DISCIPLESHIP TRACKS



CROSS TRACK

Spiritual Life Essentials
Student Guide

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PERSONAL LIFE ESSENTIALS



"In the essentials UNITY, in the nonessentials LIBERTY, in all things LOVE_"

Foursquare Motto
Aimee Semple McPherson







Am I A







What does it mean to be "Born Again?"

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Most assuredly I say unto you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God!" John 3:3 (NKJV)

I.

Everyone Needs A <u>NEW LIFE!</u>
"Unless one is "Born Again" (anew) or you cannot see (or enter) the Kingdom of God." John 3:3
A. Everyone begins life sinful and separated from God: Rom. 3:23
1. What is Sin?
a. I John 3:4:
b. James 4:17:
c. Romans 14:23:
(cf., Revelation 21:8)
2. Psalms 51:5
3. Romans 6:23; Isaiah 59:1-2
B. Everyone who is sinful cannot inherit or enter the Kingdom of God .
1. Definition: "Kingdom Of God"
a. "Eternal life with God as King and Lord of our lives":
b. Romans 14:17; Luke 17:20-21
c. Psalms 103:19; Psalms 145:13

В.	Everyo	one who is sinful cannot inherit or enter the Kingdom of God: CONT'D.
	a.	ful man is excluded from God's Kingdom I Corinthians 6:9-10 Revelation 21:7-8
C.	before	one must be changed - "Born Anew" () he can enter the Kingdom of God. orinthians 15:50; John 3:6 nn 1:13
eı "N	nter a s Most as	mus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he econd time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered suredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he enter the kingdom of God." John 3:4-5 (NKJV)
Α.	"WATE	ER": two views.
	1. Phy	ysical birth.
	2. Joh	nn's (the Baptist) Baptism of Repentance.
В.	"Born o	of WATER and the SPIRIT."
	1. <u>WA</u>	TER:
	,	"In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying; REPENT, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matthew 3:1-2 (NKJV)
		"Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: REPENT and believe in the gospel. Mark 1:14-15 (NKJV)

II.

В.	"Bo	orn of WATER and the SPIRIT": CONT'D.
		c. Repentance:
		d. Matthew 4:17; Acts 2:38; Acts 3:19
	2.	SPIRIT:
		work of the Holy Spirit.
		 a. "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy he saved us, through the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Spirit." Titus 3:5 (NKJV)
		 b. "I will give you a new heart, and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh." Ezekiel 36:26 ff. (NKJV) / cf., Jeremiah 31:31-34
		c. John 3:8; I Corinthians 6:9-11
	3.	How can I be "Born Again"?: Romans 10:9-10; I Corinthians 12:3b
		a. By with our mouth that Jesus is Lord.
		b. By in our hearts that God has raised Jesus from the dead.
	4.	CONFESSING JESUS AS LORD:
		a. More than a mouth confession: Matthew 7:21
		b. However, it is a as: 1) God
		2) Ruler and King of our TOTAL LIVES (body, soul, and spirit)! 3) SUBMITTING TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD, WITHIN YOU.!

- B. "Born of WATER and the SPIRIT": CONT'D.
 - 5. A Prayer To Confess Jesus Christ As Lord: John 1:12; John 3:16

Heavenly Father, I acknowledge that I have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. I recognize that my sins have kept me separated from You, and that without Your forgiveness, I will remain separated from You for eternity. I am truly sorry for my sins. I believe that You sent Jesus Christ to die in my place for my sins. I believe that on the third day Jesus Christ rose from the dead, having paid my penalty in full, and was completely victorious over sin and death. I surrender my heart, my will, my emotions, my entire life to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. On the basis of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, I ask You to forgive my sins. I receive Jesus Christ into my heart to be the Lord of my life. I thank You that you have heard my prayer. I thank You that through Jesus Christ I am now a child of God. I thank You that through Jesus Christ I am now a child of God. I thank You that through Jesus Christ I now have eternal life. Heavenly Father, I pray this in the name of Jesus Christ MY LORD! AMEN.

<u>NOTE</u>: The above is more of a doctrinal statement than a sample prayer to be used when leading someone to Christ. It outlines what is contained in the true act of repentance and confession.

