

Greater New Guide
Welcome You

YOU'RE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

YOUNG ADULT SPIRITUAL CIRCLE

" Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity."

1 Timothy 4:12

Our Mission and Vision

The **mission** of the GNG Young Adults Spiritual Circle is to be and make disciples. The Great Commission given by Jesus Christ to his disciples in Matthew 28:17-20 is to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." We as disciples of Jesus are called to make disciples which means to lead people to become followers of Jesus Christ, by sharing the gospel and teaching them about the life and teachings of Christ. It involves not only evangelism, but also mentoring and equipping them to grow in their faith, to become mature and active members of the Church, and to disciple others themselves. Being a disciple of Christ means to follow him, to learn from him, and to obey his commands. It involves surrendering our lives to him, putting him first in everything, and seeking to live in accordance with his will.

The **vision** for Greater New Guide young adults is to create a community that is focused on building up the next generation while also learning from the wisdom and experience of the older generation. We seek to teach Jesus, not religion, and to help young people understand that they don't have to stay stuck in their past, but can move forward with the help of Christ and the Holy Spirit. Our focus is on helping young people understand their freedom in Christ, both in terms of being freed from mental and emotional bondage and from the ways of the world. We seek to help young people learn to love themselves and nourish their souls, while also meeting them where they are in their spiritual journey and aiding them in growing.

We **believe** in the importance of having a personal connection with God and in living in the overflow of his love so that we can reach others and be his hands and feet. We aim to lead others to Jesus through outreach and to build a village for our children, ourselves, and our community. We are a Spirit-led, faith-based community that is full of love, hope, and joy for all who enter. We strive to turn our house of worship into a home for worshippers - a place of hope, restoration, and miracle-working love. We focus on spiritual growth, living in the present moment (mindfulness), and taking time to be still and reflect.

Our Scripture Verse

1 Corinthians 12: 21-27 (NIV)

21 The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” **22** On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, **23** and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, **24** while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, **25** so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. **26** If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. **27** Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

Being unified and diverse and living as one body in Christ. We are each uniquely our own person living together as one family. What each of us brings to this union is important and valuable. Each of us has our own gifts, talents, experiences, and perspectives that contribute to the overall health and growth of the body of Christ. We should celebrate and honor our differences while recognizing our shared identity as members of the same family in Christ. In the context of 1 Corinthians 12:21-27, Paul emphasizes that every part of the body is necessary, regardless of whether it is perceived as strong or weak, honorable or dishonorable. In the same way, every member of the church has a role to play and a contribution to make, regardless of their background, social status, or abilities. When we work together and honor one another, we can more fully embody the love, grace, and power of Christ in the world. Ultimately, our diversity and unity as the body of Christ is a reflection of God's own nature. As the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit exist in perfect unity and diversity, so too do we as members of Christ's body. Our differences do not divide us, but rather they enhance our ability to fulfill God's purposes and bring about His kingdom on earth.

Circle Rules

Setting ground rules for our young adult spiritual circle can help create a positive and respectful learning environment. We aren't just a group of people, we are unique individuals.

- ❖ Respect each other's opinions: We encourage everyone to share their opinions and perspectives, even if they differ from others. Please remember to listen actively and respond respectfully.
- ❖ Maintain confidentiality: It is of the utmost importance that we maintain confidentiality and trust within the group. What is discussed in class should stay in class. keep personal information and discussions within the class confidential.
- ❖ Arrive on time: We encourage you to arrive on time so that class can start promptly.
- ❖ Use technology appropriately: If using electronic devices during group, we ask that you use them appropriately and respectfully.
- ❖ Participate actively: We ask that you participate actively in class discussions and activities, and to come prepared with questions or topics you would like to discuss.
- ❖ Create a safe space: We are creating a safe space where everyone who is here feels comfortable sharing their thoughts and feelings without fear of judgment.
- ❖ Be open-minded: We encourage you to be open-minded and willing to consider new ideas and perspectives.
- ❖ Respect for different perspectives: Be open to different perspectives and opinions and express your own opinions in a respectful and constructive manner.

By setting and adhering to these ground rules, our young adult group can foster a positive and respectful learning environment where we all feel comfortable sharing our thoughts and ideas.

