

As I follow Christ! - April 14th, 2024

Corporate Prayer – 1. Life on Mission: To love, serve and disciple people to Jesus!

- **Personal:** "Each one, reach one" – who is one person whom you can build a relationship with? Serve? Help? Encourage? Share your faith with? Pray for them by name. Pray for opportunities to connect with them.
- **Church-Wide:** Pray for 1000 people in Southland to embrace the Great Commission through "each one, reach one" young & old – everyone using their lives as a living testimony of Christ's love.

Good Morning! My name is Martin Gunter and I am one of the Pastors here at Southland Church, and I want to welcome you all here this morning! Thank You all online who jump online and for those of you visiting this morning, it's a pleasure to have you join us!

Introduction

- This morning I want to share something with you that is close to my heart and its to do with the church and our roles in it. Now we are all from different backgrounds, different nationalities, different personalities, different interests, but yet, we are all here this morning and online to unite in one thing, Jesus!! This has always been a beautiful thing to me to see so many different people, but yet, we walk in unity and express Jesus love to one another.
- **1 Corinthians 12:12-27** *For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. 14 For the body does not consist of one member but of many. 15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? 18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 19 If all were a single member, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. 21 The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." 22 On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, 24 which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, 25 that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. 26 If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. 27 Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.*

- Now we all have different roles, and different talents that we bring here to church and that is what makes it work, but this does beg a question, do we know what our roles is? Did God make me a foot or did he make me an elbow? And then knowing that, what's our next step in the church. This can be over complicated, but I like to simply things and just ask a couple of questions, and would you join me and please be honest, this is not a trick question, those come later on!
 - How many of you want to grow in your ability to pray?
 - How many of you want to grow in your ability to understand and read the scriptures?
 - Who wants to walk in a closer relationship with Jesus?
- We are all in unity that these are things we want to grow in. Now the next question is obvious, HOW do we do that? OR even more simple, to what I said earlier, WHAT is my next step? I guess you can go read a book about it or you can listen to a podcast on this. There are some ways we can grow in these. Today I would like to remind us of another way we can accomplish this and see where our place in the body is. ITS NOT a new method! Its actually one of the oldest ways in which people grew in Prayer, Understanding Scripture and growing closer to God and discern our next steps. Its through Discipleship! Now I get that Discipleship is a very broad term and of course that is how we grow in these areas, and you all know that we say here at Southland: **Love God, Love People, Be Discipled, Make Disciples!** Today, under the broad term of Discipleship I would like to focus in and show you a couple of parts that work under discipleship.
- Its easy to look at someone and say, be discipled, but what does that look like? How do we help others and what is our responsibility in discipleship? I am sure we will have a message series on this yet, but for this morning I want to look at the relationship part with other believers where we can encourage one another, grow in faith together, and have body-life together as believers!! **Hebrews 10:24** - *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds,*
- One strategy I am a big fan of is the "I do, We do, You do" model. It's a teaching strategy that involves a gradual release of responsibility from the teacher to the students. In other words this is one way we can **Be Discipled and Make Disciples!** The three phases are:
 - **I do:** the teacher models to the student what to do. (Watch and Learn)
 - **We do:** the teacher and the students work together. (Practice Together)
 - **You do:** the student work independently. (Go and Engage)
- The goal is multiplication where we can grow as body. We help build skills and confidence over time by starting with explicit instruction and modeling, moving to guided practice, and finally to independent practice. **John 13:13-15** *"You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.*

Now all of us are in all 3 phases at the same time depending on what we are doing. For example parents are in the “I do” and “We do” phase all the time because they are teaching their kids many life skills.

- Which brings up another question, if kids are following their parents, who do we follow in the church? WHO DO I FOLLOW?? Its so EASY to look for a podcast or book to get input, which I do as well, but where is our MAIN source?? Today’s message was inspired by **1 Corinthians 11:1** - *Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.* Now Paul is not being arrogant here when he is saying this, he is talking about as we follow the example of Christ we can learn from it and we learn how to follow Christ more closely. I think this verse is more so relevant today because we can easily listen to what google says I need to follow Christ like or to another person that I do not even know, or more importantly, I cannot see their fruit! **Matthew 7:15-20** *“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. 16 You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? 17 Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Therefore by their fruits you will know them.* AGAIN, I am not against books or podcasts, I listen, I read too... Really, I do... But I am always aware that I cannot see their fruit, but do you know who’s fruit I can see? The people around me here, in this church and how we hold each other to account!