III. OUR ASSURANCE THAT WE HAVE BEEN BORN AGAIN - THE THREEFOLD WITNESS: (Matthew 18:16b):

A.	GOD'S	.:	John 3:16; John 1:12
В.	GOD'S	_:	I John 5:10-13
C.	GOD'S	_:	Romans 8:16,







Have I Answered the Call of Baptism?





I. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS CELEBRATED WITH BAPTISM:

- A. The Word "Baptism" As Used In Both The Old & New Testaments.
 - 1. Old Testament: The word "Baptism" is not found in Hebrew text but the concept of "ceremonial washings" is found frequently both in the Scriptures and in the Jewish customs of Jesus' day. These washings signified purification and consecration.
 - a. Exodus 29:4, 40:12
 - b. Leviticus 14:8
 - 2. New Testament: **"Baptizo"** literally to dip, immerse, or submerge. This word was used among the Greeks to signify the dyeing of a garment.
 - a. Luke 11:38
 - b. Mark 7:1-4

B. John's Baptism:

- 1. John's baptism was a "preparatory washing" for the coming of the Lord Mark 1:3.
- 2. The KEY to John's Baptism was REPENTANCE for the remission of sins.
 - a. Mark 1:4-5
 - b. Luke 3:3, 7-8:
 - c. "Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins." Mark 1:5 (NKJV)

C. Christian Baptism:

- Christian Baptism was instituted by Jesus and replaced the "Baptism of John".
 - a. John's baptism was only temporary: John 3:26-30
 - b. Christian baptism is the fulfillment of John's baptism: Acts 19:1-7
 - c. Jesus made Christian Baptism a Universal Command: Matthew 28:18-20
- 2. Why was Jesus baptized by John the Baptist?
 - Jesus had no need to receive a baptism for the remission of sins for He was without sin - I John 3:5; Hebrews 4:15.
 - b. Jesus submitted to John's baptism as a sign of fulfillment and to set an example for us - to "Fulfill All Righteousness": Mark 1:9;
 Matthew 3:15-17.

II. CHRISTIAN BAPTISM - THE REASON WE CELEBRATE!:

A. What Is The Purpose Of Christian Baptism?

1. A M	leans Of Salvation?	
a		
_		

A.	What Is The Purpose Of Chi	ristian Baptism?: CONT'D.
	c. The Biblical Order:	Acts 2:38, 41
	1)	
	2) (cf., Acts 8:12-1	3, 36-38)
	2. An Heart Through Faith: A	
	a. "An	to God from a clear conscience
	1) I Peter 3:21 (KJ	V/ NIV)
	,	nce": Hebrews 9:14 - One who has been y the blood of Jesus Christ. (One who has

3. What about circumcision and baptism, aren't they related?

believed/#1 above).

- a. The Symbolism: Colossians 2:11-12; Genesis 17:9-14
- b. Circumcision was only a token of the covenant: Genesis 17:11
- c. Faith was the key element, and faith came before the token: Romans 3:9-13.
- d. Therefore, similarly, baptism which corresponds to circumcision comes after faith, and is the token (pledge, sign, seal) or salvation by faith.
- e. Conclusion: Baptism is reserved for believers, those who have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

В.	W	'hy	Should I Be Baptized	
	1.			Christ's example: Matthew 3:13-17
		(A	n act of obedience / I Peter	3:21).
	2.			Christ's command: Matthew 28:19;
		Ac	ets 2:38; 8:12-13, 35-40.	
	3.	То	Publicly	Jesus Christ as Lord of my life:
		Ac	ots 2:41; Matthew 10:32-33	
	4.	То		tangibly with what Christ has done for
			e spiritually:	
		a.	Romans 6:1-4	
		b.	Physically portraying our de Christian life ("rising in ne	eath to sin and determination to live a wness of life!).
C.	W	/hat	t Is The Biblical Method Of E	Baptism?
	1.	Ву	/	in water.
		a.	Greek word "baptizo" litera	lly means to dip, immerse, or submerge
		b.	• , , , ,	ays the Christian symbolism: Romans so see: Mk 1:9; Jn 3:23; Acts 8:38)
	2.	W	hy Water?	
		a.	Symbolizes burial: Death t	o sin.
		b.	Symbolizes washing away the blood of Christ).	of sin: (Actually done by
		C.	Symbolizes rising to newner of the water. The new life of	

