

## **“The Joy and the Journey of a DISCIPLE.”**

The Christian life — that is, being a member of God’s new covenant — is a thrilling, challenging venture of vibrant faith that leads to salvation in the city of God’s own making. Valley Church exists to develop disciples who become fitting citizens of God’s present and coming Kingdom.

**Mission Statement:** *“Valley Church exists to make disciples who know God, are becoming like Christ, and are working to make Him known in Silicon Valley and beyond.”*

Below is a key teaching of Jesus that pictures the joy-driven journey of faith.

<sup>NAS</sup> **Matthew 13:44** *"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has, and buys that field."*

“DISCIPLE” is an important acronym. Each letter describes an element of Christian experience. The first four letters detail a disciple’s *joy from faith*, and the second four letters describe a disciple’s *journey by faith*.

New covenant members, aka “Christians” — embark on a joy-driven journey of faith because like the man in the parable, we live between the *finding* and the *final possessing*.

## The JOY of a Disciple

<sup>NAS</sup> **Matthew 13:44a** *"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid;*

Finding Jesus is a supreme joy that drives a new life.

### **D.ECLARED righteous in advance of the last day.**

<sup>NAS</sup> **Romans 5:1** *Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,*

Disciples have joy because they're forgiven of sin and assured that they'll be vindicated at the coming of King Jesus.

### **I.NHABITED by Christ Jesus himself.**

<sup>NAS</sup> **Colossians 1:27** *to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

Disciples have joy because they're engrossed in an ongoing relationship of intimacy with God through Jesus Christ.

### **S.PIRITUALLY ADOPTED into God's own family.**

<sup>NAS</sup> **Romans 8:15** *For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"*

Disciples have joy because they're members of God's family and are spiritual brothers and sisters with every other person of faith from every age.

### **C.ROWNED by the King of kings in the new creation.**

<sup>NAS</sup> **2 Timothy 2:12** *If we endure, we shall also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us;*

Disciples have joy because they'll share in God's glory in resurrected bodies as they behold his face for all eternity in the New Jerusalem of the New Earth.

## The JOURNEY of a Disciple

<sup>NAS</sup> **Matthew 13:44b** *and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has, and buys that field.*

Disciples consider soberly that new covenant life demands obedient faith.

### **I.NVESTING in people, partners and projects for the gospel.**

<sup>NAS</sup> **Matthew 4:19** *And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."*

Disciples journey by faith by helping others to find reconciliation with God through Jesus.

### **P.UTTING OFF the old person and puts on the new.**

<sup>NAS</sup> **Ephesians 4:22-23** *that...you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, <sup>23</sup> and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, <sup>24</sup> and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.*

Disciples journey by faith by intentionally putting sin to death and by cultivating Christ-like virtues in cooperation with the Holy Spirit.

### **L.EARNING to use the Bible effectively.**

<sup>NAS</sup> **2 Timothy 3:16-17** *All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*

Disciples journey by faith by studying God's Word for effective service.

### **E.XPRESSING generosity and spiritual giftedness.**

<sup>NAS</sup> **2 Corinthians 9:6** *Now this I say, he who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully.*

Disciples journey by faith through the glad sacrifice of material resources, time and abilities.