

Chapter 1 : The New Hope Discipleship Workshops | New Hope Christian Chapel South Easton MA

Comment: A readable copy. All pages are intact, and the cover is intact. Pages can include considerable notes-in pen or highlighter-but the notes cannot obscure the text.

Click to share on byFaith Twitter Opens in new window Just last weekend I went away with our elders for a time apart to re-examine our priorities as a church. A disciple of Jesus is a person who has heard the call of Jesus and has responded by repenting, believing the gospel, and following Him. I hope this serves as a conversation starter that leads to reflection and action on the part of ministry leaders. True believers must think of themselves as disciples of Jesus. Somehow, the idea that being a disciple of Jesus is not essential to salvation has taken root in the minds of many Christians; they see discipleship as an extra step or deeper commitment. This kind of thinking has no doubt helped in identifying discipleship with programs that are intended for believers who are interested in and willing to move forward in their walk of faith. Discipleship is, in common understanding, optional – important to be sure, but not essential to salvation. No doubt we will need to confess that we are weak disciples or new disciples or struggling disciples, but it is vital that believers understand we are disciples. Owning that vital truth is a key step to a more productive discipleship. The life of a disciple of Jesus begins with the call of Jesus. In the story of the earliest call to discipleship, Mark tells us that Jesus took up His public ministry by preaching repentance and faith in the good news. He then called four fishermen to follow Him, which they did immediately Mark 1: In the next chapter He called Levi to leave behind his tax-collecting business and follow Him, which Levi did. Later that day Jesus spoke of what He was doing in terms of the call: Based on these passages, and consistent with other Scripture, I define a disciple of Jesus this way: We should not think of the call to salvation in Christ and the call to discipleship as different categories. They are simply two ways to understand the same supernatural work of effectual calling. This is a key way in which Reformed theology should inform our approach to discipleship. Discipleship is not a distinct category or activity, but a synonym for Christian living. Within this broader understanding of discipleship, it is certainly appropriate to have special study seasons or specific programs designed to help people in their walk with Christ. The Great Commission does not make our modern distinction between evangelism and discipleship. Our risen Savior and King sent His disciples to make disciples of the nations the unbelievers all around them. We need to think in terms of two phases of making disciples, rather than distinct tasks of evangelism and discipleship. Do we authentically welcome unbelievers to come among us and take whatever time is necessary to seek and find Christ? Are we prepared to lead them step-by-step from initial profession of faith into a life of maturity in Christ? The gospel is what is most needed by believers as well as unbelievers. The more common pattern has been to equate preaching the gospel with evangelism, but once someone has believed the gospel, we are not sure how to describe what comes next. Unfortunately, in much of our teaching and practice in churches the gospel is actually separated from discipleship when exactly the opposite is needed. For example, take a fresh look at Romans 1: Thus the gospel empowers those who are believing it to live a life of following Jesus. People are at all levels of spiritual understanding in our churches. Ultimately, only God truly knows the heart. As we consider how our churches will make disciples, we should not make assumptions about where people are in their journeys or how much of the gospel story they actually understand, even when they can use a familiar vocabulary. We should want everyone in our large gatherings or small groups to feel invited in as learners. These may include personal spiritual disciplines such as prayer, Bible study, fasting, etc. These are worthy things that we need to be doing, but is this the place to start? Paul approached this important question of living as disciples in another way. If you think of theology and doctrine as separate from discipleship, you need to rethink that idea. There is no discipleship without community. The modern discipleship movement was birthed by parachurch ministries that stressed particular discipleship methods. Usually these methods revolved around a multiplication philosophy that focused on small groups or one-to-one training. No doubt there is a great deal that has been of benefit to Christians, but this has also