III. THE DIVIDE OF THE CROSS: THE BRIDGE TO SUCCESS!

A. Nothing Of The Old Creation Can Inherit The New Creation: John 3:3-6; I Corinthians 15:50.

Flesh: Old Creation
 Spirit: New Creation

B. God's Solution

- 1. The Cross: Romans 6:6 Did away with our flesh (old nature).
- 2. The Resurrection: Romans 6:4-5 Gave us a NEW LIFE IN THE SPIRIT! (cf., Romans 8:8-10; Il Corinthians 5:17; Colossians 2:11-12)

C. The Significance Of Baptism:

- 1. <u>Baptism</u>: An outward sign of the inward work of Salvation that God has wrought in us by faith in Christ. (Rom. 1:16; 10:8-10; Eph. 2:8-9)
- 2. <u>Salvation</u>: Greek/Soteria Deliverance/Preservation.
 - a. Not so much deliverance from "sin" & "sins" but rather deliverance from Satan's rule and dominion (John 12:31).
 - b. INTO GOD'S RULE AND DOMINION (Galatians 6:14; Colossians 1:11-13; I Thessalonians 5:9; I Peter 1:5).

D. BAPTISM: THE DIVIDE OF THE CROSS

Kingdom of Darkness KINGDOM OF LIGHT (Satan) (Christ) * I Peter 3:21: An answer * Romans 6:4b.5: An to the cross (God speaking entrance into NEW LIFE through the cross). A request through spiritual resurrection for burial, realizing we are (We've been planted/grafted dead to sin - Romans 6:4-6; into His life!) I Cor.1:30; Colossians 2:11-12a; 1:13-14 John 15:1-5; John 1:13; 3:5-8. "IN CHRIST" "CHRIST IN ME!"

ESSENTIAL (#3)

Have I Discovered God's Provision For







Power In Life!

"Foursquare advocates moderation and especially no wildfire, but **POWER UNDER** CONTROL. The SALVATION OF SOULS is







Aimee Semple Mcpherson

I.	LIVI	NG	FOR JESUS CHRIST REQUIRES POWER!	
	A. I	l Pe	ter 1:15-16:	
	В. І	Mat	thew 28:19-20:	_•
II.	GO	D'S	PROVISION OF POWER!	
	A. /	Acts	s 1:4-5, 8: The Baptism Of The Holy Spirit.	
	B.	ls th	nis provision still available today? Is it for everyone?	
	•	1. A	acts 2:38-39: "to every one"	
	4	2. J	ohn 7:37-39: "If any man"	
Ш	THE	E PF	ROMISE OF THE FATHER: "The Baptism Of The Holy Spirit."	•
	A. <i>A</i>	4 Bi	blical Understanding Of This Provision:	
	•	1. It	t is not the of the Spirit of God.	
		а	a. Romans 8:9	
		b	o. Galatians 4:6: The Holy Spirit is received in Salvation.	
	2	2. It	t is the of the Power of the Holy Spiri	t in
		O	our lives.	
		а	. In salvation one has the Holy Spirit; IN THE	
			BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - THE HOLY SPIRIT	
			!!!	
		b	o. John 7:38-39: Luke 4:18-19: John 14:17	

A. A Biblical Understanding Of This Provision: CONT'D.	
3. It is a baptism of the	
·	
a. Romans 5:5	
b. Ephesians 3:16-21	
c. Acts 2:4, 11	
B. The Blessings Of This Provision:	
1. II Corinthians 5:14-15: Enables us tofo	r Christ!
2. Acts 1:8: Enables us tofor C	hrist!
3. Romans 8:6: Enables us to	
in life and peace.	
4. Galatians 5:22-23: Enables us to	
as we become a more fertile ground for the	he cultivation
of the "Fruit of the Spirit"	
IV. RECEIVING THIS PROVISION FROM GOD: Power for Da	ily Living!
A. It is a FREE GIFT, but we must	
1. Luke 11:9-13	
2. Ephesians 5:14-20:!	
3. John 15:26, 16:7	
4. Acts 2:38-39	

