could you speak to about Jesus?

C. Actions: We live as Jesus did

We normally show that our lives are being transformed by the Spirit of God. God's love does not give us a license to sin, but teaches us to live free from sin as Jesus did.

Matthew 5:13-16

6. How can our lives result in praise for God?

Luke 4:18-19

7. What did God's Spirit empower the Lord Jesus to do?

John 14:12-17

8. How can we do the works that Jesus did?

Through three lessons (and even in John 14:12-17!) we have seen that we walk with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Next we will understand that God has given us other disciples to walk together in his way.

4 We walk together as church on the way

When we first accepted Jesus as Lord and Saviour, we were united to Him by the Holy Spirit. The Spirit also joins us to each other, under Christ's headship, as his body, the Church.

Read Acts 2:38-47

As you read this, what impacts you about the life of the early church?

A. Jesus and the church

Jesus spoke twice in the Gospels specifically of the church. Let us first read those passages:

Matthew 16:13-19

1. The Father was revealing who Jesus is. On what foundation will Jesus build his church?

Matthew 18:15-20

2. At its core, what is unique about a meeting of the church?

John 13:34-35

3. How would you recognise a disciple of Jesus?

B. My part in the church

Hebrews 10:23-25

4. Why do we need to keep meeting together as God's people?

Romans 12:3-10

5. How would you like to serve in the local church?

Hebrews 13:7, 17

6. What are the benefits of having godly church leaders?

What are your responsibilities to your church leaders?

The commitment to fellow believers is made first with the Lord with a grateful heart and then willingly with each other.

C. Our commission to the nations

Matthew 28:16-20

7. What has Jesus commissioned us to do as we walk with Him?

D. My commitment as a disciple of Christ

Romans 12:1-2

8. What is your response to God's compassion?

Pray for each other that you will continue to walk with God, as disciples of Christ, and be enabled by the Holy Spirit to encourage others to do the same. If you have been baptised in water as an expression of grateful obedience to Jesus Christ our Lord, then we recommend you start **POD 3** which will help you to serve God better.

suggested reading

Selected by Luke Davydaitis

These books can help you with trusting and reading the Bible:

- *Why Trust the Bible?*, Amy Orr-Ewing. Addresses common questions about whether the Bible should and can be believed.
- *How To Read the Bible for All Its Worth*, Gordon D. Fee & Douglas Stuart. Systematic guide to the different types of writings in the Bible.

These books can help you with learning about the Holy Spirit:

- *Naturally Supernatural*, Wendy Mann. Accessible with stories of God's power at work today and how you can experience this for yourself.
- *Surprised by the Power of the Spirit*, Jack Deere. A thorough treatment of how the Bible encourages us to receive the Holy Spirit today.

These books can help you learn to pray and worship:

- *A Praying Life*, Paul E. Miller. Containing the author's story of parenting a child with learning difficulties, and learning to pray as he does so.
- *Enjoy Your Prayer Life*, Michael Reeves. A very short inspiration to help you relax and actually pray.
- *None Like Him*, Jen Wilkin. Looking at ten unique characteristics of God to help us worship Him more deeply and understand ourselves more accurately.

These books can help you with understanding why church is so important:

- *What On Earth is the Church For?*, David Devenish. Explaining God's purposes for the church, with stories from his own experience as a church leader.
- *The Spirit-Filled Church*, Terry Virgo. Terry is the founder of Newfrontiers, so this book will help you understand these churches.

OPEN TO LEARN?

3. SERVING GOD

1. GOD'S GOOD NEWS

2. WALKING WITH GOD



DISCIPLES: LEARNING TO FOLLOW JESUS