contributed to a highly individualistic understanding of discipleship. However, once we understand discipleship in the broader sense of helping one another live out our Christian lives, then the absolute necessity of the church community comes to the foreground. We are one body in Christ, and true growth comes as we grow up together Ephesians 4: This is where people learn their first lessons in prayer and in reading and understanding Scripture. Discipleship begins with the next generation. We need to think in terms of two phases of making disciples rather than distinct tasks of evangelism and discipleship. This may not mean more programs in fact it may mean fewer programs so parents can have time to nurture their children , but any vision for making disciples needs to include concrete ways to see to the discipleship of children. This means help for parents in understanding the importance of spiritual training and practical guides for things like family worship. It will include a strategy for preparing them to make a public profession of faith. Following Jesus must include following Jesus in His mission. From the very first words of His call, Jesus made it clear that to follow Him as a disciple had a purpose – a mission. Earlier I mentioned the challenge of convincing believers that they are disciples; now the challenge becomes to convince these disciples that they are actually missionaries. We are to be disciples making disciples. That means we are people still learning what it means to follow Jesus as His disciples ourselves, and an important part of that discipleship is helping those who may be a few steps behind us. Jesus told those first disciples that He would make them fishers of men. Next Steps As I have noted, the 10 things just explained are building blocks to lay a foundation for ongoing discipleship. Now the real work begins. How is the Lord leading your mission or congregation to flesh out this clear mandate? He is also an instructor for CityNet Ministries of Philadelphia. Interested readers are invited to read the full presentation in What is Discipleship? Contact Steve directly by email, steve@birthlineministries.com.

Chapter 2 : Spiritualism (beliefs) - Wikipedia

Books by John Hendee, Ambassadors for Christ, Peace Treaty With God, Recruiting, training, and developing volunteer adult workers, Discipling New Christians with the Spiritual T. E. A. M.

A Disciple is one who embraces, remains, and expresses the teachings of Jesus Christ. Remaining Together Where do we fit in? He thought it was because he was forced to wear ridiculous oversized glasses throughout elementary and middle school. So as he grew older and reached high school his parents purchased contacts for him. He acted respectful to his teachers. He told the truth even when it might impact a friend. His Christlike character stood in direct opposition to the character of his classmates. Soon they began gathering together, praying for each other, and encouraging one another. Now he really fit in. They knew, just like him, what it was like to be different. They knew why Christ expected His followers to speak respectfully. They knew that Christ expected His followers to be kind to others. They knew what it was like to wear spiritual glasses in a world that saw everything differently. As Christians, we have to come to grips with our relationship with Christ, with other Christians, and a world that rejects our Savior. The first relationship Christ stressed in John 15 is a relationship with Him. As followers of Jesus Christ everything flows out of our relationship with Him. Only when we put our relationship with Christ first are we able to engage in Christlike relationships with others as God intended. What are the other vines out there? What value does Christ give them John Christ knows that if his disciples invest in a relationship with Him, they will be able to have godly relationships with others. However, in order to establish godly relationships it must flow out of a relationship with Jesus Christ. Who is our example to love others? Why is this important to notice? When we spend time with Christ we end up loving like Christ. When we build our relationship with Christ we become gracious like Christ. When we invest time with Christ we end up being patient like Christ. Once again, everything flows out of a relationship with Jesus Christ. Look at these passages below. What characteristics of Christ should be modeled when we have a relationship with Him? Just as Christ did, so do we. Even our relationships should flow out of a relationship with Christ. The command of Christ to love one another refers specifically to followers of Christ. He was passionate that we love each other. However, this has been the most challenging perspective for Christians today. We tend to be too busy for one another. However, Christ taught that it is extremely important to have a relationship with Him and with His followers. Sadly too many Christians grow up in the church disconnected from one another. This theme of Christ is repeated over and over throughout the New Testament. Examine just a few of these expressions: The list goes on and on, and the point is that Christ expects His followers, past and present, to live in a loving relationship with one another. In other words, to act Christianly, we must live with Christians. He expects them to live with one another. They rejected what He said and what He did. Even though Christ said and did many wonderful things, there were those who loved the world so much that they rejected everything that Christ had to offer. Christ warned His disciples that the world was going to hate them because they represent Him. The words of Christ are still true for us today. Pastors, teachers, and coworkers are continually chastised for their faith in America and even more abroad. And even though each of these phrases are true and good the world will continue to respond hating us and rejecting the message of Christ. Has there ever been a time you were persecuted or been made fun of because of your relationship with Christ? We on the other hand are his servants and if He faced rejection for all the great things He did, we can expect rejection for less great things we do. The amazing part about this section is it proceeds John In that section, we remember Christ encouraged the believers to love one another. He stresses the need over and over so they might not forget it. He did this knowing when He left to go to the Father He would be leaving them in a world that would hate them. This is why the church is so important. Nobody likes ridiculous glasses. In fact, those who wear these types of glasses need them in order to perceive the world correctly. In some sense glasses are used in order to correct a flaw. Without glasses the world is foggy to them and they are unable to correctly understand the world around them. In a similar way this is how the world perceives

