

Bridgetown Basics



Bridgetown Basics

Whether you are new to Jesus or just new to Bridgetown Church, we are excited to welcome you to our community. Thank you for participating in our Basics course to learn more about who we are and where we are going as a church.

We are practicing the way of Jesus, together, in Portland.

We believe the Church is not another sub-culture, but the making of a new humanity. It's not a building or a weekend activity, but a people. We strive to live out the Gospel in our city throughout the week, then gather each weekend as a collection of Communities. We want to partner with God in his relentless pursuit to put the world to rights. Our prayer is as Jesus prayed, that God's will would be done in Portland as it is in Heaven.

Throughout Basics, you'll learn practical ways to discover your role in the church and participate in the story of God.

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Baptism

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**Bridgetown
Basics**

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**Start or Join a
Bridgetown
Community**

Church



**Practice the way
of Jesus**

**Be in a Bridgetown
Community**

Gather on Sundays

Serve

Give

Bridgetown Church

An Unhurried Life

We're not asking you to do more, but to do less by slowing down your life to take on the easy yoke of Jesus.

“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.”

– **Jesus, Matthew 11v28-30, The Message**

“A yoke is a work instrument. Thus when Jesus offers a yoke he offers what we might think tired workers need least. They need a mattress or a vacation, not a yoke. But Jesus realizes that the most restful gift he can give the tired is a new way to carry life, a fresh way to bear responsibilities... Realism sees that life is a succession of burdens; we cannot get away from them; thus instead of offering escape, Jesus offers equipment. Jesus means that that obedience to his Sermon on the Mount (his yoke) will develop us in a balance and a 'way' of carrying life that will give more rest than the way we have been living.”

– **Dale Bruner**

“Hurry is the great enemy of spiritual life in our day. You must ruthlessly eliminate hurry in your life.”

