

River Church

Spiritual Markers

Like navigating a river, the Christian life is a beautiful and challenging journey full of twists and turns. One can choose to simply drift down the river, bumping into some things and getting hung up on others. Or, one can wisely navigate the journey by using buoys and natural markers to help guide him/her along.

The four statements below and their clarifying questions, are our “discipleship markers.” They emerge from our church mission which is “Together we actively demonstrate and proclaim the powerful gospel of Jesus.” These markers help us to be individuals who learn what it means to trust and follow Jesus faithfully. In other words, they help us answer the question “**Who Am I Becoming**”. Our prayer is that these “markers” will be used to help look at both our hearts and what is coming out of our hearts so that we may discern the progress we are making in our journey with Jesus.

For **Discipleship Groups**, we encourage you to make use of these Marker Questions when you meet together. Each time you meet, pick 1 or 2 different questions, and discuss them together. Commit to be open and honest with each other. Help each other to move toward trusting Jesus more, loving Jesus more, and obeying Jesus more. Be patient with each other when someone confesses they are struggling in a certain area. Point each other to the provided scriptures to remember how valuable these “markers” are to pursue in our lives.

In addition to prayer and discussing the Bible together, these Marker Questions will add intentionality and direction to your D-group meetings!

Marker 1 – Knowing Jesus/ Committed to Jesus^{1*} (John 15:1 – 17)

- *How are you getting to know God through His word and prayer? (2 Tim 3:16 – 17, Luke 18:1, Matt 4:4)*
- *What has Jesus been saying to you recently? (Psalm 73:24)*
- *What steps of obedience are you taking? (James 1:22 – 25)*
- *What are you trusting Jesus with? (Isaiah 26:4)*

Marker 2 – Growing in Christ-like Character (1 Peter 1:13 – 16)

- *Is confession and repentance a regular pattern in your life? (Psalm 32:5, Mark 1:15)*
- *Do you give and receive biblical correction well? (Hebrews 3:12 – 13)*
- *In what ways are you extending love to family? Neighbors? Coworkers? Strangers? Enemies? (Matt 22:37 – 40)*
- *How are you managing your finances? Talents? Time? Health? (Luke 12:48, Luke 16:10)*
- *How are you seeking to be a part of God’s vision for the world? (Matthew 24:14; Acts 1:8, Mark 5:19)*

^{1*} We believe the committed life is the abiding life Jesus stated in John 15.

Marker 3 – Invested in community at River (Hebrews 10:24 – 25)

- *Where are you connecting? (Eph 4:16)*
 - o What groups or ministries are you investing in?
 - o What does this commitment look like in your life? (Phil 2:4-5)
- *Who are you connecting with? (John 15:17)*
 - o Are you allowing yourself to be known? (Phil 2:3, Romans 12:16)
 - o Are you seeking to know others? (1 Thes. 5:11)
 - o Who are you investing in? (2 Tim 2:2)
- *Who are you serving? (Matthew 20:26 – 28)*
 - o Are you putting the needs of others before your own? (Philippians 2:3; Galatians 6:10)
 - o Are you praying for the leaders, vision and people of River? (Ephesians 6:18 – 19)

Marker 4 – Pointing people to Jesus (John 1:40 – 41)

- *Are you prepared and willing to share the Gospel? (1 Peter 3:15 – 16)*
- *Who are you praying for? (Matt 6:10)*
- *How are you connecting those who do not know Jesus with other believers? (John 13:34-35)*
- *Who are you sharing the message of Christ with? (Col 4:5 – 6)*