Christians when they follow Christ. He is able to equip us with the necessary perspectives in order to live life as God intended. When we are in Christ the world is perceived differently. The truth of the matter is that the world hates that we are different. In their eyes, when we wear these ridiculous glasses, we are continually reminding them that there is another way to perceive the world. The world however hates this. They love the way they love. They love the way they spend their money. They love the way they talk. They love looking at whatever they want no matter how foggy the world appears to them. It is so important as Christians to engage the world proclaiming the gospel of Christ. However, we must always remember that we do not fit in it. We are all individual branches within the vine working within a relationship with Jesus Christ AND with each other. Christ knew we needed help in this world so He commanded His followers to live in a relationship with one another. He commanded us to love one another as He loved. He commanded us to serve one another as He served. He commanded us to forgive as He forgave. Followers of Christ have three types of relationships. And 3 we have a relationship with a world that does not understand us. In closing, how would you rate your relationship in each?

Chapter 3 : Laymans School of Training - Calling America to Pray

Each lesson includes these key elements: Truth, Equipping, Accountability, Mission, and Supplication (T.E.A.M.S.Â©). What does a typical group time look like? While the Journey curriculum provides structure, the group time is very relational and interactive.

Jesus Himself, in Matthew Being a disciple means fully committing our lives to trusting God, walking with Jesus, and being led moment-by-moment by the Holy Spirit. Jesus spent time one-on-one, in small groups, and with crowds of people, so at New Hope, we do our best to imitate His example. Our Sunday services are not just a spiritual pick-me-up, but are intended to help us learn and grow. Our small groups are not just for food and fellowship, they are to learn how to walk together with Christ. Our approach to discipleship Our Discipleship Workshops are intended to be places where Christians can work one-on-one with a mature Christian friend to develop the skills and tools needed to live the Christian life. Our faith is lived out in our daily lives, our jobs, our homes, and our hearts and minds, not in a church service or classroom. So our workshops are intended to be practical, deep, Bible-based, and relevant. We seek to pair together two friends who will walk together through discussions and study of Scripture, Theology, and foundational Christian principles. These courses are easily adapted for children, teens, adults and anyone looking to learn and grow! May God bless you as you seek to draw closer to Him and gain a deeper knowledge through the special revelation of His Word! This course is foundational for understanding our faith, and so is a prerequisite for the other workshops that follow.

Bible This ten session workshop is designed to help a believer not feel so daunted by reading their Bible. It goes over the various genres of Scripture, explains how to study the Bible, and gives practical tools to help use and understand Scripture.

Christian Living This eight session workshop is designed to walk through the basic, daily, practical elements of what a Christian life consists of of things like prayer, meditation, fasting, worship, evangelism, stewardship, how we speak, and other areas like these.

Basic Beliefs This ten session discipleship workshop has been taught at our church since its founding in , and has given many, many people a solid understanding of what the Bible teaches on the basic tenets of faith. With very engaging and practical discussion questions, this workshop is certain to provide a solid grasp of what the Bible actually says about these doctrines, as well as teach practical application and integration into modern day life.

Advanced discipleship workshops

Advanced Hermeneutics This workshop is taken at a different pace for each person and can vary from a few weeks to several months. This course is certain to stretch you, and will give you a greater appreciation for the Bible as you learn more and dig deeper into its origins, purpose, and application.