В.	W	nat is the evidence that one has received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?
	1.	Aof God's Love in our lives.
		a. Romans 5:5
		b. Ephesians 3:14-21
		c. Acts 2:1-4,11
	2.	This anointing of Divine Love will manifest itself in a new boldness to
		for Jesus Christ.
		a. Acts 1:8
		b. Acts 2:14-36
	3.	This boldness will lead men and women to conviction and salvation as the Holy Spirit works through our lives.
		a. Acts 2:37-47
		b. I Corinthians 2:1-5
		c. Romans 1:16
	4.	Another Biblical evidence of the fullness of the Spirit in our lives is that of speaking in tongues.
		 The initial Biblical evidence of the Baptism or infilling of the Holy Spirit in the Book of Acts was the gift of speaking in tongues.
		b. Some Scriptures: Acts #2; 8:14-17; 10:44-48; 19:1-7; Romans #8
		c. We can expect a manifestation of the Holy Spirit in our lives:

- 4. Another Biblical evidence of the fullness of the Spirit in our lives is that of speaking in tongues: CONT'D.
 - d. Every Christian should desire this gift.
 - 1) I Corinthians 14:1
 - 2) I Corinthians 14: 4-5
 - e. Biblical teaching on the benefits of speaking in tongues.
 - 1) I Corinthians 14:14-15 (Note Paul defines what he means when he refers to "praying in the Spirit").
 - 2) Ephesians 6:18
 - 3) Romans 8:26
 - 4) Jude 20
 - 5) James 3:2,8



CHURCH LIFE ESSENTIALS





Discovering the Foursquare **Family**

















INTRODUCTION

1. Our Historical Roots

Video: "Intro To The Foursquare Church"

2. Present Day Ministry

Video: "We Are Foursquare!"

3. Evangelistic Focus

Video: "Annual Report"

The Foursquare Gospel



THE FOURSQUARE GOSPEL JESUS CHRIST IS OUR:



THE CROSS: LORD & SAVIOR!

Jesus, the Word of God, humbled Himself, became a man, and paid the penalty for our sins through His death on the cross. Defeating sin and death through His victorious resurrection, He now offers eternal and abundant life to all who repent and believe in Him. John 3:16; Romans 10:8-10



THE **DOVE**: BAPTIZER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT!

Jesus, the victorious Lion of Judah, baptizes believers with the Holy Spirit. This baptism is accompanied by the Biblical evidences of bold love, speaking in other tongues (praying in the Spirit), and the manifestation of the Gifts of the Spirit. Luke 3:16; Acts 1:8; I Corinthians 12-14



THE CUP: HEALER!

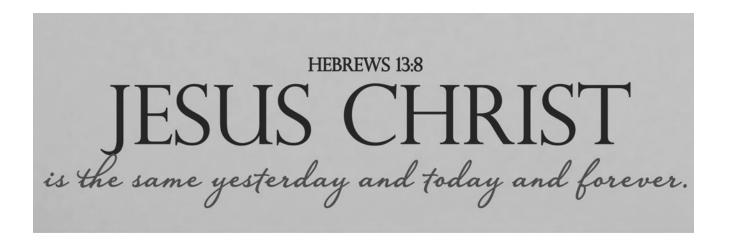
Jesus Christ is not only our Savior. Jesus is also our Healer! Jesus still heals today, just like He did when he walked this earth. He is our Great Burden Bearer, our Great Physician! Matthew 8:16-17; Luke 4:17-19



THE CROWN: SOON COMING KING!

Jesus Christ promised that He would return for His Church, and to set up His Kingdom. We believe that Jesus Christ will literally and physically return! When He returns, those who have confessed Him as their Lord and Savior will rule and reign with Him for eternity! Rev. 22:12-13

This, is why, every Foursquare Church Proclaims...



All Foursquare Churches are required to have HEBREWS 13:8 prominently displayed in every church sanctuary.

Foursquare Church Life



FOURSQUARE CHURCH LIFE

➤ Is Foursquare A <u>DENOMINATION?</u>

- **Denominate**: To give a name to, gather under a name.
- <u>Foursquare</u>: Those who have gathered under the name and symbols of the <u>Cross</u>, the <u>Dove</u>, the <u>Cup</u>, and the <u>Crown!</u>
- <u>Movement</u>: This term defines our family more than the term "organization".

> Foursquare **DISTINCTIVES**:

- Established December 28, 1927 as the *International Church of the Foursquare Gospel* to <u>facilitate the establishment of new</u> congregations.
- Today there are over <u>8 million members</u> in over <u>140 countries</u>.
- Church governing style is called "modified Episcopal".
 - ✓ This means that ministry is by appointment.
 - ✓ Pastors and leaders are appointed by Foursquare leadership rather than being placed into ministry thru a congregational vote.

