



My 2024 Discipleship Plan

THIS PLAN BELONGS TO

Colossians

Before All Things

JANUARY 2024

Before All Things

Happy New Year, Mercy Church! As we enter 2024, we believe the Lord is calling our church family to put Christ *before all things* this year. Colossians 1 says:

He is before all things, and by him, all things hold together. He is also the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead so that he might come to have first place in everything. - Colossians 1:17-18 (CSB)

Here in the “Bible belt,” we all know it is somewhat socially acceptable and, therefore, convenient to let Christ be *among* all things in our lives. After all, you probably won't receive too much pushback from peers and co-workers for having some kind of “faith.” But Jesus didn't come to be *among* the many things in our lives, he came to be *before* and *above* all things. He came “*to have first place in everything.*” As we study the book of Colossians together, we will study and consider Jesus' call to give him first place in everything in our lives.

This guide is designed to help you build a personal discipleship plan for 2024. It will help you determine your next step for putting Christ first in each area of your life. Our hope is that by the end of this study, you will have a one-page discipleship plan that will help you say with confidence: “*This is how I will put Jesus before all things in 2024.*”

We believe God blesses our efforts to grow as disciples of Jesus. We pray that this resource will help you apply God's word to your life and take your next step in following Jesus! We are excited to hear more stories of the Lord moving in your life. Remember, you can always submit stories of how God is moving in your life at mercycharlotte.com/story, and we'd love to read them!



SPENCE SHELTON
LEAD PASTOR



TANNER POWELL
GROUPS & EQUIP DIRECTOR

How This Plan Works

In the New Testament, the followers of Jesus are often called his *disciples*. The disciples are the ones who obey Jesus' teachings and pattern their lives after Jesus' life. However, the call to live as a disciple of Jesus is not confined to the New Testament. Every Christian is called to live as a disciple - obeying Jesus' teachings and conforming their lives to look like his. To help you take your next step in following Jesus, we've divided up the disciple's life into five areas. These areas are:

1. Daily Worship
2. Community
3. Service
4. Generosity
5. Evangelism

While these five areas are not comprehensive of every relationship or situation in your life, they do make up a majority of it. Therefore, we believe if we commit to growing in these five areas in 2024, we will see significant growth as disciples of Jesus.

This plan consists of 5 worksheets, each of which will focus on 1 of the 5 areas of following Jesus. They will help you create goals for 2024 and determine what next step you need to take to grow in each area.

Even though your plan will be unique to you, it is not meant to be done in isolation. It is important that we share our plan with others so that they can help hold us accountable and encourage us throughout the year. During this series, Community Groups will serve as workshops to help everyone build their plan and grow together. After each Sunday's sermon, you will begin that week's worksheet *before* you attend group that week. Then, you will bring your worksheet to group in order to share it with others and make adjustments if needed!

At the end of our Colossians series, you will have a completed discipleship plan for 2024! Throughout the rest of the year, regularly check in with those you shared your plan with to encourage and help one another continue to take next steps toward their goals in following Jesus.

*He is before all things, and
by him, all things hold
together. He is also the head
of the body, the church; he is
the beginning, the firstborn
from the dead so that he
might come to have first
place in everything.*

COLOSSIANS 1:17-18

How to Use the Worksheets

Each week, you will be guided through a time of self-evaluation using a list of statements. You will rate how true the statement is of your life, currently, on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 meaning “this is not true of me at all” and 5 meaning “this is completely true of me.” This is for your own spiritual growth, so be honest with where you are at. You need to know where you are before you can know where you’re going.

After completing the evaluation, bring it before the Lord. Ask God to reveal how He wants you to grow in this area over 2024. It might be the thing you scored the lowest in, but it also may be something else. Let God help you discern where you need to grow. Once you decide where God is leading you to grow, it’s time to establish a goal.

Use the acronym **SMART** Goals to help you create a goal that will help you grow in that area over 2024. Copy your SMART goal and Next Step onto the last page of this guide (Page 17).

Once you have completed the entire guide, you will have a plan of 5 goals for the year and 5 initial next steps to help you get there.

This plan is meant to be created and followed through in community. Therefore, write down who you are going to share your plan with. Agree to hold one another accountable and encourage each other regularly throughout the year.

SMART GOALS



SPECIFIC

Be as specific as possible using real details, such as numbers.



MEASURABLE

Make sure your goal is measurable so that you can track progress.



ATTAINABLE

Be realistic with yourself and create a goal that makes sense for you.



RELEVANT

Be sure that this goal will actually help you grow in following Jesus.



TIME-BOUND

Have a specific start date and/or deadline for your goal.

Example

WEEK 0

SELF-EVALUATE

Rate yourself on a scale of 1-5 with 1 meaning "this is not true at all of me" and 5 meaning "this is completely true of me."

2 I spend time studying and meditating on God's Word daily.

4 I daily set aside time to pray and am prayerful throughout my day.

3 I have set times for fasting and prayer in my week/month.

1 I am daily storing up verses in my heart through Scripture memory.

5 I devote a day each week to worship and rest.

PRAY

What is at least one area you want to pursue intentional growth in this year?