A. I Do - Body Life (Watch and Learn)

- Applying this model to the church, we can see where we are at and what can be our next step, so let’s start with I do which will mainly involve Body Life here in church. Body Life is a term we use for those who are creating belonging and getting involved in attending church, small groups, seminars, etc. When we look at Body Life, its so easy in today’s culture to isolate because we have all we need, and if we don’t have it, we can order it or we can self medicate with our devices right. I know some might say that we do not isolate, that we are more connected than ever, and yeah, I can chat with my family in Africa right now, but loneliness is on the rise and its something that I keep hearing that even as we are more connected, we have lost connection with one another. Now more than ever its so much quicker to ask Google or Alexa a question instead of asking another human for input... AND there is NOTHING wrong with doing that, but I am afraid we have lost connections inside our church as well when we even isolate in how we spend time together and grow closer to Jesus!
- With that in mind I want to illustrate this to you this morning and tell you the story of how this worked in my life here in this church. I have mentioned this before, but when I came here to Canada it was just me, my parents and my literal baby brother, so I did not know anybody. I came to this church with my colorful shirts, hair and leather trench coat in search

of Jesus. Thankfully your church was accepting of people that looked strange like me. We talk about “each one reach one” now but this is something that you all were already doing back then. I found myself in a group of guys and we became friends quickly here at church.

- We all grew together in our faith! At the time Pastor Ray was the person who did most of the “I do” steps and we learned how to listen to God’s voice at the **Hearing God**, we learned how to confess our sins at **Set Free’s** and we learned about the gifts of the Holy Spirit at the **Empower**, we learned how to pray at **Prayer Summits**, and we learned how to Worship at **Saturates**. It was not just simply at the events, but between them as we got together to visit, have fun, pull pranks that we talked about God! We talked about Hearing God’s voice and we kept one another accountable and we got together once a week the 5 of us to pray! We prayed for one another and we prayed for something very important... WIVES!!! As I reflect back, this was a time where I grew so much in all my giftings together because I got to practice and refine my gifts and spiritual disciplines with the people I hung out with. **Proverbs 27:17** – *As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.* We were sharpening one another for God’s work here as we volunteered around the church, served others, and growing in our faith! Was it perfect?? NOPE! But we were very sincere in our growth. Let me tell you an example:
- One of us 5 have not been attending Prayer Summits and church services as much anymore and the rest of us thought that this is unacceptable. **Galatians 6:2** - *Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.* The rest of us felt that no one gets left behind and we will carry each other’s burdens and come up with a plan. We came up with a 2 prong approach we learned at church. Fasting and Prayer! Back then at the Prayer Summits we also had Tim Bits and we took the passage from **Acts 19:11-12** - *God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.* We were pretty sure he did not have an evil spirit but then again he was not coming to Prayer Summits and Services so much anymore so let’s make a plan. We know he would be suspicious of a handkerchief or apron we just randomly give him, so we came up with a different plan. Tim Bits!! We got a bunch of Tim Bits together, we all laid hands on them, prayed over them, and then drove over there and watched him eat the blessed Tim Bits so that he will come back! This did not produce the desired results yet, so we decided on phase 2 of the plan. FASTING, we fasted for 3 days and on day 3 we all got together to pray one last time together before we would go and break the fast, which we did and it was a wonderful time, but where we went wrong was deciding to break the fast at Pizza Hut... Now for any of you who has ever fasted and not eat anything for 3 days, you gently break the fast with healthy food, NOT pizzas soaked in grease!! Let’s just say we all needed prayer after that meal was done. But today, we are still here at church, serving, growing, learning, and maturing in our walks with Jesus.

- My opinion is that I think we all really need is 4 crazy friends, and its actually somewhat biblical! Let me show you: **Mark 2:1-5** - *A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. 2 They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. 3 Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. 4 Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. 5 When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."*
- Can you imagine how this must have played out... Here are 5 friends, one has been paralyzed and they hear of Jesus, He heals people, lets get our friend to Him... This is such a beautiful story we can read of body life in action! Body Life is us as believers coming together to carry each others' burdens, to be there for the one who is in need and to learn from one another, to spur one another on in how we can live sold out lives for Jesus! **Matthew 18:20** - *For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.*" Body Life and *Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.* Really became alive for me when we would gather for our Small Groups and we would pray together, I was spurred on by the prayers of my friends and others who joined us over the years.
- The more I prayed with them, the more I learned how to pray. The more I did my devotions with them, the more I learned how to understand my bible, to do my devotions and as I followed the example of my Small Group leaders as they followed Christ. Just like with children, it was caught more than it was taught because we practiced it together in our growing walks with Jesus.