Foursquare <u>MEMBERSHIP</u>:

- Officers and Directors of the corporation.
- Ordained and licensed <u>ministers</u> holding current credentials.
- Individual members of local congregations in good standing.

Foursquare <u>STRUCTURE</u>:

- <u>Denomination</u>: Led by a President, Board of Directors, Cabinet, and Executive Council.
- <u>Districts</u>: Led by a District Supervisor.
- Churches: Led by a Pastor (and elders) along with a Church Council.
- Governing Body: The highest level of authority in the Foursquare Church is the Convention Body (existing of all of the previous). Only the Convention Body can make or amend the bylaws.

FOURSQUARE CHURCH LIFE

> Foursquare LOCAL Church Life:

- <u>Districts</u>: Foursquare churches in the U.S. are divided regionally into what are known as districts. Each district has a team devoted to strengthening and multiplying Foursquare churches in their respective local communities.
- <u>Church Property</u>: Church properties are held in the name of the Foursquare organization. This means that local congregations are simply <u>stewards</u> of the property.
- <u>Finances</u>: <u>Annual Congregational Meetings</u> are held each January where the entire church membership receives a full printed report and has a collective role in approving the next year's budget.

Church Council:

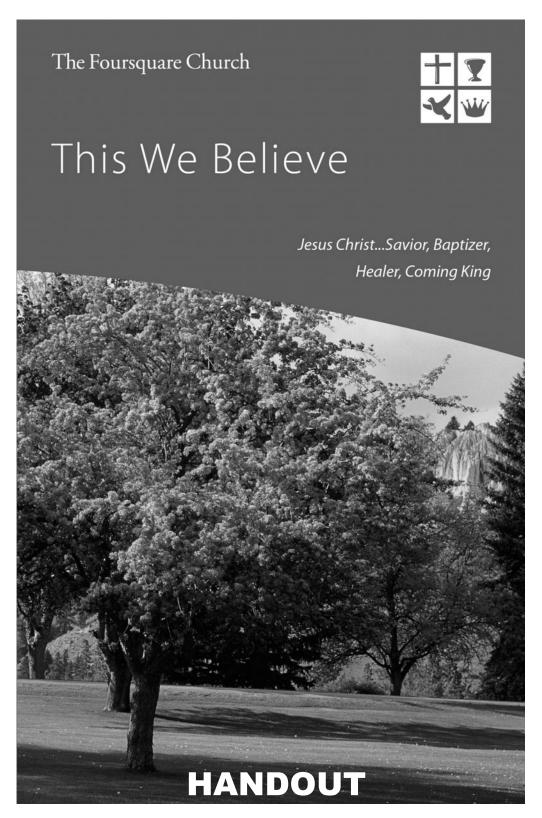
- ✓ Must be <u>church members</u> in good standing. They are composed of <u>recommended</u> candidates from the existing Council that are <u>affirmed</u> by the members of the congregation at our Annual Meeting.
- ✓ The Church Council assists the pastor in the administration of the physical resources of the local church ministry. Biblically they would be identified as Deacons (Acts 6).

Ministry Staff:

- ✓ Ministry staff is appointed by the Senior Pastor.
- ✓ All licensed ministers must seek credentials with the <u>District</u> and be approved by the <u>Foursquare Board</u>.
- ✓ Foursquare and The Fellowship at Weatherford welcome and recognize women as equals in the role of ministry and leadership. Women can pursue all areas of ministry and licensing equally with men.

<u>Note</u>: The Foursquare Church is an active participant in the National Association of Evangelicals, the American Bible Society, the Pentecostal/Charismatic Church of North America, the Pentecostal World Conference, and the Evangelical Fellowship of Missions Agencies. Many of its' leaders, pastors, and members serve on the executive boards and committees of parachurch agencies and endeavors. The Foursquare Church is interdenominational in both creed and practice.

FOURSQUARE CHURCH LIFE



Questions & Answers

Church Life (#2)

This section will be provided as a handout to review your Church's Vision and Mission



The Importance Of Church Membership









The Importance Of Church Membership

I.

