

Dear Fellowship Bible Church Family,

I am so excited to share with you that beginning Sunday, September 3, we will embark on a church-wide journey to maturity as we study the Book of 2 Timothy. This will be an experience unlike any other for our church. We have been praying and preparing to take this significant growth step for months and are very eager to see all that God will do.

For two thousand years, Christians have sought to fulfill Jesus's "Great Commission" to "make disciples of all the nations" (Matt. 28:18-20). Yet, we often lack clarity: "How are we to fulfill this mandate, and what skills must mature disciples develop?" What is needed is a clear and compelling understanding of how to go about Christ's disciple-making mission.

I have written a Bible study based on 2 Timothy called *LIFE-Giving Discipleship* that seeks to establish believers in God's truth and the skills necessary for a full and fruitful life and ministry in Christ. Growing in our relationship with God requires that we possess specific skills that cultivate maturity in our walk with Him. A person must establish skills to be effective in almost every arena of life, from careers and academics to hobbies, sports, and music. This is also true for our growth as followers of Jesus Christ.

The biblical book we will focus on is the Apostle Paul's final letter, 2 Timothy. The theme of 2 Timothy is based on its first verse: How to glorify God by living out "the promise of life in Christ Jesus." Our journey through 2 Timothy will develop this theme in the 14 chapters of *LIFE-Giving Discipleship*.

Each chapter of *LIFE-Giving Discipleship* focuses on these three elements: **1. Teaching** a passage of 2 Timothy; **2. Training** on a specific tool or skill for developing spiritual maturity related to each passage; and **3. Transformation** that God provides for living out the truth of Scripture by learning and applying the skills that develop maturity. Each chapter introduces a new skill to get you started on a lifetime of spiritual growth.

***LIFE-Giving Discipleship* will help you apply the following fourteen skills that develop maturity in your relationship with Christ and your ministry to others:**

1. How to regularly replenish your faith in Christ
2. How to share your testimony and the gospel
3. How to "walk in the Spirit"
4. How to disciple believers
5. How to develop your life priorities
6. How to develop doctrinal depth
7. How to interpret and apply the Bible
8. How to develop Christ-centered character
9. How to develop a biblical worldview
10. How to mentor others
11. How to develop spiritual maturity
12. How to develop and deliver a biblical message
13. How to develop a personal mission statement
14. How to focus your faith on God and His truth

The succinct statement of the mission of the Christian life that we are focusing on in *LIFE-Giving Discipleship* is this: **To glorify God by living out the LIFE we have in Christ.** The acronym “LIFE” serves as a simple way to remember the prominent features of the life believers have in Christ: **L**oving God, **I**ncvesting in others, **F**ollowing His word, and **E**ngaging our world. This statement clearly outlines our mission, mindset, and motivation. At the same time, it highlights that our relationship with Jesus Christ is the key to living the Christian life.

I invite you to make the most of this journey by signing up in advance for one of the many small groups being offered throughout the week starting on Sunday, September 3. The best way to grow is to grow in community.

As you study this book in a group, be ready to discuss the insights and skills you are learning. To make the most of the time, take this approach: Come. Come ready. Come ready to share. To facilitate deeper and encouraging relationships value grace, respect, and confidentiality as you grow together.

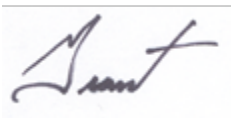
Regularly read through 2 Timothy, especially the passage we will focus on in each lesson. As you grow in your relationship with the living Lord, ask Him to cultivate in your heart a desire for Him, spiritual maturity, and His mission of making disciples of all the nations (Matt. 28:18-20). You will find that what you put into this study is what you will get out of it.

From personal experience, 2 Timothy has been foundational to my life and ministry. As a new believer in Christ, I was challenged by my first discipler, Doug Gardner, to read 2 Timothy fifty times. Although initially skeptical about just how profitable such an endeavor would be, I was impressed by how transformative a deeper study of this letter became as a growing disciple of Jesus Christ. I invite you to try reading this book of the Bible multiple times and see what a difference it will make in you.

I look forward to how our Lord will use this study to cultivate our joy in Christ, our development as disciple-makers, and our relationships. Thank you in advance for your investments and the growing Kingdom influence you will have.

Click [here](#) to register for a LIFE Giving Discipleship small group study.

For His glory,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brent", enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.