B. We Do – Be Discipled (Practice Together)

- All of us where being Discipled by leaders in the church but we grew and we became more involved which bring us to the second phase "we do". My journey continued by helping out at Small Group Meetings, leading small parts of the evening, taking responsibility as more people joined to help them get connected to the point where my Small Group leader helped me and taught me how to lead an evening!
- I am so thankful for all our Small Group leaders in the church today!! Did you know that there are just over a hundred leaders in our church leading small groups? I want to ask, are there Small Group Leaders here now in this service? Can you please raise your hand? Can we give them a round of applause for what they are all doing church!!
- At the time my Small Group leader would meet earlier with me, listen to my heart, teach and equip me how to lead. I was so very thankful for what he did, and I kept learning and we "practiced together" how to lead a group, how to take care of people, etc.. and coincidentally during the same time period I got hired coming on staff here at church as an IT guy. This meant that there where more opportunities for me to grow in discipleship and learn from others around me. Now discipleship might seem like a daunting task for some but its really just the next natural step in our Christian journey and one we see over and over again in

Scripture. I cannot show you all of them but look at some of these examples in scripture as a result of **Being Discipled and Making Disciples in the Bible:**

1. Jetro – Moses – Joshua
2. Eli – Samuel – David – Solomon
3. Elijah – Elisha
4. Daniel – Nebuchadnezzar
5. Mordecai – Esther
6. Jesus – The Disciples – Barnabas – Paul – Timothy

Looking at these, I wonder what the relationship was like when Elijah discipled Elisha or what was going through Barnabas head discipling someone like Paul! Again,

1 Corinthians 11:1 *Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.*

- Mine was not this extravagant, but for me when I became a Small Group leader, I realized that my core Christian believes did not line up 100% to what the church was teaching... This was something I had to wrestle through because I could not enter a leadership position as a Small Group leader when my believes did not align... I needed someone to show me and go down a path of learning “why I believe what I really believe”. God answered this one day during a prayer meeting one day as we did once a month as a staff. We would get together for a couple of hours on a Tuesday morning and pray together, something that we are still doing to this day. Now I was still new on staff and we where suppose to get into groups of 3 people or so. As people where getting up and getting into groups, I watched to see who I can pray with, by avoiding the Pastors and pray with my people, the normal ones... As people started to make groups, I felt a tap on my shoulder, I turn my head and it was Pastor Chris Puhach, and he said that I should come and join him and someone else... My heart sank but you know, as a good foreigner I just smiled and I thought to myself, well at least Ill learn something from the experience and surely all the other pastors where already in groups right... RIGHT... WRONG!! There sat Pastor RAY Duerksen, the Lead Pastor of our church!! So there I am, sandwiched between 2 spiritual giants sharing on what God showed us this last week... Yeah, that went well... They shared from the their fast hours of prayer, and spending time in scripture and reading the original Greek translations and I thought my head was going to explode... Then it was my turn to share, honestly I could not tell you what I shared, but it was underwhelming comparatively to what they shared with me, but you know what happened next... They praised me spending time with Jesus, and they built me up for practicing how to listen to God’s voice even though I still I have not been that good at it yet, they asked questions and listened to my heart. I felt seen after that experience, and both Pastors Chris and Ray where discipling me in that moment. See they knew where I was at in my walk, and they met me there.

