

TRANSITION WORKSHOP

DISCERNING AND DOING THE WILL OF GOD

A THREE-HOUR FORMATION + DISCERNMENT EXPERIENCE

WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

Discerning and Doing the Will of God

A three-hour formation and discernment experience for Summit Life Church leadership

OUR PURPOSE To lay the groundwork for forging a faithful, fruitful, unified future as we discern and follow God's direction together.

Today's journey

10 min	Welcome	Purpose and posture
45 min	Session 1 - The Shaping of a Life	Trace God's fingerprints
45 min	Session 2 - Purpose	Who are we to BE?
45 min	Session 3 - Mission	What are we to DO?
30 min	Session 4 - Values & Scorecard	What matters most?

Our posture

- Vision comes from God and is discovered as we cultivate relationship with Him. — **Proverbs 29:18**
- Being precedes doing; doing flows out of being. — **John 15**
- We will not be captured by the mission of God until we are captivated by the God of the mission. — **Isaiah 6**

Name: _____ Date: _____

SESSION 1 • 45 MINUTES

The Shaping of a Life

KEY TRUTH God shapes people before He shapes churches through them.

Look backward in order to face forward

God is the Artist, and we are His handiwork. Like a sculptor who sees the beauty within the stone, God has been shaping us through people, experiences, relationships, and calling. “For we are God’s masterpiece...” (Ephesians 2:10, NLT).

Hebrews 12:1–2 pictures a life moving toward the future while remembering the cloud of witnesses behind us and fixing our eyes on Jesus. We “row into the future backwards” attentive to God’s past faithfulness and Christ’s present leadership.



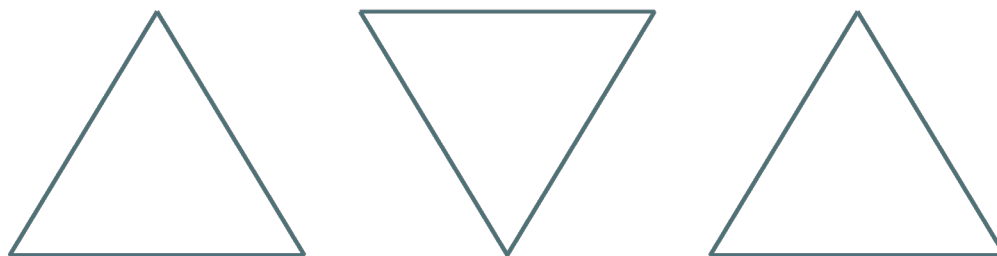
PRAYERFUL PROMPT “For it is God who is working in you both to will and to work according to His good purpose.” — Philippians 2:13, CSB

PERSONAL REFLECTION • SHAPING OF A LIFE

Trace God's fingerprints

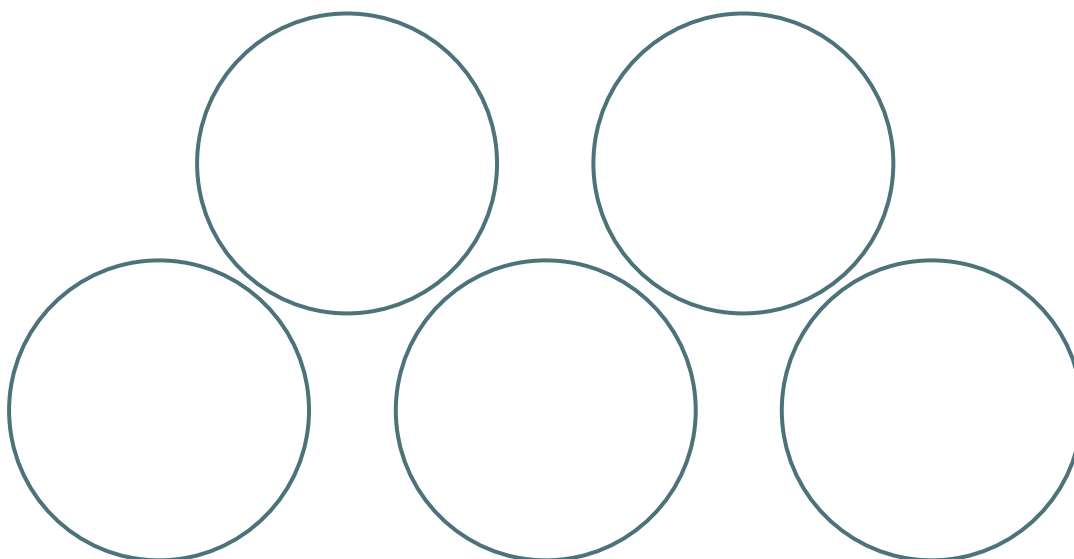
1. Three Significant Influencers

Write one name in each triangle. Who has shaped you intellectually, emotionally, socially, or spiritually?



