

McKinney United Methodist Church

Introduction



When we become Christians, we have to develop our faith over time. There are spiritual disciplines that help us become stronger in our faith. Spiritual disciplines are more like finely honed tools that aid us in our spiritual walks. Yet each of the spiritual disciplines takes time to develop and effort to incorporate into our daily lives. Spiritual disciplines exercise our spirit, mind, and emotions so that we become closer to God. They help us see His will for our lives more clearly so that we can live the life He desires for us. The more we practice these disciplines, the better we get at them, and the stronger we make our faith.

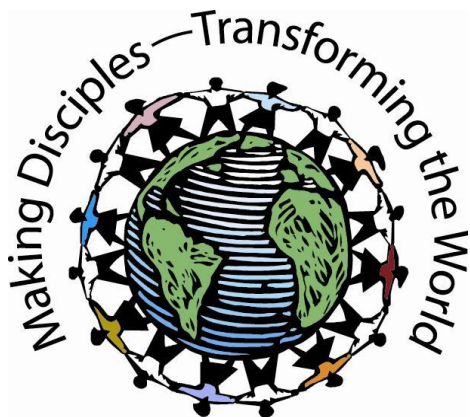
The world will begin to see who we are by what we do. It is our actions that declare our identity. A person's credibility comes from action rather than just talk. We are self-focused in our approach to faith -seeking solutions to own needs instead of seeking God Himself. The things of this world will clamor for your attention, claiming their ability to fill and satisfy us. Since God never intended for anything or anyone to fill His role or place in our life, nothing else will work. Our Lord desires so much more for us than we desire for ourselves. He provides for our eternity.

Spiritual Disciplines of Engagement

These are ways of connecting with God and other people, conversing honestly with them in order to love and be loved.

Bible Reading: Trusting the Holy Spirit-inspired words of Scripture as our guide, wisdom, and strength for life. **Worship:** Praising God's greatness, goodness, and beauty in words, music, ritual, or silence. **Prayer:** Conversing with God about what we're experiencing and doing together. **Soul Friendship:** Engaging fellow disciples of Jesus in prayerful conversation or other spiritual practices.

Personal Reflection: Paying attention to our inner self in order to grow in love for God, others, and self. **Service:** Humbly serving God by overflowing with his love and compassion to others, especially those in need.



Goal

Our vision statement indicates that we at McKinney UMC desire to be more than "Holy Huddle" on Sunday morning. We as a community of faith, and the "Body of Christ", long for our city to know Jesus. In order for God to be most glorified in us, we are to seek to do his will. Additionally, His grace should drive us to it. When we reflect on God's grace, our thankfulness and humility will drive us to know Him more and do His will. Spiritual disciplines are the first step in developing the kind of lifestyle that is consistently bent towards appreciation for the grace of God. Therefore the goal of 10% challenge is, not only to bring clarity and focus to our lives, but also to satisfy to our souls (From "I Am by Greg Matte). Our mission and ministry goal here at McKinney UMC is to be intentional that each of us come to know God personally, and to make Him known to others.

The Challenge

1. **10% increase** in reading God's word and Bible study attendance

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV)

2. **10% increase** in public and private prayer

"Pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (KJV)

3. **10% increase** in worship attendance

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." Hebrews 10:25 (KJV)

4. **10% increase** in Sunday School attendance

*Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
Matthew 11:29 (NIV)*

5. **10% increase** in personal giving and starting or maintaining your tithe to the Lord

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.

Malachi 3:10 (NIV)

6. **10% increase** in sharing our positive testimony, God's word and good news to encourage others in the way of Christ

"Encourage each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your hearts to the Lord. Always give thanks to God the Father for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Ephesians 5:19-20 (Easy-To-Read-Version)

7. **10% increase** in participating in ministry that leads to a mature faith in Jesus Christ including but not limited to small group ministry and to be served

In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

Hebrews 5:12-14 (NIV)

8. **10% increase** in developing and participating in discipleship training opportunities

"Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20 (The Message Bible)

9. **10% increase** including healthy foods and appropriate mobility activities into your daily routine and 10% decrease in fatty, fried and fast foods.

"Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies." I Corinthians 6:19-20 (NIV)

10. **10% increase** in sincere participation in the life and ministry of your local congregation to assist the leadership by being a vessel through whom God uses to increase conversions, accessions, total membership and total funds raised.

"We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work."

John 9:4 (English Standard Version)

*******10% Challenge is used with permission from the 10th Episcopal District of African Methodist Episcopal Church**

Instructions and Things you should know:

1. The Participant cards will be available on Sunday 26, 2014, please pick up the card complete and bring with you to worship on Sunday February 2, 014 for our Covenant Service.
2. Every 5th Sunday will be testimony Sunday.
3. Each month the prayer calendar and the reading calendar will available for pick up on the Sunday prior to the 1st Sunday, and be placed on the website.
4. The last Sunday in each month, please place your report card in the basket at the altar when you come for prayer. This report is based on the honor system.
5. Each month new report cards will be available on the table in hall way.
6. Please complete your Disciple Evaluation and return to Rev. Keys no later the Sunday February 9, 2014. You may then pick them up from Rev. Keys the following Sunday February 16, 2014.
7. We complete another Disciple Evaluation during the month of December 2014 determine if we met, and completed the challenge.
8. Each month we will focus on the challenges.
9. Set a date for the Spiritual Gift Training.

Questions and clarification may be directed to Rev. Keys at 713-927-3093.