Print Name: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Steps to Being a Mature Disciple

Becoming a mature disciple involves a lifelong process of growth and transformation. Here are some steps that can help in this journey:

1. **Commit to a relationship with Jesus Christ:** The foundation of discipleship is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. This involves accepting Him as your Lord and Savior, and committing to follow His teachings and example.
2. **Cultivate spiritual disciplines:** Regularly engaging in spiritual disciplines such as prayer, Bible reading, worship, and fellowship with other believers can help you deepen your relationship with God and grow in your faith.
3. **Seek biblical knowledge and understanding:** Study the Bible regularly, attend Bible studies or classes, and listen to sermons to gain a deeper understanding of God's Word and how it applies to your life.
4. **Engage in serving others:** Jesus modeled servant leadership and instructed His followers to love and serve others. Look for opportunities to serve in your community and church.
5. **Embrace accountability:** Find a mentor or accountability partner who can help you stay accountable in your spiritual growth and offer guidance and encouragement along the way.
6. **Practice forgiveness and grace:** As you grow in your relationship with God, learn to extend forgiveness and grace to others as Jesus did.
7. **Share the Gospel with others:** Part of being a disciple is sharing the Good News of Jesus with others. Look for opportunities to share your faith and invite others to join you on the journey of discipleship.

Living Out Biblical Principles

As we study the Bible together, we will be learning Biblical principles and doctrines and how to apply them to our everyday life. Biblical principles refer to the teachings and values found in the Bible. Some of the fundamental principles in the Bible include:

1. **Love:** Jesus teaches that we should love God with all our hearts, and love our neighbors as ourselves (Mark 12:30-31). This principle encourages us to act with compassion and kindness towards others, and to value human life and dignity.
2. **Forgiveness:** Forgiveness is a central theme in the Bible. Jesus teaches that we should forgive those who have wronged us, even as we ask God to forgive us (Matthew 6:14-15). This principle encourages us to let go of resentment and bitterness, and to seek reconciliation with others.
3. **Humility:** The Bible teaches that we should humble ourselves before God and others (James 4:10). This principle reminds us that we are not the center of the universe and that we should avoid pride and arrogance.
4. **Faith:** Faith is a foundational principle in the Bible. The Bible teaches that we should trust in God and have faith in his promises (Hebrews 11:1). This principle encourages us to rely on God's wisdom and guidance, even when we face difficult circumstances.
5. **Justice:** The Bible teaches that we should seek justice and show mercy (Micah 6:8). This principle encourages us to work towards fairness and equity for all people, and to stand up against oppression and injustice.
6. **Stewardship:** The Bible teaches that we should be good stewards of the resources and talents that God has given us (1 Peter 4:10). This principle encourages us to use our gifts to serve others and to care for the world around us.

These are just a few examples of the many biblical principles that guide the lives of Christians. Are there any biblical principles you would like to add to this list?

Articles of Faith

Articles of faith are the summary statements of foundational beliefs. Here are the Articles of Faith which we believe in and will be discussing more in-depth over the next following weeks.

1. **The Scriptures:** The Bible is the inspired and infallible Word of God, and is the ultimate authority for faith and practice.
2. **The True God:** There is only one true God, who exists eternally in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
3. **The Fall of Man:** All human beings are sinners, having inherited a sinful nature from Adam, and are in need of salvation.
4. **The Way of Salvation:** Salvation is a free gift of God, received by faith in Jesus Christ, who died on the cross for our sins and rose from the dead.
5. **Justification:** Through faith in Jesus Christ, believers are justified or declared righteous before God, not by their own works, but by the atoning work of Christ.
6. **The Freeness of Salvation:** Salvation is freely offered to all who repent of their sins and believe in Jesus Christ.
7. **Regeneration:** Regeneration is the work of the Holy Spirit in the believer, resulting in a new birth and a new nature.
8. **Repentance and Faith:** Repentance and faith are necessary responses to the Gospel, as believers turn away from sin and trust in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.
9. **God's Purpose of Grace:** God's grace is the basis of salvation, and His purpose in salvation is to reconcile us to Himself and to conform us to the image of Christ.
10. **Sanctification:** Believers are progressively sanctified or made holy through the work of the Holy Spirit, as they grow in Christlikeness and obedience to God.
11. **Perseverance of Saints:** Those who are truly saved will persevere in faith and obedience until the end of their lives, being kept by the power of God.

12. The Law and Gospel: The law of God reveals our sin and need for a Savior, while the Gospel offers salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.
13. A Gospel Church: A true church is a community of believers who gather together to worship, hear the Word of God, and proclaim the Gospel to the world.
14. Baptism and the Lord's Supper: Baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper are symbolic ordinances instituted by Christ for the church.
15. The Christian Sabbath: The Lord's Day (Sunday) is a day of rest and worship for Christians, commemorating Christ's resurrection from the dead.
16. Civil Government: Civil government is ordained by God for the good of society, and Christians are called to obey and pray for their leaders.
17. Righteous and Wicked: There will be a final judgment in which the righteous will be rewarded with eternal life, and the wicked will be punished with eternal damnation.
18. The World to Come: Believers will enjoy eternal life in the presence of God, while unbelievers will suffer eternal punishment in hell.