



Matthew 28: 19-20 *“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age!”*

Apostle - (biblical) One sent on a mission

Disciple - (biblical) Someone who follows completely the teachings of another, making the teachings their rule of life and conduct.(n) to teach or train someone. (v)

Follower - (biblical) To strive to conform our actions, conduct and lives to those of the Savior.

So the big question is **“Where are you on your personal faith journey?”**

Have you accepted Christ Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior?

Do you believe in the virgin birth and the resurrection of Christ Jesus?

Do you believe that the Bible is the living word of God?

Have you personally chosen to be baptized as an expression of your faith in Christ?

Are you comfortable in your faith?

Can you think of anyone who you know who does not believe in Christ Jesus?

We are going to spend this week diving deep into what a “faith journey” might look like at any given time. We will use God’s word as our reference and seek what He says about our “mission” in life.

These verses are in random order and may be used at any time for reflection and teaching:

Philemon 1:6 “I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ.”

Psalms 96:3 “Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all his peoples.”

Mark 16:15 “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.”

1 Peter 3:15-16 “But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.”

2 Corinthians 9:6-10. “Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: “They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.” Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.”

Philippians 4:6-7 “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”

Matthew 7:13-14 “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”

1 Corinthians 3:8-11 “The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building. By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.”

Ephesians 4:20-24 “That, however, is not the way of life you learned when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”

Romans 5: 1-5 “Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy /Spirit, who has been given to us.

1 Timothy 4 “The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer. If you point these things out to the brothers and sisters,^[a] you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, nourished on the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed. Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives’ tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance. That is why we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, and especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you. Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.”

2 Peter 3:18 “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory, both now and forever! Amen.”

Colossians 1:9-14 “For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you^[f] to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

2 Peter 1:3-8 “His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us

his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Galatians 5:13-26 “You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever[c] you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

Let God! Do not gather, but give trust and faith.

Let it go, but learn from the experience.

Lead others, but let them go to grow!

Plant the seed; give it space to grow, tending it, but not over-shadowing it.

Seeds have seed coats (or armor) to protect them until the conditions present themselves in just the right manner for germination to take place. Germination occurs when all the proper variables are in place for that particular variety and the seed coat absorbs water causing it to swell and rupture. The first sign of life becomes the primary root (tap root) of the plant. The role of the radicle (tap root) is to anchor the plant in the ground and to start absorbing water. Then a rudimentary stem develops and the cotyledons start to unfurl as it rises above the soil. This is the embryo or seedling and most look alike so plant seedlings need to be labeled. When the true leaves emerge, they take over the job of supporting the plant for the rest of its lifecycle.

A few facts about sunflowers:

Sunflower oil serves many purposes.

Sunflowers demonstrate a behavior called "heliotropism." (to follow the sun)

Sunflower oil is an excellent source of vitamin D.

Sunflowers are edible. (all parts of the sunflower)

Sunflowers have a wide array of colors.

Sunflower leaves are rough.

The sunflower blooms the most in the middle of summer.

Sunflowers do not face each other when it's a cloudy day.

Young or immature sunflowers will track the sun's trail during cloudy days.

Mature sunflowers face east all day long.

Germination is the first phase of the sunflower's life cycle.

The vegetative phase is the second phase of the sunflower's life cycle.

The reproductive phase is the third phase of the sunflower's life cycle.

The blooming phase is the fourth phase of the sunflower's life cycle.

The harvesting phase is the fifth and final phase of the sunflower.

Sunflowers are annual plants.

Sunflowers are daisies.

The sunflower seeds' pattern obeys the Fibonacci sequence.

Sunflowers can help with sadness.

Russia and Ukraine are the world's largest producer of sunflower oil.

Every year, Ukraine's sunflower oil earnings are estimated at \$3.7 billion.

There is no other flower that has the name "flower" in its name aside from the sunflower.

There are three types of sunflower seeds.

Sunflower heads consist of up to 2,000 individual flowers.

Sunflowers can absorb toxins.

The sunflower is medicinal.

Sunflowers have been to outer space.

Sunflowers are made of thousands of tiny flowers.

The flowers of the sunflower turn towards the sun. Thus, it's called a sunflower. Aside from the fact that its flower turns towards the sun, its flower heads, in combination with its ligules, resemble the sun's appearance. Sunflowers use a method called "cross-pollination" for its reproduction. Cross-pollination attracts insects such as bees. As a result, it spreads the reproductive pollen from one flower to another. Even without the cross-pollination, a sunflower can self-reproduce by turning itself around its powder. Sunflowers require more than 6 to 8 hours of sunlight every day to stay healthy. The sunflower seeds are a nutrient-dense food. Sunflower seeds are excellent sources of fiber and antioxidants. A hundred grams serving of sunflower seeds contains 21 grams of protein. Naturally, the sunflower seeds are cholesterol-free, gluten-free, and low in saturated