

Next Step Discipleship MAPs for Your Congregation

Christian discipleship is the growing habit of thinking and living in Christ. As we follow Jesus, we grow closer to him, become more like him, and deepen our life together in Christian community. Discipleship is not static. It develops through seasons of life as we continue responding to God's work in us.

A **Next Step Discipleship MAP** (ministry action plan) is a simple reflection tool that helps people recognize where they are in their journey with Jesus and discern their next step. Churches can use this practice in connect groups, mentoring relationships, leadership development, or discipleship cohorts.

This tool helps members prayerfully consider how they are participating in the life of the church and how God may be inviting them to grow.

In GCI we often describe discipleship through participation in the life of the church:



Hope Avenue

Gathering in worship and experiencing the presence of God.



Faith Avenue

Growing in relationship with Christ through discipleship and learning.



Love Avenue

Joining Jesus in loving and serving our neighbors.

This reflection helps people identify how they are participating and where they might take their next step.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- How am I currently engaged in our local discipleship pathway?
- How have I grown in my relationship with Christ?
- Where do I sense God inviting me to grow deeper?
- What opportunities already exist to take this next step? Who can walk with me?
- What questions do I have at this stage of my discipleship journey?



MY NEXT STEP

- What is my earnest prayer for this season of discipleship?
- What next step will I take?
- Who can support or mentor me in this step?

Plan for the next 6–12 months.

EXAMPLE

Miguelina has been participating in the congregation for six months. She first connected through a monthly trivia night the church hosts at a local café.

The congregation uses a Belong – Believe – Become discipleship pathway. Members are encouraged to reflect on their journey through the pathway every 6–12 months. This helps them prayerfully discern their next step.




Miguelina realized she was in the Belong stage. She had been attending Sunday worship and participating in a board game connect group. Through these relationships she began to feel a deeper sense of belonging with the church community and with Jesus.

As she reflected, Miguelina sensed a desire to know Jesus more deeply and learn how to read the Bible.

She identified two next steps:

- Talk with her connect group leader
- Speak with the Faith Avenue champion about learning to study Scripture

With guidance and prayer, Miguelina created a six-month discipleship plan.

 Hope Avenue	Continue participating in Sunday worship.
 Faith Avenue	Meet weekly with Miss Janine to read the Bible until Miguelina feels ready to join a Bible study connect group.
 Love Avenue	Volunteer for one hour at the church's Easter egg hunt for the neighborhood.

Miguelina and Miss Janine plan to revisit this reflection in six months to celebrate growth and discern new next steps.

THE ESSENTIALS

Discipleship grows when people reflect on their journey with Jesus and take intentional next steps in community. A Next Step Discipleship MAP helps members notice where God is at work and respond through participation in the Hope, Faith, and Love Avenues. Leaders can use this tool to guide meaningful conversations and encourage ongoing spiritual growth.