Advanced Discipleship This workshop is intended to be worked on over the course of many months, and is focused on going deeper in our understanding of Scripture, doctrine, and Theology. This course is essentially the equivalent of a Bible school certificate program, and is a great training step for those looking to go into full time ministry or teaching ministries requiring them to know Scripture and Theology.

Spiritual Leadership Training This workshop aims to help develop and train leaders for ministry in the local church and abroad. For those considering full or part-time ministry for themselves, this workshop will introduce Christ-centered principles personalized for the leadership, lifestyle, and organization of each student.

Additional discipleship workshops

Spiritual Gifts This two session workshop goes through what the Bible teaches on the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and how each believer can discover and put into use the gifts of the Spirit today.

Freedom in Christ This two session workshop uses materials by Neil Anderson to pray for victory over spiritual bondage by exploring the biblical truth of our identity and true freedom in Christ.

Chapter 4 : Building a T.E.A.M. Spirit

In the New Testament discipling was most often done at least in pairs and often in teams. Jesus led a team of When He sent out 72 disciples for a ministry internship, He sent them in pairs.

Indigenous Amazonian Curing From: Spirituality in general is seen as a process of learning the secrets of the world beneath and outside to gain inner peace. Snodgrass explores the use of spiritualism amongst Rajasthani performing communities arguing for an appreciation of the way religious forms, and particularly the use of spiritual possessions, represent a form of language. Some of these are judged good and beneficial, some evil. Henry Olcott of the Theosophical Society went to length to draw correlations between Eastern spiritualistic practises and Modern Spiritualism. Explicit syncretism is a noticeable feature of these groups who claim that their teachings aim to unify the "Three Religions" Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism , the "Five Religions" or even the former three plus Christianity and Islam. Most Hsien-tien Tao groups rely heavily on spirit-writing as a means of communicating with "the Mother" as well as lower-ranking deities. It was founded in , when the "Golden Mother of the Jasper Pool" revealed herself through a medium in the northeastern Taiwanese city of Hualien. The cults influence reaches to Malaysia. Although the primary religion of Japan, Shintoism is essentially animistic , relating to Kami , or spirits , psychical research typical of the West was introduced to Japan by Wasaburo Asano â€” His successor Takeo Waki further developing the movement. It provides members with the opportunities for psychic readings and healings and promotes scientific research by a team of scientists and engineers. Spiritual reading are known as Seishin Toutshuka. Other notable spiritualists include, Fukurai Tomokichi â€” Japanese pioneer of parapsychology , Mifune Chizuko â€” , a clairvoyant. Mita Koichi â€” , a psychic and Deguchi Onisaburo â€” Leader of Ohmoto, a Japanese Shinto sect who practised channelling known as Chinkon-kijin. Pacific islands[edit] In Samoa, Java, Tonga etc. Authors note the susceptibility of missionaries in Samoa to local spirits, remembering that spirits were a significant feature of the Victorian milieu through the revival of Spiritualism. Identically to Anglo-American practises, they deliver important messages from beyond the grave. These spirits are fully sentient beings who retain social and emotional ties with their earthly homes and families. They occupy a liminal space between this world and the afterlife. Spirit possession and other forms of spirit communication, including the popular use of ouija boards, help to facilitate the process of "becoming dead" on both sides of the cosmological divide. Spiritualistic practices play an important role in helping individuals to understand death as a journey when it is also marked by social rupture and the problems of grief and attachment. Spirit mediumship and spirit possession are fairly common practices in Sub-Saharan Africa, both in traditional religions and in Christian contexts. As is the norm, the term spiritualism and spiritism are used generally and interchangeably to describe indigenous spiritualistic practises. Following similar trends of the syncretism of traditional spirit worship and Christianity, [66] [67] they pervade everyday life to the top of society where they play a part in politic elections, ritualizing to help politicians win elections and interpreting events in prophetic terms [64] and are used in healing. The Sufi sect of Dervishes are referred to as "Eastern Spiritualists". The movement of heavy bodies with contact, but without mechanical exertion The phenomena of percussive and other allied sounds The alteration of weights of bodies Movements of heavy substances when at a distance from the medium The rising of tables and chairs off the ground, without contact with any person The levitation of human beings Movement of various small articles without contact with any person Luminous appearances The appearance of hands, either self-luminous or visible by ordinary light Direct automatic writing Special instances which seem to point to the agency of an exterior intelligence Miscellaneous occurrences of a complex character. Gender balance[edit] Women have historically had a fairly constant interest in the spirit world. Notable individuals[edit] This article possibly contains original research. Please improve it by verifying the claims made and adding inline citations. Statements consisting only of original research should be removed.

For new Christians, walking from their "decision" on wobbly spiritual legs, the next few moments, hours, and days can seem bewildering. There's new vocabulary confusion, or "Christian-ese" that's easier for theologians to understand than those who have just begun their journey spiritually.

Sharing and Prayer for each other 75 min Total This carefully designed spiritual formation curriculum for new believers intended to be studied with a mentor -- not alone. Believers and Mentors The word "mentor" probably implies more than I intend. Rather, I see this mentor as a Christian friend who is growing well in Christ and a bit farther along the path than the new believer. He or she could be the person who led the new convert to Christ, a person the new believer latches onto, or someone assigned by a pastor to work with a new believer. A lesson is available to prepare and train a mentor for this assignment. Discipleship and Spiritual Formation The lessons and discussion questions provide the structure for learning. However, the mentor will want to check in with a pastor or lay leader from time to time as questions arise. The point is that the new believer learns in community, alongside a friend who can be a coach in basic Christian living, as well as a personal bridge to other Christian friends and to a local congregation. The Christian faith is caught, as well as taught. Beginning the Journey is designed to be walked together, two-by-two, never alone. But it is workbook-based. JesusWalk - Beginning the Journey uses video based lessons that provide more thorough explanations, with questions for discussion with a mentor. And it can be used free! Ultimately, both are great tools to grow a healthy crop of new believers. What people are saying about the book version "We have used the JesusWalk series extensively in training new converts in the basics of the faith. The series is absolutely spot-on doctrinally, being Bible based. The series is very easy to follow, without being patronising. Just clear, concise and easy to understand. Highly recommended for the new believer to become grounded in the faith. If you desire to get your new members off to a good start in the Christian faith, then this is the perfect book for young people and adults. Kept me interested to the very end and it was very easy to understand. However, printed books and DVDs are available to churches that need them. Pastors and church leaders can learn more about how to use this series in their ministries.

Chapter 6 : Books by Dr. Scott “ Scott Free Clinic

Top 10 Books For Spiritual Growth - Great books on Christian spiritual formation and development to help you grow in your faith and relationship with God. Find this Pin and more on Discipleship by Renee Root.

Inerrant in its original writing, the Bible is the only authoritative and infallible rule of faith and conduct for humanity. God the Father[edit] God the Father of whom are all things, whom no one has seen nor can see, reigns in the heavens and transcends our complete knowing. Ultimately, God will restore perfect harmony to all creation through Christ and reign eternally over the redeemed. As begotten, not created, He shares the nature, names, and attributes of God with the Father. Jesus the Christ Messiah was born of the virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit, thus uniting two natures: Jesus lived without sin, died as an atoning sacrifice for sin, was entombed for three days and three nights, was resurrected bodily, and ascended to His Father to serve as mediator and high priest. He reigns as Lord in heaven and will return to earth as judge and king. Now it pleases the Father that the Son is preeminent in all things and receives our worship. By the Holy Spirit, God inspired and illuminates the Scriptures; convicts and regenerates sinners; sanctifies, teaches, comforts, guides, and preserves believers; and empowers them for service. The Church[edit] The Church of God in Scripture is a spiritual body of believers who hold the faith of Jesus and keep the commandments of God. Under the lordship of Christ and the authority of His Word, the church exists universally and locally for purposes of worshipping God, preaching the gospel, nurturing believers, and serving humanity. Christian Ordinances[edit] Christ prescribed two ordinances that confirm faith in Him: They extend charity toward those who may observe communion at other times. This communion service demonstrates fellowship with our Savior until He comes again. The penalty for our sin is alienation from God, physical death without consciousness , and, ultimately, eternal death for those who do not receive the salvation offered by Christ. It was Satan, the adversary of God, who tempted our first parents in the garden. The Devil is still capable of transforming himself into an angel of light but will finally be destroyed in the lake of fire. The Present Kingdom The spiritual kingdom of grace exists now as God rules in the lives of obedient believers. This kingdom was announced and revealed through the prophets and the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ. We enter this kingdom when we turn from sin to serve God through faith in Jesus Christ. The Millennial Kingdom of Christ Free Bible Students believe that the purpose of the second advent is to bless all mankind, and renew the earth into the paradise conditions that existed in the Garden of Eden. Jesus will return to earth in power and glory to resurrect the righteous dead, bestow immortality and eternal life upon the resurrected and the living righteous, avenge the saints, and be glorified in them. His earthly reign of one thousand years will be a universal kingdom in which all principalities, powers, and enemies are overcome. At its conclusion, the unrighteous will be resurrected to suffer annihilation at the great white throne judgment. God will dwell with the redeemed in a new heaven and a new earth where no disappointment, defilement, or death can enter and where righteousness and peace will prevail forever. Most churches expect the members to carry the message of the gospel into the world among their family and friends.

