



**Dillon**  
*First Baptist*

*Strategy of Making  
Authentic Disciples*

*“Inspiring People  
to Become Authentic  
Followers*

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# Introduction

At Dillon First Baptist, we are building on a rich tradition of in-depth discipleship, which has resulted in a healthy and effective church committed to expanding the Kingdom of God. The commission that Jesus left His church was to make disciples: *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you . . .,”* (Matt. 28:19-20). At First Baptist, our desire is for this Christ-given mandate to be our priority. For this to take place, it is imperative that we implement a strategic process that is intentional, understandable, and effective. The goal of this process is to involve every member of our church family in the process, and therefore, become authentic followers of Jesus Christ. This intentional process will enable us to be more effective in fulfilling our divine call as we maximize our time and resources with greater focus.

Our process for making disciples is constructed on three indispensable steps. The first step is **CONNECT**. In its essence, the Christian faith is about relationships, first with God, and then, with others in His family. The second step is **GROW**. Every authentic follower of Jesus Christ has the desire to grow spiritually. We are at different stages, but we are all growing. II Peter 3:18 instructs us to, *“. . . grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”* The third step is

**SERVE.** The natural outflow of being a follower of Christ is serving Christ in the church. We believe that an authentic follower of Jesus Christ will have an intimate connection with God and other believers, will have a thorough and practical knowledge of Scripture, and will be committed to investing his or her life in service to Christ and His Kingdom. The ultimate goal of the discipleship process is that disciples will become disciple-makers.

Every member should not only pursue completion of the process, but also have a thorough understanding of the process. Unfolded in the following pages is an explanation of each stage of the process, the purpose statement, and the church logo, which will assist in understanding our ministry process of making disciples at Dillon First Baptist.

# Purpose Statement

*“Inspiring People to Become Authentic Followers of Jesus Christ”*

People respond to authenticity. Our world is starved for authenticity when it comes to the Christian faith. Our culture will be profoundly impacted by authentic discipleship. It is more than being a church member and more than attending church services and activities. Authentic discipleship is about a life being transformed by God’s grace, entering into a personal relationship with Christ, and living out that relationship in every arena of life – family life, church life, vocational life, and community life. In other words, Connecting, Growing, and Serving. At Dillon First Baptist, our focus is, “Inspiring People to Become Authentic Followers of Jesus Christ.”



# Logo



The logo illustrates the ministry process at Dillon First Baptist. There are three arrows pointing to a white center circle. The three arrows represent the three-step process: **Connect**-Red, **Grow**-Green, **Serve**-Blue. As illustrated by the logo, each of the arrows point to a center white circle, which represents that the entire process revolves around Christ and the steps are interrelated. The circle in the center of each arrow represents that people are in a constant process of maturing as followers of Christ, having moved from the state of unbelief to being connected to Christ, to growing in their faith, and to serving in the Body. Each of the arrows and circles are a different color, indicating that the church consists of a diverse group of people who are at different stages in their journey of faith. The goal is for every member of Dillon First Baptist to be engaged in the three step process, who as disciples, in turn, will become disciple-makers. You will notice the arrows running counter clockwise in the previous logo on page 1, indicating that the life of an authentic believer is counter to this world's beliefs, values, and practices.



# Step One: Connect

The first step in the discipleship process is to connect people to God and to connect people to other believers. The primary place for people to connect to God is through our Connect Group Bible Study and during our morning worship services. While we realize connection with God cannot be achieved apart from the power and influence of the Holy Spirit, we intentionally plan our worship services to lead people to connect with God through Christ. Through carefully planned music and expositional preaching, we partner with the Holy Spirit in leading people to the saving grace of God through Christ's shed blood and in leading believers to a deeper obedience to His Word.

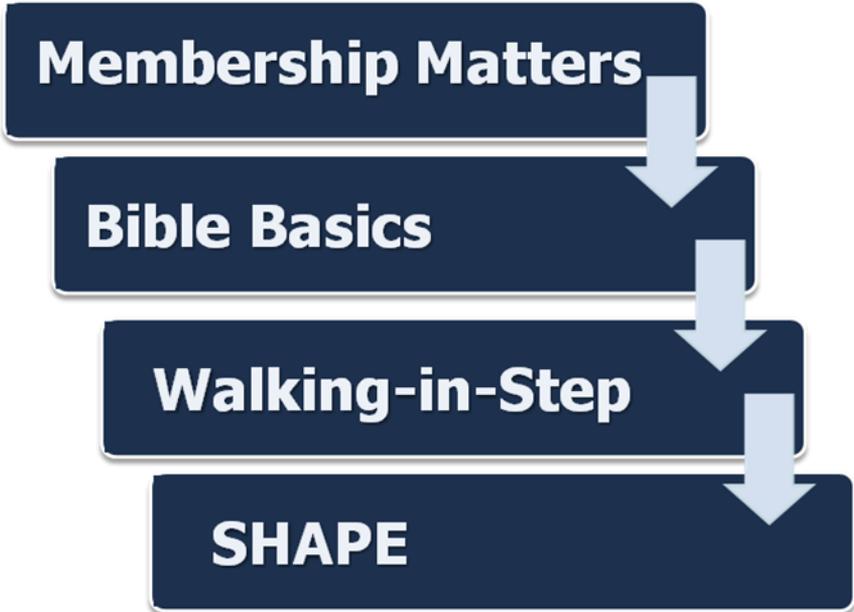
Our Connect Groups, which meet on Sundays from 9:15-10:15 am, are intentionally designed for people to connect with others as they study Scripture together. The goal of our Connect groups is not to retreat from the world, but to connect with people in our community and areas of influence so that we can connect them to God. We believe our Bible studies equip us to connect more effectively with those who desperately need to connect with Christ. II Corinthians 5:18 states that God has given us “. . . *the ministry of reconciliation,*” meaning we reconcile people to Christ. In verse 20 of that same chapter, we are reminded that “. . . *we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us.*” For this reason, it is essential that every member be involved in a Connect Group on Sunday mornings, not only to connect with others, but also to connect others to their group.