I believe the Lord is leading me to grow in my knowledge and love for His Word.

SET A GOAL

To spend at least 15 minutes reading and meditating on Scripture each day.

Specific

Measurable

Attainable

Relevant

Time-bound

DETERMINE WHY

Give your goal purpose!

I want to carry God's word in my heart throughout the day to be reminded of it and to encourage others from it.

NEXT STEP

What next step can you take this week?

I am going to pick a Bible reading plan that will last the year.

Sermon Notes

WEEK 1

Speaker Name: _____

Date: _____

Scripture: _____

PRAYERS

Daily Worship

WEEK 1

SELF-EVALUATE

Rate yourself on a scale of 1-5 with 1 meaning "this is not true at all of me" and 5 meaning "this is completely true of me."

- ___ I spend time studying and meditating on God's Word daily.
- ___ I daily set aside time to pray and am prayerful throughout my day.
- ___ I have set times for fasting and prayer in my week/month.
- ___ I am daily storing up verses in my heart through Scripture memory.
- ___ I devote a day each week to worship and rest.

PRAY

What is at least one area you want to pursue intentional growth in this year?

SET A GOAL

Specific *Measurable* *Attainable* *Relevant* *Time-bound*

DETERMINE WHY

Give your goal purpose!

NEXT STEP

What next step can you take this week?

Sermon Notes

WEEK 2

Speaker Name: _____

Date: _____

Scripture: _____

PRAYERS

Community

WEEK 2

SELF-EVALUATE

Rate yourself on a scale of 1-5 with 1 meaning "this is not true at all of me" and 5 meaning "this is completely true of me."

- ___ I prioritize the Sunday worship gathering in my week.
- ___ I prioritize fellowship with other believers throughout the week.
- ___ I regularly bring my sin to someone who can hold me accountable.
- ___ I show hospitality by welcoming others into my home and life.
- ___ I intentionally build relationships with others and care for them.

PRAY

What is at least one area you want to pursue intentional growth in this year?

SET A GOAL

Specific *Measurable* *Attainable* *Relevant* *Time-bound*

DETERMINE WHY

Give your goal purpose!

NEXT STEP

What next step can you take this week?

Sermon Notes

WEEK 3

Speaker Name: _____

Date: _____

Scripture: _____

PRAYERS

SELF-EVALUATE

Rate yourself on a scale of 1-5 with 1 meaning "this is not true at all of me" and 5 meaning "this is completely true of me."

- ___ I regularly serve my family and friends.
- ___ I regularly serve my church.
- ___ I regularly serve my neighborhood/community.
- ___ I regularly seek opportunities that will serve others across the world.

PRAY

What is at least one area you want to pursue intentional growth in this year?

SET A GOAL

Specific *Measurable* *Attainable* *Relevant* *Time-bound*

DETERMINE WHY

Give your goal purpose!

NEXT STEP

What next step can you take this week?

Sermon Notes

WEEK 4

Speaker Name: _____

Date: _____

Scripture: _____

PRAYERS

Generosity

WEEK 4

SELF-EVALUATE

Rate yourself on a scale of 1-5 with 1 meaning "this is not true at all of me" and 5 meaning "this is completely true of me."

- ___ I am generous with my financial resources.
- ___ I am generous with my possessions.
- ___ I am generous towards my church.
- ___ I am generous towards those in need.

PRAY

What is at least one area you want to pursue intentional growth in this year?

SET A GOAL

Specific Measurable Attainable Relevant Time-bound

DETERMINE WHY

Give your goal purpose!

NEXT STEP

What next step can you take this week?

Sermon Notes

WEEK 5

Speaker Name: _____

Date: _____

Scripture: _____

PRAYERS

Evangelism

WEEK 5

SELF-EVALUATE

Rate yourself on a scale of 1-5 with 1 meaning "this is not true at all of me" and 5 meaning "this is completely true of me."

- ___ I feel an urgency to tell lost people in my life about Jesus.
- ___ I am equipped to share the gospel with others.
- ___ I regularly have gospel conversations with lost people.
- ___ I regularly help others know and follow Jesus.
- ___ I regularly develop others to share their faith and make disciples.

PRAY

What is at least one area you want to pursue intentional growth in this year?

SET A GOAL

Specific *Measurable* *Attainable* *Relevant* *Time-bound*

DETERMINE WHY

Give your goal purpose!

NEXT STEP

What next step can you take this week?

My 2024 Discipleship Plan

Your Name: _____

Start Date: _____

I am going to share this plan with: _____

WEEK 1 | DAILY WORSHIP

Goal

Next Step

WEEK 2 | COMMUNITY

Goal

Next Step

WEEK 3 | SERVICE

Goal

Next Step

WEEK 4 | GENEROSITY

Goal

Next Step

WEEK 5 | EVANGELISM

Goal

Next Step



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