2. Five Life-Defining Moments

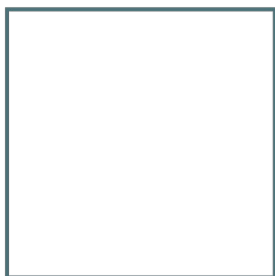
Consider the five events or moments most responsible for making you who you are today. Write down one of these events in each circle.



PERSONAL REFLECTION • SHAPING OF A LIFE

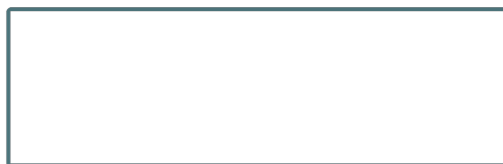
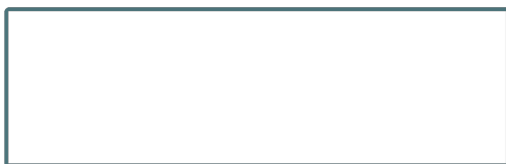
3. Three People You Have Invested In

Think about three individuals into whom you have poured your life. It can be children or leaders or whomever God brings to mind. In each square, write down a name. You're looking for the people who carry your spiritual and leadership DNA the most.



4. Four Core Values

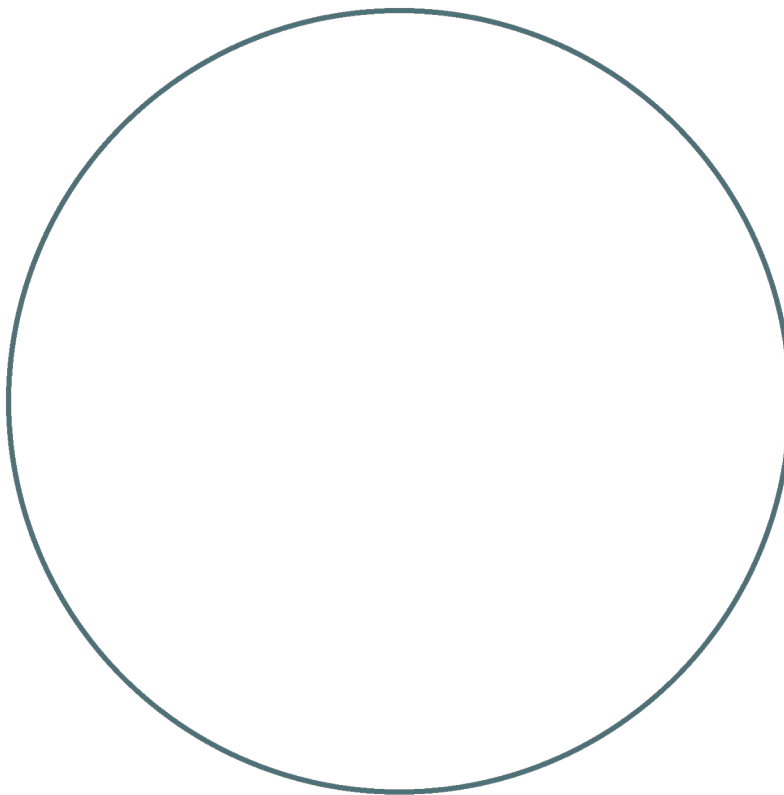
Based on the three people who have invested in you, your five defining moments, and three people into whom you've invested, what would you identify as your four core values, the values at the core of your being?



PERSONAL REFLECTION • SHAPING OF A LIFE

What's next?

Reviewing all you have done up to this point and thinking through what God has been revealing to you, write down what you think God may be preparing you for or doing in you as a next step in your life.



Key questions

1. How will you stay close to God?
2. How will you proceed?
3. Who will support you and go with you?
4. What is your biggest prayer request right now?

SMALL-GROUP SHARING

In groups of four or five, share one influence, one defining moment, and one emerging value.

ONE INFLUENCE:

ONE DEFINING MOMENT:

ONE EMERGING VALUE:

Implications for Summit Life

What can our personal stories teach us about becoming more faithful in making and multiplying disciples?

SESSION 2 • 45 MINUTES

Purpose: Who Are We to BE?

Purpose describes who we are to be

THE DISTINCTION Purpose describes who we are to be. Mission describes what we are to do. Values describe how we behave.

At the Jordan River border, two guards called out the same questions: “Who are you? Where are you going?” Those questions reach beyond geography. They are questions of identity and purpose.

Jesus called the disciples first “to be with Him,” and then sent them out to preach (Mark 3:13-15). In John 15, abiding comes before bearing fruit. Being precedes doing.

Scripture study

Philippians 2:5–11: What does this passage say about who the church is to BE?

Ephesians 2:18–22: What does this passage say about who the church is to BE?