- We are all in different spots when it comes to our maturity, walk with Jesus etc. Age is not an absolute indicator on how we are doing, but it's the sum of our upbringing and how we take responsibility. We all start in different spots, and we mentioned this in the past about looking at the ABC's. Some of us start at B (yellow person) and some of us start at G (blue person) So lets say that the yellow person who starts in B has lots of addictions to work through, does not have a Christian upbringing but takes the time and grows to F. While our blue person grew up in a Christian home, no addictions, started off very well, but did not see the need to grow because they are already ahead of everyone else so because they come from a good home they only grow a little bit to H. How has done better here? Its not about how far we get down the alphabet, its about how much we grow and what steps we take! Its about recognizing where we are really at, meeting that person there and then helping them grow, and that is exactly what Pastor Chris and Ray did for me that day. I was of coarse completely oblivious to the details of what they did, but I got me on the journey of discipleship when I intentionally started to meet with Chris Puhach. He sat me down and we talked through my believe system and he gently corrected me and sowed me areas where he concern, but he gave me scripture to go and study and challenged my beliefs.
- **2 Peter 1:5-8** For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. 8 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.
- Even though I grew in my beliefs, another area where I knew I had to grow, but I failed many times over was the area of Purity! I tried MANY things, I listed to others, and tried many things that helped, but I was not healed from my addiction to pornography. It was only by the mercy and grace of Jesus that He crossed my path with an old friend that is an obsessive cat lover that had experience and victory in this area that could come beside me and disciple me in how to walk in purity. IF I can just take a moment.... To all of you struggling in Purity.... if I can just talk to you for but a moment, do not try and do purity alone! I know its hard a journey, its shameful, it eats away at your soul, and it corrupts our entire being.... I GET IT!! But don't try and do it alone... I know it's a hard journey, and it takes a LOT of work, but there is HOPE!!! IT IS possible to walk in Purty through Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit!!! This Fall we will be doing more Purity stuff in church again, and we might start some in summer, if we get enough help, so pray with me!
- Coming back, when I was in the "we do" phase, *Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ*. I closely followed the examples that Pastors Chris Puhach, and Stefan modeled for me and as they where following Jesus, I could follow them and do it with them!!!

C. You Do – Make Disciples (Go and Engage)

- Last week Pastor Stefan talked about the end of the Age and he was reading out of Matthew 24, if we continue reading on to chapter 25 we see 2 parables, one with the 10 virgins and then this one, lets read:
- **Matthew 25:14-30** **14** - ¹⁴ *“For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵ To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶ He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. ¹⁷ So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸ But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹ Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.’ ²¹ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ ²² And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.’ ²³ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴ He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, ²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.’ ²⁶ But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹ For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰ And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’*
- None of us know how much time we have left... Our response to this parable is to simply **GIVE WHAT YOU HAVE!** God has blessed all of us with talents, we all have different skills and we have different ways in which we can contribute! **Chuck Swindoll** has a quote: “Fortunately, God made all varieties of people with a wide variety of interests and abilities. He has called people of every race and color who have been hurt by life in every manner imaginable. Even the scars of past abuse and injury can be the means of bringing healing to another. What wonderful opportunities to make disciples!”
- Remember how I said me and my buddies prayed for wives? Well God answered that prayer for all of us! We all got married and for me and Andrea it was a rough start to our marriage. If you would like to know more, you will have to come to the Marriage Seminar to hear all the details. BUT what can God do with a messed up South African farmer, who is an addict and has marriage issues?? Is there any hope?? YEAH, lots!

Genesis 50:20 - *You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.* God gives us strength in our weaknesses, **He turned addiction ISSUES and marriage ISSUES into addiction and marriage MINISTRIES!!** Today me and Andrea have the privilege to walk with many of you through the Marriage Seminar and talk about what GOD has done in our lives. Not because we are smart, or we just figured it out. Its because we where disciplined, and we practiced, and we prayed and most importantly because God RESTORED what the enemy tried to destroy! I still remember one day, years ago asking Andrea and lamenting that someone would be Marriage Mentors to us and guide us... You know, I love my wife, she looked at me and just said, well, you know we are of the age where we are suppose to build into others by now right? So that turned around and instead of feeling sorry for myself, we started building into others.

- Another example that really inspired me is something I saw at a Filipino Wedding when Andrea's cousin got married. During the service the Pastor stopped and spoke momentarily on who is going to mentor this couple? Apparently in Filipino culture the couple getting married picks a Ninong and a Ninang, who are mentors to them for the duration of their marriage. This becomes a mentor couple to them so that if they have questions or need help in their marriage, they already have a couple or a couple of couples to go to. Its really cool! So we stole a little of that thinking and currently in the church we have over 20 Mentor couples in the church who walk with other couples who struggle in their marriages and help them. These are couples who all answered the call, gave their "Yes" and are they perfect? No! Do me and Adnrea know everything that there is to know about mentoring other couples in marriage? NO! Well, Andrea does, but because I am part of the equation, it's a no.... BUT do you know what all these mentors have in common? They LOVE Jesus, and they are following Jesus with everything they have and they are helping other married couples to the same. *Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.* Is what they are practicing and modeling to them.
- To steal Pastor Stefan's **analogy of a GPS**, I think it fits really well here because we need to know where we are starting from, what our destination is, what path we should take, and how will we get there? Seems like a lot, but we do this all the time, our minds just do it very quickly. Now the question is:
 - **How can I use my talents?** (GPS) Remember what I said about how Pastors Chris and Stefan met me where I was at and disciplined me? This is something that we all can do to a degree, again going back to the ABC's we each have a starting point and we can encourage and start using and developing our talents and growing our talents to disciple others. Let me show you how we can do that: (And just as a side note, this is how our marriage mentors do it and this is a great way parents of how you can do this with your kids!)

