

## OPEN IN PRAYER

### SHARE

- As a kid what was your favorite subject in school and why? What was your hardest subject and why?
- What comes to your mind when you hear the word “learner” or “student”?

### REFLECT ON DISCIPLESHIP

Disciples are learners; in fact, the word “disciple” in the Bible means “learner.” Regardless of how long we have been in the church and regardless of who we are, we should always think of ourselves as learners. We must be committed to lifelong learning and growth! Rick Warren in his popular book, The Purpose Driven Life writes:

God wants you to grow up. Your heavenly Father’s goal is for you to mature and develop the characteristics of Jesus Christ. Sadly, many Christians *grow older* but never *grow up*. They are stuck in perpetual spiritual infancy. The reason is that they never intend to grow. Spiritual growth is not automatic. It takes an intentional commitment. You must *want* to grow, *decide* to grow, *make an effort* to grow, and *persist* in growing!

### Two Keys to Discipleship:

#### DEPEND

- What does it mean to you to “depend” on Jesus?

Read the following two passages: John 15:4-5 & Galatians 5:16-26.

- What do these passages teach us about depending on Jesus? What do these passages teach us about not depending on Christ?
- How (or where) do you need to more fully depend on Jesus?

#### DISCIPLINE

Read: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Author and pastor John Ortberg defines a spiritual discipline as any activity that can help us gain power to live life as Jesus taught and modeled it. Spiritual disciplines are a means of learning and growing toward the life God graciously offers us.

- As a group list or identify some spiritual disciplines, or ways we “train” in the faith.
- From your group’s list, which ones come easiest for you and which ones are the most difficult for you to do?
- How can your small group better encourage one another in regards to spiritual disciplines or “training”?
- How can your small group better hold each other accountable in the spiritual disciplines or “training”?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER