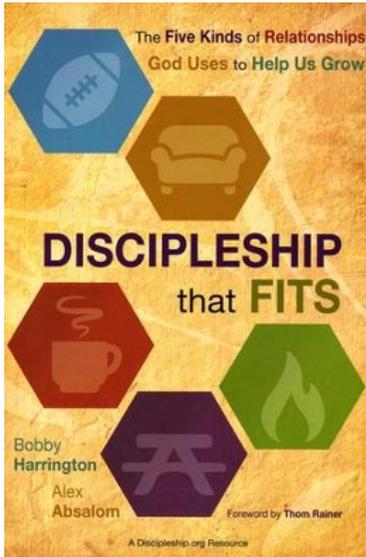


East District Discipleship Toolbox

Discipleship Resources for Pastors and Churches

Creating a Discipling Culture in Your Church

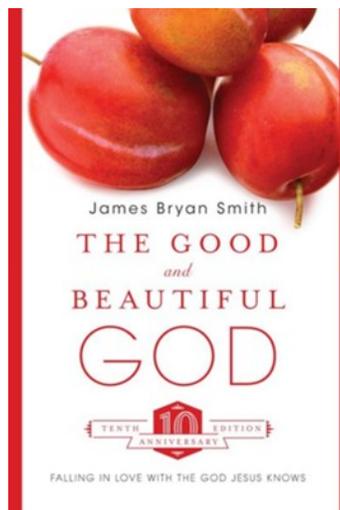
Discipleship Systems Recommendation



[Discipleship That Fits](#): *The Five Kinds of Relationships God Uses to Help Us Grow*, by Absalom and Harrington, shows the five key ways discipleship occurs. It looks at how Jesus made disciples and how disciples were formed in the early church. Each of these contexts is necessary at different times and in different ways as a person grows toward maturity in Christ:

- Public Relationships: The church gathering corporately for worship.
- Social Relationships: Networks of smaller relationships where we engage in mission and live out our faith in community
- Personal Relationships: Small groups of six to sixteen people where we challenge and encourage one another on a regular basis
- Transparent Relationships: Close relationships of three to four where we share intimate details of our lives for accountability
- The Divine Relationship: Our relationship with Jesus Christ where we grow through the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit

Discipleship Teaching Resources



[The Good and Beautiful Series](#) by James Bryan Smith, aims to help Christians develop a robust discipleship by helping them understand who God is, what it means to be a Christian and what it means to live in community as a part of God's kingdom.

Get to know the God Jesus knew and the Kingdom he proclaimed by using this proven Bible study and small group resource. Churches, ministries, and individual Christians who use this curriculum will discover that spiritual transformation comes as a direct result of spending focused time with God and his people.

Community Assessment

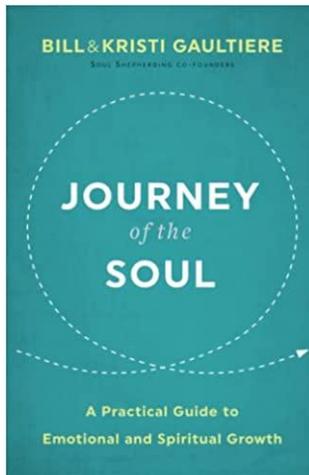
Who is in your community? What do they like and what do they need? [MissionInsite](#) is a comprehensive online demographic tool. Learn who really lives in the community surrounding your church—their attitudes, affinity groups, church preferences, and needs.

Coaching for Pastors and Churches

A Coach is a collaborative partner, who helps gifted leaders discern, fulfill and celebrate what God has uniquely placed within them and called them to do within their context. Contact Rev. Sharon Reid, East District Discipleship Coach, at SharonReid@ctcumc.org for a conversation about growing the discipling culture in your church. If you would like to explore engaging with an ICF professionally trained coach in the Central Texas Conference, contact Rev. Meg Witmer-Faile at MegWitmer-Faile@ctcumc.org.

Personal Discipleship for Pastors and Church Leaders

Book Recommendations



Journey of the Soul: A Practical Guide to Emotional and Spiritual Growth, by Bill and Kristi Gaultiere who draw on more than 70,000 hours of providing therapy and spiritual direction to show you how to identify your current stage of faith and the next steps to take based on your unique needs and struggles. With Scripture, self-assessments, and soul care practices to support your progress along the way, this insightful and inspiring book will be a treasured companion on your journey no matter where you are or how long you've been following Jesus.

Podcasts

- [Things Above Podcast](#): a podcast for mind discipleship by James Bryan Smith
- [Lectio 365](#) prayer and devotional podcast by Pete Greig and 24-7 Prayer

Spiritual Direction

Spiritual Directors help others attend to God's presence and revelation, grow in intimacy with Christ and respond to the work of the Holy Spirit. Engaging with a spiritual director is a valuable practice for every pastor. If you would like assistance in finding a spiritual director we would love to help! Contact Rev. Sharon Reid, East District Discipleship Coach, at SharonReid@ctcumc.org.

Spiritual Retreat

Most every pastor is in need of a time away for a time of solitude, prayer, reflection and experiencing God's presence in the beauty of nature. At Glen Lake Camp & Retreat Center in Glen Rose a hotel-style room in the Paluxy Cabin is only \$45 per night for pastors. To schedule your retreat, contact Amanda Garza, Guest Services Director, amanda@glenlake.org, 254-897-2247. [Invitation to Retreat: The Gift and Necessity of Time Away with God](#) by Ruth Haley Barton is an excellent guide for the spiritual practice of retreat.