

Day 4 - Praying for Our Building

We want to become a disciple-making hub, so our communities flourish. The church is not a building. It's a gathered group of everyday people who are being transformed by Jesus to love others in powerful ways. However, churches need tools and training to accomplish Jesus' mission, and this includes buildings. We want to prayerfully discern God's next step for our buildings so we can become that disciple-making hub.

Where were you when you first encountered Jesus? Or took a step with Jesus on the journey of transformation?

Our focus scripture for today is Ephesians 4:11–16

¹¹ “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God's Son, growing into maturity with a stature measured by Christ's fullness. ¹⁴ Then we will no longer be little children, tossed by the waves and blown around by every wind of teaching, by human cunning with cleverness in the techniques of deceit. ¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into Him who is the head—Christ. ¹⁶ From Him the whole body, fitted and knit together by every supporting ligament, promotes the growth of the body for building itself up in love by the proper working of each individual part.”

Followers of Jesus need to be equipped and trained to accomplish the mission of loving God, others, and making disciples. This transformation will take time, intentionality, and resources. This commitment to training will take a variety of different spaces and environments. Space to receive teaching, sit under coaching, receive feedback, pray, be in silence, be immersed in training, and put all of this into practice. While this can and should happen outside our campus, our church buildings can be the hub of a disciple-making movement. We see our facilities as tools to wisely steward and use to provide space so lives can be transformed, matured, and equipped. And from this hub, all ages are sent out into our everyday lives to love and influence others where we live, work, and play.

Pause to consider what your life with Jesus would look like in 5 years if you received powerful teaching, sat under wise coaching, received thoughtful feedback, was immersed in intentional training, and put all of this into practice with trustworthy friends.

As an invitation to a spiritual practice - a way to say “yes, Lord,” commit to praying consistently over the next 36 days asking God to give us His wisdom, discernment, and direction on how to establish a discipleship training center, engage our community all week, and expand our worship spaces into a disciple-making hub.

Prepare to walk with God into the day before us, the Lord who loves us says in:

Proverbs 3:5–7 ⁵ “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; ⁶ in all your ways know Him, and He will make your paths straight. ⁷ Don’t be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and turn away from evil.”

Father, help us discern where you are leading us as a church - making Your invitation clear.

Jesus, help us become worshipers, friends, apprentices, and guides who live as disciple-makers in all areas of our everyday.

Spirit, help us become a disciple-making hub, loving the lost and proclaiming Jesus in all we do and say so our communities will flourish.