Chapter 7 : Perimeter Church | Atlanta, GA | Women's Discipleship

Or, maybe you have a been Christian for some time and you feel grounded in your faith, but you don't have the first idea about how to begin equipping others for spiritual growth. Transformed Discipleship is about helping people get grounded in their faith and equipping them to become disciples who make disciples.

Have you ever wondered about the answer to that question? I know I have! Spiritual growth is one of our greatest needs as believers, yet it can also be one of the most elusive and hard to define aspects of our Christian walk. Questions like these can overwhelm us: What does spiritual growth look like? How much have I grown? Will I "feel" any different? Spiritual growth, or discipleship, can sometimes feel like running on a treadmill. If you find yourself battling these issues and questions, then keep reading! You see, spiritual growth is a journey. God intends for us to take steps as we grow toward Him. Surrender through Spiritual Disciplines 1 Timothy 4: Train yourself to be godly. When I commit time to prayer, Bible study, Scripture memory, or giving, I am practicing spiritual disciplines. These spiritual "exercises" benefit us much like physical exercise. You will not see overnight results, but faithful, consistent practice will yield tremendous long-term benefits. In , we are studying different Spiritual Disciplines on Sunday nights. Take a few moments and look at our calendar here on the website to see the specific dates and disciplines we will be discussing. Twists and turns provide amazing opportunities for growth precisely because so many things happen in our lives that force us to respond and react. These opportunities become "faith tests" where we can deepen our confidence in God. I would bet you have a few "altars" in your life when God drew closer to you through a difficult situation or trial. Encouragement through Vital Relationships I am so glad God did not ask us to walk through life alone! Other believers are often the channel of encouragement or instruction God uses to help us grow. Paul had Silas in the Philippian Jail. Nathan confronted David about his sin. Elizabeth took care of Mary during her early months of pregnancy with Jesus. Who led you to the Lord? Who encouraged you right when you needed it? Who seeks your counsel? Who do you pray for? To step toward growth, we need each other! Each Sunday, faithful teachers expound those same truths to various small groups. All during the week, support group leaders and counselors through the Clear Word Counseling Center point people to that same life-changing Word. Every time you take notes, fill in an outline, underline in your Bible, or listen to a CD, you can take a step toward spiritual growth through the preaching and teaching ministries here at Mud Creek. Success through Ministry Involvement One common misconception about spiritual growth is that it is all about "taking in" truth. While that is somewhat true, no effective Christian has ever truly grown without "giving out" in ministry. In fact, each disciple who faithfully grows will long to live out his or her faith. You may step forward in growth by singing in the choir, leading a support group, sharing your faith, being involved with C. Conclusion So how do we grow spiritually? These five steps are by no means exhaustive, but they do provide an objective lens for us to evaluate our growth with Christ. Thanks for taking the time to seek a little more clarity about your own spiritual growth. And now, I want to encourage you to take a step. Join us in the journey! Just take a step!