## Step Two: Grow

The second step in the discipleship process is to help people grow in their faith. Dillon First Baptist intentionally charts a course for believers in helping them to mature in their faith, realizing that we are never fully mature until we are glorified with Christ. Every member should participate in the **LIFE Courses** (Living In Faith Everyday), which will help them continue to grow in his or her knowledge of Scripture and relationship with Christ. **LIFE Courses** consist of **Core Courses** and **Elective Courses**. The Core Courses include four courses, which every member of Dillon First Baptist should complete in sequential order: Membership Matters, Bible Basics, Walking In Step, and Discovering Your SHAPE.

### Core Courses for **LIFE**



**Membership Matters** introduces new and prospective members to the life and ministry of First Baptist Church. The course is designed to serve as a basic orientation for participants, clearly explaining who and what our church is. The course is divided into four main sections: Church Connections, Basic Beliefs, Denominational Distinctions, and Meaningful Ministry.

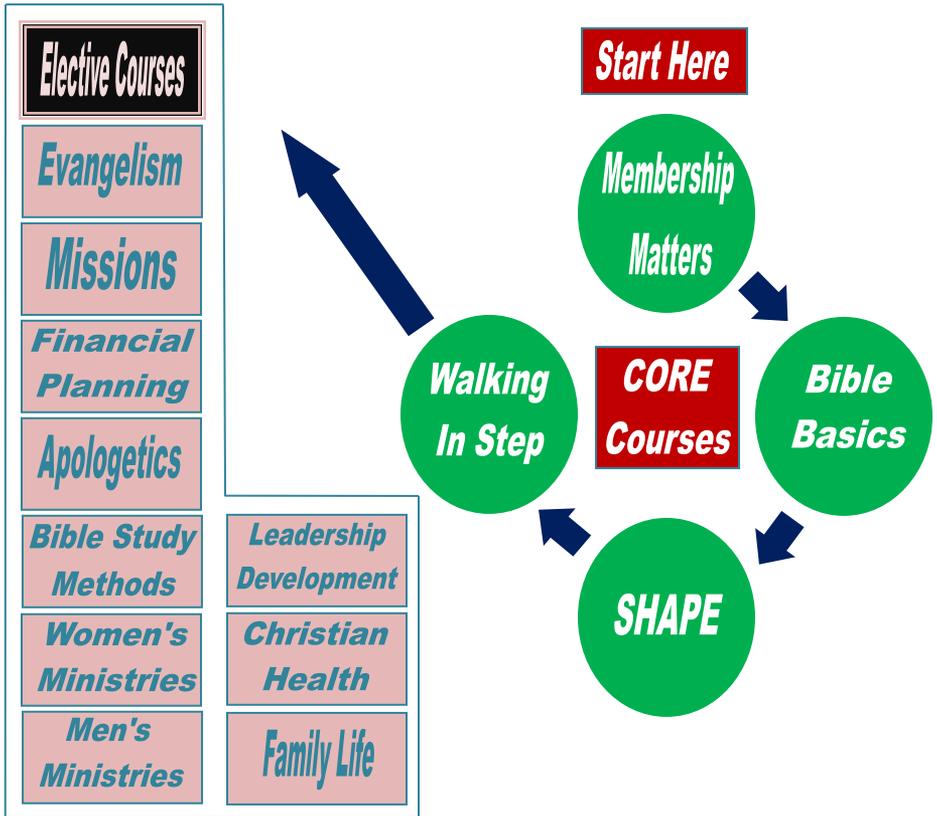
**Bible Basics** helps learners grasp God's Word. This includes the layout of Scripture (Old & New Testaments), learning spiritual disciplines, and developing a daily Bible reading schedule.

**Walking in Step** is designed to assist the believer in learning how to have better relationships, how to be a living witness, how to be a good steward of their resources, the importance of missions, and the importance for accountability as a disciple of Christ.

**Discovering Your SHAPE** (Spiritual Gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality, and Experience) will enable believers to discover the unique ways God has enabled them to be used to serve Christ in ministry. At Dillon First Baptist, we believe that every member should be actively involved in serving Christ in the ministry of the church.

In addition to the four **Core Courses**, we offer **Elective Courses** on an ongoing basis through small groups and discipleship courses. They are designed to help members live their lives with the purpose of impacting the world for Christ. Elective Courses will cover topics such as evangelism, family relationships and issues, finances, leadership development, defending your faith in an anti-Christian culture, men's studies, women's ministries, and others as needed. These courses may be taken in any order and are dependent on the individual believer's need.

# Growth Chart





## Step Three: Serve

Believers have not completed the discipleship process until they are serving in the body of Christ and making disciples. Realizing the importance of serving in the church and using our spiritual gifts, we intentionally provide opportunities to serve in our church, community and world. Acts 1:8 gives the church the mandate to carry the witness of Christ to the world, beginning in our community, then to our state, nation, and world: *“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”* One of the primary opportunities for service is through our Connect Group Bible Study classes. We encourage Connect Groups to seek service opportunities in our community and world.



# CONNECT

*To God  
To Others*

**Salvation**

**Assimilation**

Worship Services  
& Connect Groups

# SERVE

*In Ministry*

Discipleship process is complete when each person becomes a disciple-maker and is serving in ministry.  
(Matt. 28:19-20)



# GROW

*Spiritual Growth*

Deliberate steps to provide information, demonstration, and application.  
(*New Member's Class, Bible Basics, Walking in Step, SHAPE, Electives*)

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