1. You Listen (Start and Destination)

- a. This applies to all relationships that involve communication, but a listener should never be a speaker in waiting! How many times have we just waited to give a response, but instead, listen twice before you speak!
- b. Active Listening is needed. You can now relate with what they are feeling, and DO NOT FIX THEIR PROBLEMS. Your goal is to simply love them and to be encouraging.
- c. When we listen, we understand the start position and then destination without mind reading what it could be.

2. You Ask Questions (The Path)

- a. Jesus being the greatest example of a Disciple maker asked a LOT of questions. Jesus was recorded in asking 307 questions in the 4 Gospels and in contrast, he directly answers only three of the 183 questions He was asked.
- b. How and Why questions are great questions to ask to understand the Path that needs to be taken.

3. You Give Wisdom not an opinion (How to get there)

- a. Not semantics, but we have to get this one right! I like the Websters 1828 dictionary online, mostly because they will incorporate scripture in their definitions.
 - i. Wisdom is the right use or exercise of knowledge. Wisdom is gained by experience or by the Holy Spirit in the moment.
 - ii. Advice is counsel or an opinion recommended.

4. You Intercede (SIGNAL or Stay in touch)

- a. Pray for those around you that you are talking with.

- **John's Quote** "The difference between discipling 1 to 1000 people is very small. The difference between discipling 0 to 1 person is very big" **GIVE WHAT YOU HAVE**, start small, but start! PRAY, Lord who should I be reaching out to, or Lord, where do you want to use me? You might be surprised at what He tells you!!

D. Closing - What's your Next Step?

- a. **I do**, your next step is to call us! You need community! (we will have groups running in summer) More info to come to the Connection Corner, come talk to us, we would love to get you connected. My mom joined us here at Southland a little while ago and she was looking to get into a group and I told her to just show up at Women of Influence on Wednesday mornings... Meaning I will talk to Connie, get her connected but my mom jumped ahead of me and just got herself connected! Take a page from her and we invite you to jump in and join us, I get that its scary, but the rewards a worth it! Just a few things to bring your attention to:

- **Hearing God** – Wednesdays at 7pm in the Chapel

- **Sexual Integrity 101 – 8 Weeks**
- b. **We do**, you have community, and now you want to do more!
 Summer is coming!!! I am so excited, just being outside more AMEN! Normally over summer we shut down a lot of our groups and our ministries over summer. This year we will do so again, but I want to offer something for you all during summer so that we can continue with our “We Do” step.
- **The Way: Abide & Grow Character - 16 Weeks each**
 Looking again at the example of David and Saul. The key difference is that David was open to correction and growth where as Saul was stubborn, lets grow in freedom, and be like David who confessed and did something about it.
- c. **You do**, maybe you are sitting here and you feel called to lead. BUT inadequacy, fear, stress or something else is holding on to you from climbing out of the boat and taking a step of faith like Peter did. Church, where is the enemy trying to defeat you? Where are your struggles? Maybe God wants to use that? It does not hurt to take that to prayer and ask Him! Many opportunities are in front of us to make disciples, we just need to know where we are at and seize the moment. Come talk to me or a leader in your ministry and we can take small steps together!
- **If you are interested in more, email us at smallgroups@mysouthland.com**
 - In all of these phases, if you have questions, come see one of us at **Connection Corner**, we would love to talk to you!

1 Corinthians 11:1 *Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.* We are all at different spots in our Christian journey. Some of us are just getting connected, some of us are getting more involved, others are stepping up and giving their “yes” to do more! Whatever the next step is, my encouragement to you is that you take a step!! Do not sit idle, do not just come to church, but get involved, look around and follow someone as they follow Christ! Take a moment after the church service to come see one of us at the Connection Corner and talk to us about your next step or go pray about it with someone at after service prayer, but for now **Let’s Pray!**