

# nucleus

## what's at the centre

## Part 2: Growing Relationship

### Sermon Big Idea

*Nucleus: The central and most important part of an object, group, or movement, forming the basis for its activity and growth.*

Jesus gave his disciples a mission to tell the world about him and to help people become disciples. We still have that same mission today, and we summarize it by saying that at Grand Valley, our mission is **to lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus**. This week, we focused on the second part of that statement: How can we live in a growing relationship with Jesus Christ? And how can we have a guilt-free approach to discipleship?

### Discussion Questions

1. Often conversations about discipleship feel like a to-do list, or worse, a guilt-trip. How do you tend to respond to a guilt-based approach to discipleship?
2. Read **Matthew 5:17-20** and **28:16-20**. What connection is Jesus making about teaching the disciples what he has taught them, and his earlier teaching about his purpose to accomplish and fulfill the law? (*Note: go to **Galatians 3:23-25** for Paul's commentary on Jesus' purpose.*)
3. Pastor Brian talked about how a growing relationship with Jesus won't happen without us desiring a deeper connection with Jesus. What can we do to grow our desire for knowing God?
4. How can relationships and friendships contribute to spiritual growth?
5. Out of the list below, which spiritual practices have you tried? What was your experience? Which ones do you want to try? How could they become a regular practice for you?

### Common Spiritual Practices

**Intellectual:** studying and learning more about God and his love for us.

**Worship:** Experiential connection of God's presence (together or alone)

**Prayer:** Communicating with God, speaking and listening.

**Serving:** Being the 'hands and feet' of Jesus to show love to others.

**Solitude:** spending extended time with God for reflection & understanding.

### Scripture Passages

#### Matthew 28:16-20

Jesus gives the great commission to his disciples.

#### Matthew 5:17-20

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus explains his purpose to accomplish the purpose of the Mosaic Law.

#### Galatians 3:23-25

Paul contrasts the "guard of the law" and the "way of faith" that is now open through Jesus Christ.

### Definitions

#### Evangelism

Sharing the good news about Jesus Christ and salvation with everyone

#### Discipleship

Being in a growing relationship, plus teaching and helping other people grow in their relationship with Jesus.