Matthew 22:34–40: What does this passage say about who the church is to BE?

John 13:34–35: What does this passage say about who the church is to BE?

GROUP WORK

Draft a purpose statement

Craft a preliminary statement that is rooted in Scripture, eternally true, clear, and memorable. Keep it to 20 words or fewer.

1. Gather key words

2. Build a rough draft

DRAFT 1: Our church exists to...

DRAFT 2: Our church exists to...

DRAFT 3: Our church exists to...

3. Polish and submit

FINAL DRAFT — 20 WORDS OR FEWER Our church exists to...

Group members: _____

SESSION 3 • 45 MINUTES

Mission: What Are We to DO?

Jesus gives the mission; the church receives and obeys it

THE GREAT COMMISSION “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...”
— Matthew 28:18–20

We do not vote on the mission. Jesus Christ, Lord of the church, gave it. The mission of every New Testament church is to make and multiply disciples—disciples who make disciples through the generations.

- **Purpose** = who we are
- **Mission** = what we do
- **Values** = how we behave

A. What is a disciple?

Read the passages and write a one- or two-sentence definition.

Romans 10:9–13: Key observations

Philippians 2:1–11 and Galatians 5:22–23: Key observations

Acts 2:41–47: Key observations

Mark 8:34–37: Key observations

Our biblical definition

COMPLETE THE SENTENCE In light of these passages, a disciple of Jesus is...

GROUP SCRIPTURE WORK

B. How are disciples made?

Read the passages and identify key verbs and relational patterns.

Matthew 28:18-20: Key verbs and relational patterns

Mark 3:14-15: Key verbs and relational patterns

2 Timothy 2:1-2: Key verbs and relational patterns

1 Thessalonians 1:4-7 and 2:1-12: Key verbs and relational patterns

Our biblical description

COMPLETE THE SENTENCE In light of these passages, disciples of Jesus are made by...

WHOLE-ROOM DEBRIEF

A disciple-making culture

Characteristics of disciple-making

- Gospel-centered
- Personal growth
- Obedience-based
- Simple
- Clear
- Replicable
- Multiplication

SESSION 4 • 30 MINUTES

Values & Scorecard

What matters most—and what fruit will we seek?

VALUES Beliefs put into practice—the “to-die-fors” that shape direction and destiny.

Actual values are revealed by behavior, calendars, budgets, and decisions. Aspirational values describe who we prayerfully intend to become, but should not be labeled “actual” until our practices reflect them.

- Values function like railroad tracks within an organization.
- Biblical values should never change, although the form in which they are expressed may vary.
- Churches should have no more than six values; at least four should be actual rather than aspirational.
- As values get clearer, so do the decisions needing to be made.

A BETTER SCORECARD

DALLAS WILLARD “Instead of counting Christians, we need to weigh them.”

Fruit	What it notices	Sample questions
Contribution	Attendance, giving, participation	How many attend? How much is the offering?
Transformation	Changed lives	How have people grown in their walk with Jesus?
Impact	Community engagement and sending	How is our community better because we exist?

GROUP WORK

Name the values we see and seek

ACTS 2:41-47: What values are revealed by the Jerusalem church's actual behaviors?

ACTS 11:19-29; 13:1-4; 14:24-28: What values are revealed by the Antioch church's actual behaviors?

OUR STORIES: What values emerged from "The Shaping of a Life"?

SUMMIT LIFE TODAY: What actual values do we see in Summit Life today?

Potential Core Values

#	Value + behavioral expression	Actual / Aspirational
1		☐ Actual ☐ Aspirational
2		☐ Actual ☐ Aspirational
3		☐ Actual ☐ Aspirational
4		☐ Actual ☐ Aspirational
5		☐ Actual ☐ Aspirational
6		☐ Actual ☐ Aspirational

SCORECARD DISCERNMENT

What fruit should Summit Life weigh?

There are three types of fruit we could seek: contribution, transformation, and impact.

CONTRIBUTION: How many people attend? How much is the offering? What programs does the church offer?

TRANSFORMATION: How have people grown in their walk with Jesus? What intentional disciple-making relationships are they invested in?

IMPACT: How is our community better because we exist? How many people have come to faith? How many missionaries have we sent out?

Two-year picture

Where do we hope to see our church in two years?

FOLLOW-UP PREPARATION

One-page reflection assignment

Bring this completed page to the one-hour follow-up session

Prepare a one-page reflection. These reflections will be shared and synthesized in the follow-up session.

1. THREE “TO-DIE-FOR” VALUES: Which three values must Summit Life hold in its next season?

2. A DISCIPLE: What is your personal biblical definition of a disciple?

3. DISCIPLE-MAKING: What is your personal definition of disciple-making?

4. FRUIT: What fruit should Summit Life measure most intentionally?

5. WHAT’S NEXT?: What do you believe God is preparing Summit Life for next?
