



Meeting #3: Flourishing as a Disciple, Part 2

Agenda, Discussion and Homework (Allow 45 minutes)

Goal: To create space for God together, to listen to the Spirit's leading through teaching, reflection, and sharing with one another, and to act on what we hear about growing a Christ-centered, flourishing church.

1. Prepare (5 minutes)

- Have each person offer a one-word check-in. (Think of one word that honestly describes how you feel right now as a way of connecting with each other and offering yourself to God.)
- Enter into a brief time of silence to still hearts, clear minds, and become attentive. Silence is a way of waiting, watching, and listening for the presence of God's Spirit in your midst. Meditate on Scripture:

John 15:1-8 (NIV)

I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

2. Listen to each other (30 minutes)

- Break into triads and share your Discipleship Designs with each other. Pray for each person's growth after he or she shares (10 minutes each).
- Please remember, this is a time to listen to each other and not to fix or advise, unless the person sharing asks for your input.

3. Decide together (in triads) how we will act differently based on what we heard. (5 mins)

- How will we keep our design in front of us daily?
- Who can help us to stay committed to our design?

4. Pray together and commit your action step to the Lord (as a large group). (5 minutes)

Have someone close in prayer and ask God to help each person grow more into God's likeness as the group commits to his or her individual design.

5. Assign Homework

APEST self-evaluation sheet (on page 19) due by next meeting _____(date).



Discovering your APEST Typology

Look at the following definitions of APEST ministry roles that are articulated in Ephesians 4. As you read through the descriptions, rank each role 1 through 5. Use number 1 for the area most like you and use number 5 for the role that is least like you.

If you want to further investigate your gifting, you may take a 360 degree APEST assessment. You can purchase a validated version at www.APEST.org.

_____ **Apostolic** – I like to start and lead new projects or ministries. I like to look at the big picture of an organization or church and think about the underlying systems and values. I like to develop new leaders to do ministry or initiate projects that I personally may not be suited for. I like to be future focused and imagine big possibilities. I may unintentionally leave people behind or wound people in my apostolic role.

_____ **Prophetic** – I often bring people back to the ultimate purpose of God and our organization or church. I have a heart and passion for the poor, oppressed, and those that are overlooked. I am not happy with the status quo and simply meeting the needs of congregation members. I want to bring God's grace and mercy to those outside of the church in tangible ways. Sometimes my passion for those outside the church can rub people the wrong way.

_____ **Evangelistic** – I like to be enthusiastic and tell people about things I believe in. I like to recruit people to a common purpose. I desperately want those around me both inside and outside the church to know the love of Jesus. I also want those inside the church to know that their identity and security is in Christ. Because of my enthusiasm I can sometimes be seen as pushy or overly optimistic.

_____ **Shepherd** – I care deeply for people. I take the hurting of other people seriously and their concerns are on my mind frequently. I sometimes care for people so much that I can absorb their pain deeply. I love to be with people one-on-one and develop long-term relationships to help them grow toward maturity in Christ. Sometimes, because of my caring nature, I can be trampled by others or even taken advantage of.

_____ **Teacher** – I like to understand and grow in deep knowledge of concepts. I like to explain concepts and deeper biblical truths to other people. I am energized when people understand concepts for themselves and find ways to apply those concepts and insights to different facets of their life. Sometimes I can get too caught up in irrelevant details or talk over the heads of people.

