

What is a Discipleship Pathway?

Simply put, our Discipleship Pathway is an intentional step-by-step guide to promote the spiritual growth of our congregation and community as disciples of Christ.

Our discipleship pathway is based on the three elements of our congregational mission: Seek, Serve, Share: We seek to grow in our love of God through deepening spiritual practices; we grow in our love of neighbor through service, and we share our love of God and neighbor with the world.

Our Pathway recognizes that we typically progress from seeking to service to sharing, and that within each of those mission elements, we typically grow and deepen our relationship with Christ. This “progressive interdependence” of the Pathway is captured in the image of a circle—like God, without beginning and without end.

But it also recognizes that each one of us is a unique and beloved child of God. And so, each of our paths to spiritual maturity will be unique. There is no one-size-fits-all approach to spiritual growth.

Nonetheless, our Pathway recognizes the importance of all three elements—seeking, serving, and sharing—to a full and mature relationship with God, and seeks to provide a framework to help each one of us grow more into that full and mature relationship.

We hope you'll join us for the entire Discipleship series at



Sundays, September 27,
Sunday, October 4 &
Sunday, October 11
Traditional Worship | 9:00 A.M.
Band-Led Worship | 11:00 A.M.

Learn more about Salado
United Method Church
Discipleship Pathway!



[www.saladoumc.org/about-us/
discipleship-pathway](http://www.saladoumc.org/about-us/discipleship-pathway)

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Seek—Grow in our relationship with God through spiritual renewal

Ways We Can Seek God

- **Community Events:** Show who we are through events for the community. (Help them seek God)
- **Weekly Worship:** Seek God through worship, fellowship, and welcome.
- **Sunday School:** Grow in our understanding of God and our relationships with one another.
- **Ad-hoc Bible Studies:** Grow in our understanding of God's Word.
- **Confirmation:** Grow in faith and claim it as our own.
- **Discipleship Groups:** Grow in faith within a supportive and accountable small group.
- **Spiritual Formation Classes:** Grow together through practices that bring us closer to God.
- **Individual Spiritual Practices:** Grow closer to God through spiritual practices.
- **Generosity:** Grow in our identity as individuals created in the image of a supremely generous God.

What might growth look like in this area?

Worship

- Begin attending a few times a month, online or in-person
- Attend in person if not already
- Attend more frequently
- Take communion and consider baptism
- Serve in worship as an usher, reader, greeter etc.

Sunday School/Bible studies

- Try different classes and find where you fit; attend occasionally.
- Commit to regular attendance and participation.
- Lead one or more lessons.
- Lead a class or create a new class.

Discipleship Groups

- Learn more through our website, pastor, or church office.
- Try a group for six weeks.
- Commit to regular attendance.
- Lead a new group.

Personal Spiritual Practices

- Occasionally read or listen to Bible passages
- Read or listen to daily or weekly devotionals.
- Pray at meals and other times.
- Commit to daily prayer or meditation.
- Commit to daily Bible study.
- Learn about and practice Christian meditation.
- Learn about and practice other spiritual disciplines, such as silence, solitude, and fasting.
- Participate in a spiritual retreat.

Generosity

- Experiment with giving your time, talents, and resources to the church or other charities.
- Begin giving regularly to the church and other charities.
- Increase your giving, up to or exceeding 10% (tithe) to the church and other charities.
- Include the church and other charitable organizations in your estate plan.

Serve—grow in the love of our neighbors through service

Ways We Can Serve

- **Within the Church:** Serve in worship, Sunday School, community events, or committees
- **Within the Community and world:** Serve local charities, local missions, national or international missions.

What might growth look like in this area?

- Volunteer for community-oriented programs such as Trunk or Treat, Easter Egg Hunt, and VBS.
- Volunteer on Sundays as a greeter, usher, reader, etc.
- Assist with youth or children's programs.
- Serve as a Sunday School or Discipleship Group leader or assistant leader.
- Serve on a church committee.
- Volunteer with a local charity, such as Salado Family Relief, Heart & Hands, Feed My Sheep, Education Connection.
- Serve on a local or global mission.

Share—grow in sharing the love of God and neighbor with our neighbors

Ways We Can Share

- **By How We Live:** As our faith deepens through Seeking and Serving, our hearts change, which changes how we live. We are changed into the image of Christ and live in a way that makes others want to know more, leading them to Seek.
- **By Welcoming and Being a Neighbor:** Establish relationships with those around us, not just within the church.
- **By Sharing Our Faith:** Share what Jesus has done for us as people seek to understand what we've got.

What might growth look like in this area?

- Introduce yourself to people within the church at worship, volunteer opportunities, and mission opportunities; help them feel welcome and included.
- Wear church T-shirts around town and put a church sign in your yard.
- Consider your faith journey and develop your own "faith story." How would you explain to a friend the difference your faith has made in your life in less than five minutes?
- Share your faith journey with a friend and/or someone in the church, such as in Sunday School or a Discipleship Group.
- "Like" and share the church's social media posts.
- Invite family, friends, and neighbors to church events such as VBS and Trunk or Treat.
- Invite a family member, friend, or co-worker to worship with you; make sure you'll be there so they know at least one person when they arrive.
- Share your faith story in worship.
- Freely and comfortably acknowledge and share Christ's work in your life and your faith story, as appropriate, in routine conversation.
- Routinely invite others to "come and see" events, worship, and small groups.
- Mentor others in being disciples of Jesus and help them consider their own faith stories.
- Reflect on how sharing your faith with others continues to grow and deepen your own relationship with God.

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. MATTHEW 6:33

