

Centering Discipleship Book Club Participant Guide

Session 4: Living a Discipleship Pathway

Reflection

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

-Acts 2:42-47

What can we learn about the role of community in discipleship from the early church? Consider Acts 2:42-47 as one example.

Reflect on the role community has played in your own discipleship journey.

“If community is at the center of what it means to be the church, then discipleship takes shape in the context of community. And if discipleship is shaped within the context of community, then becoming well-versed in how community operates is vital in structuring the church for movement....We as leaders need to intentionally, wisely, and compassionately think about the structures in our churches and communities and consider restructuring to multiply disciples. All of us need to ask ourselves, **what are we multiply?**”

Centering Discipleship: a Pathway for Multiplying Spectators into Mature Disciples pg. 147

SPACE	NUMBER OF PEOPLE	CULTIVATES
Intimate	3-4	Vulnerability & Intimacy
Personal	5-12	Learning & Equipping
Social	20-50	Community & Mission
Public	70+	Visibility & Proclamation

Centering Discipleship: Personal & Social Spaces

Review your annual church calendar and MAP for insights related to four spaces of belonging.

What do personal and social spaces look like?

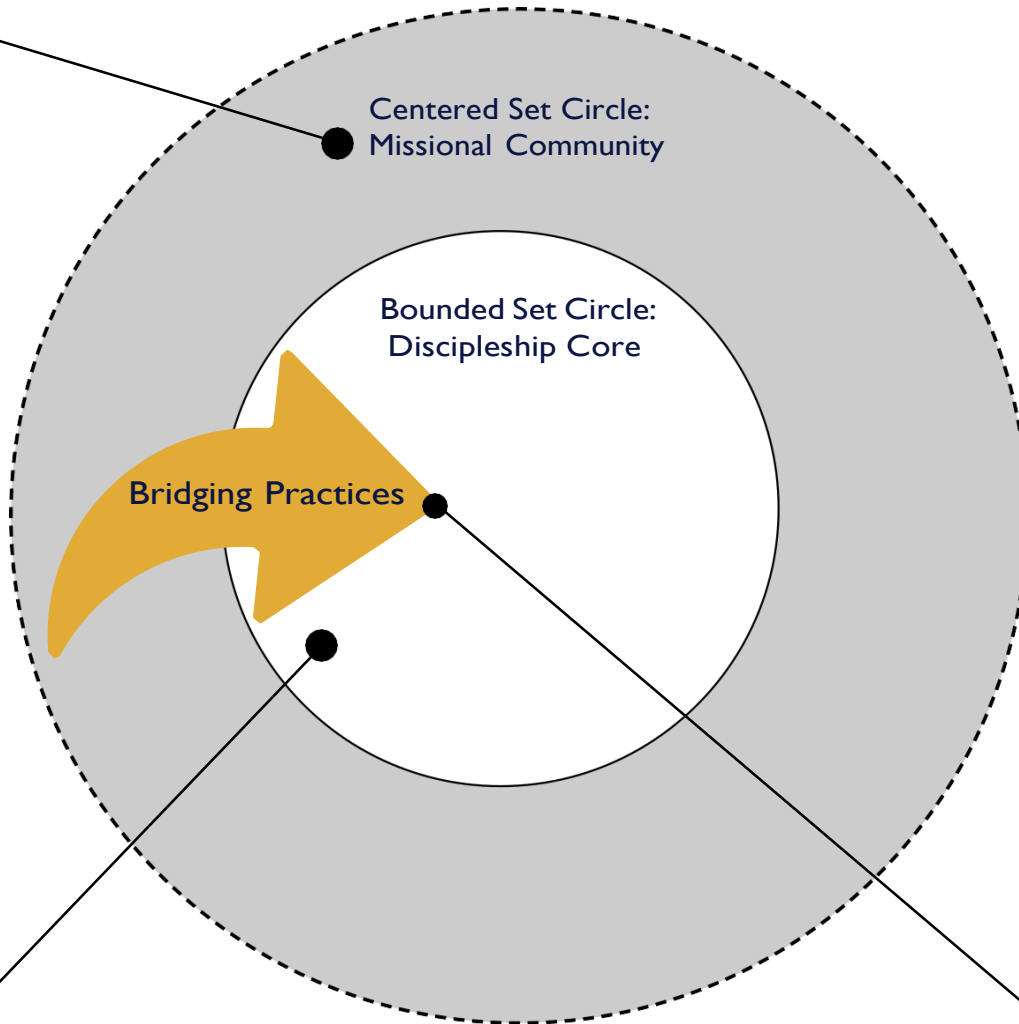
What would it look like to live a renewed discipleship pathway in these spaces?

Current Discipleship Context

Centered Set:

Missional Community

- What activities help people encounter Jesus or feel welcomed into your church community?
- What neighborhood engagement activities do you currently participate in or host?
- How do you create spaces for spiritual exploration or curiosity?



Bounded Set Discipleship Core

- What activities cultivate intentional spiritual growth, accountability, and community within a smaller, committed group?
- What practices or rhythms are in place to deepen faith and discipleship?
- How do you encourage covenantal relationships?

Bridging Practices

- What steps help people move from missional engagement into intentional discipleship?
- Are there gaps in your current activities where people lose momentum in their faith journey?
- How could you integrate new believers or seekers into the discipleship core?

Living a Discipleship Pathway

What one change in spaces of belonging would bring discipleship towards the center of ministry rhythms?

What would it look like to begin a discipleship core?

What do you need to move forward? What questions do you have?

Prayers for discernment and disciple-making:



Action Step: Identify one goal related to implementation of your renewed discipleship pathway. Outline goal in 2026 MAP

Consider:

- Practices of centered discipleship vs. peripheral discipleship
- Bounded set (discipleship core), centered set (missional context), and bridging practices
- Assumptions, behaviors, and structures that provide insights about and shape our current discipleship practices
- Discipleship pathway essentials and markers of maturity
- Contextualization of discipleship practices
- Preparing for transformational change
- Spaces of belonging

Resources for sustainable implementation:

- Supervisory support
- Ministry Action Plan Template (<https://resources.gci.org/avenues/pastor>)
- GCPodcast episodes with Dr. Rev. Eun Strawser (<https://resources.gci.org/media/videos/foundations-of-discipleship-w-dr-rev-eun-strawser>)
- Eun Strawser resources (<https://www.iwacollaborative.com/about>)
- Virtual Centering Discipleship Book Club Resources (<https://equipper.gci.org/2025/05/centering-discipleship-book-club>)