TH	IE <u>(</u>	CALL TO "BIBLICAL FELLOWSHIP":
A.	Fe	ellowship comes from the Greek word, "koinonia", which means:
	"	"
	_	
В.	So	criptural definition of "FELLOWSHIP".
	1.	Meeting together to
		(i.e, prayer, worship, sharing in the Lord's table/
		communion)
		a. Acts 1:14; Acts 2:42-47
		b. Ephesians 5:19b-20
		c. Colossians 3:16b
		d. I Peter 2:5; Hebrews 13:15; Romans 12:1 (cf., I Samuel #2-3)
	2.	Meeting together to
		(i.e., prayer, Bible study, meeting each
		others needs spiritually, emotionally, materially).
		a. Acts 2:42, 44 - 46
		b. Ephesians 5:19a
		c. Colossians 3:16a
	3.	Meeting together to
		a. All "Moral Exchange" between Christians can be termed "Fellowship", as long as Christ is the center of the activity and all things are done to the Glory of God!
		b. Scriptures: John 10:10; Colossians 1:18; 3:17;

The Importance Of Church Membership

II.	TH	IE BLESSINGS OF TRUE "BIBLICAL FELLOWSHIP":
	A.	:
		1. Proverbs 27:17: "Iron sharpens iron"
		2. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12: "two shall withstand him"
		3. Matthew 18:19-20: "If two of you agree"
		4. Ephesians 1:18-23: "to the church. Which is His body, the fullness of Him"
	В.	:
		1. Hebrews 10:23-25: For encouragement.
		2. Hebrews 3:13; Ecclesiastes 4:12: For strength.
		3. Romans 1:12; Colossians 2:2: For comfort and assurance.
		4. James 5:16: For confession and healing.

5. <u>I John 4:7-13</u>: To _____

The Importance Of Church Membership

A.		_ meet together regularly.
	(i.e., the local church).	
	1. Hebrews 10:25	
	2. Acts 2:42-44	
	3. Psalms 92:13-15	
B.		_ meeting each other's needs (spiritually,
	emotionally, materially).	
	1. Matthew 20:25-28	
	2. John 13:34; Ephesians 4:2	
	3. Galatians 6:2; Romans 15:	1-7
	4. I Corinthians 12:13-27 (esp	pecially 25-26)
C.		_ the ministry of the local church.
	1	_: Colossians 4:2-4; Ephesians 6:18
	SUPPORT	
		_: Galatians 6:6; I Corinthians 16:1-2
	STEWARDSHIP	
	3	_: I Peter 4:10-11
	SERVICE	
V. T	HE OBJECTIVE OF FELLOWS	SHIP.
A.	Ephesians 4:13-16; John 17::	21-23
B.	THAT WE MAY BE	THAT
	THE WORLD MAY BE	!
C.	Matthew 28:18-20: Fulfilling	The Great Commission
	As The Body Of Christ.	

RESOURCE HANDOUTS



THE PATHWAY TO PERSONAL MINISTRY...



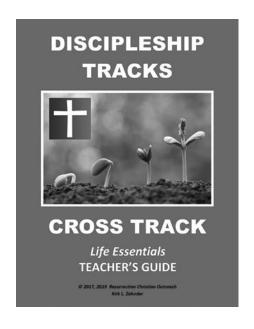
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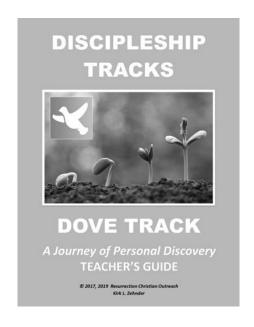


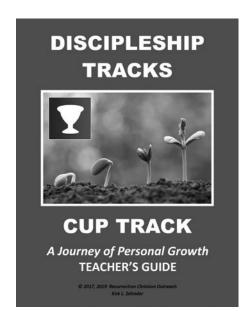
MAKING A
COMMITMENT TO
FELLOWSHIP...

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Crown Track information is available on the website

For Info and Leadership Resources www.localchurchdynamics.org



Kirk L. Zehnder is the Founder and Director of Local Church Dynamics and Resurrection Christian Outreach. With over 40 years of pastoral ministry and business experience, Kirk brings relevant and practical teaching to equip and strengthen the ministry of the local church!



Cross Track Student Guide

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