Chapter 8 : Discipleship | by Faith

Christian discipleship can be a pretty broad category. In this list I'm narrowing it down to three main areas: being a disciple, making disciples, and multiplying disciples.

Spirit Have you ever played on a winning team? What was the secret of your success? Baudeville, a company that specializes in affirmation resources, has created a line of T. The letters stand for "Together Everyone Accomplishes More. Maybe we could adapt their acronym for Sunday School to, "T. After all, public schools had one teacher per class, and their classes often included 30 students. If one teacher could work with 30 students all day, then surely one teacher could manage 10 children for one hour in Sunday School. Yes, I was following the public school model for learning, but was I following a biblical model for discipling? In the New Testament discipling was most often done at least in pairs and often in teams. Jesus led a team of When He sent out 72 disciples for a ministry internship, He sent them in pairs. On his first missionary trip, Paul ministered with Barnabas; on the second, with Silas. At least once, Paul ministered with a husband and wife team, Priscilla and Aquila. In letters to the churches, Paul would often request that a helper be sent to him. The discipleship model in the New Testament is a team model. Relationships are important in discipleship. According to Jesus, the two most important commands involve relationships--loving God and loving one another. Young children learn about love as they receive love. Teaching teams allow teachers to model biblical love to individual students more of the time. Teams promote more learning. While one teacher is focused on teaching the Bible verse or telling the story, other teachers can respond to the many "unplanned" moments that occur during ministry to young children. Every early childhood class includes these unplanned moments. A child cries for a parent. Another needs to "go"--now! One child starts a chain reaction by touching someone. All early childhood teachers know how quickly the unexpected can distract from the Bible lesson. When a team is teaching, the planned lesson can continue for most children while the helping team responds to needs as they arise. Teams can share responsibility for lesson preparation. Young children learn more when they are actively involved in Bible lessons. Young children need more help to be actively involved. They have short attention spans, so they need more activities in each lesson. All of these early childhood traits translate into more teacher preparation. Teams can divide up preparation. Sharing preparation responsibility allows quality Sunday Schools to flourish even with 21st Century day-to-day schedules of volunteer teachers. Teams incorporate more spiritual gifts into ministry. One teacher may be a gifted storyteller. Another may have musical talent. A third may be gifted with wonderful people skills or with creative craft thinking. All of these gifts contribute to the spiritual growth of children, but on a team, no one has to do them all. In the parable about the talents, the man with one talent was not scolded for having only one talent. He was scolded for not investing the talent he had. Teaching teams allow everyone to use their talents. One may be experienced; the other, new to early childhood. The experienced teacher can become a teaching mentor who teaches while the second teacher provides an extra set of hands for helping during the lesson. As time goes by, the helper may begin to prepare and present parts of the lesson that match his interests and aptitudes. Ultimately, as a church grows and classes are added the helper can become a lead teacher and a mentor for someone else. Sometimes on a team of two, both members are skilled teachers. From the beginning this team can share both preparation and presentation of Bible lessons. While one teacher takes the lead, the other can prepare for the next segment, help students complete a previous segment, help children who are distracted, or participate with children in the lesson activity. Sometimes both teachers are novices. In this case teachers can support one another as they learn. They can divide lesson presentation based on their personal interests and aptitudes. They can encourage one another and build each other when lessons go well. A team can also include three to six members. With larger teams, lesson presentation can be divided many ways. One teacher may be a greeter and recordkeeper during one segment and a worship leader or game guide during another. Once again, these kinds of decisions can be based on interests, abilities, and commitment levels of team members. Teams are wonderful for

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children! Children see how adult Christians work together in ministry. They develop relationships with more godly people who love them. Bible lessons improve in quality and more adults and youth invest in ministry. Team members not only share ministry but also friendship with one another.

Chapter 9 : Mud Creek Baptist Church | Discipleship

New Hope is a discipleship based church Right from it's beginning, discipleship at New Hope Christian Chapel has always been our highest priority. Jesus Himself, in Matthew , said that "making disciples" is the central commission that His followers should have.