– **Dallas Willard**

Why

In Portland as it is in Heaven

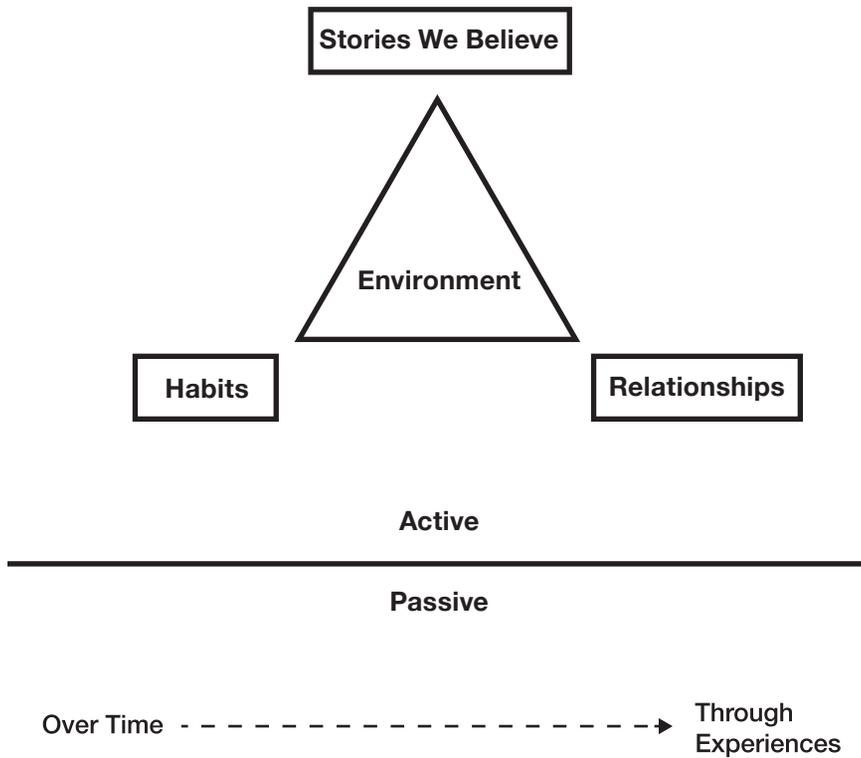
How

Practicing the Way of Jesus, together, in Portland

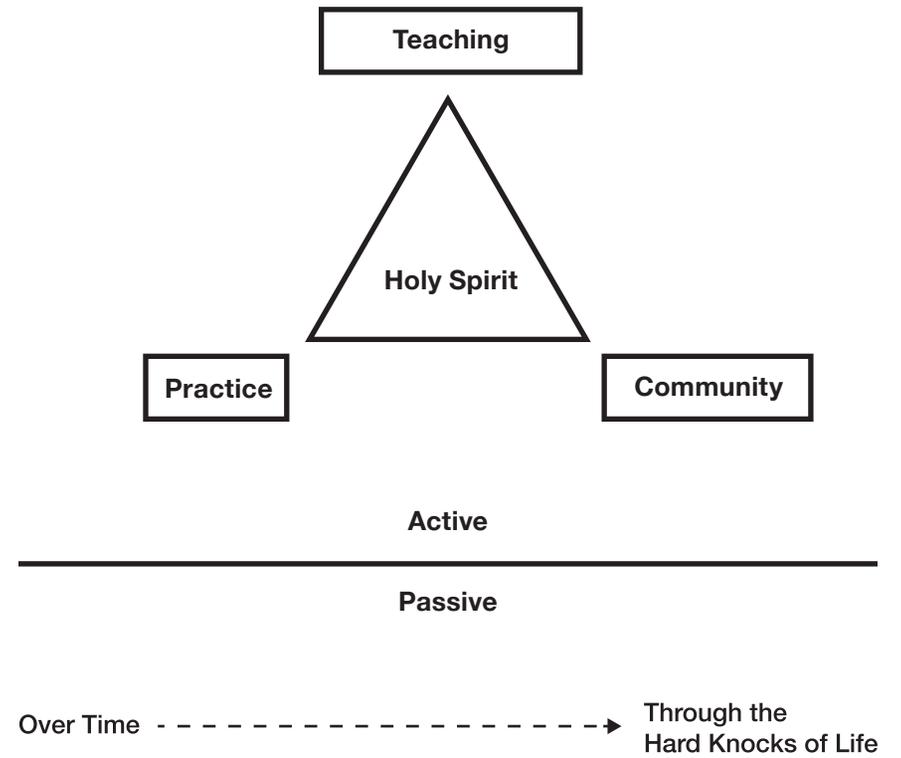
What

Be with Jesus, Become like Jesus, Do what Jesus Did

Unintentional Spiritual Formation



Intentional Spiritual Formation



Christ-likeness is not natural, it requires practice

Five Rhythms of Bridgetown Church

Practice the way of Jesus

We believe that to be an apprentice of Jesus of Nazareth is to order your life around three goals: be with Jesus, become like Jesus, and do what Jesus did.

Be in a Bridgetown Community

Throughout the week, we live in community where we eat, pray, and share life together. Bridgetown Communities are where we practice the way of Jesus, together, in Portland.

Gather on Sundays

We gather as a church around the bread and cup; to pray, learn the Scriptures, and worship together as the people of God.

Serve

We serve by demonstrating self-sacrificial love to those both in and outside the church. It takes hundreds of servants to pull off the gatherings each weekend. We are a family, and like a family, we must all pitch in.

Give

We give in order to partner with Jesus to serve our city. We dream of becoming a church marked by radical generosity. Ten percent of every dollar goes directly to supporting justice work both globally and locally.

Bridgetown Communities



We are practicing the way of Jesus, together, in Portland.

Practicing The Way

Discipleship

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?”

– Mark 8v34-37

Being a disciple (or apprentice) of Jesus is a daily rhythm. Through Bridgetown’s Practices, each member of your Community will daily practice the habits that form us to be more like Jesus. As we spend time with Jesus and practice the spiritual disciplines, we will watch one another become more like Jesus and together we will carry out his teachings to Portland.

Follow along with Practicing The Way at practicingtheway.org.

Commitments

Community Practices

Individual Practices

Practices

What are some Practices that you would like to integrate into your life in the year ahead?

Together

Family

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts...

– Acts 2:42-46

Bridgetown Communities gather weekly in homes around the city to eat together, pray together, and share life together. Throughout the week, Communities support one another and share the normal ups and downs of life. As we come together around the bread and the cup, we are learning what it means to live as the family of God in our city.

Commitments

Weekly Meal (Communion)

Prayer

Regular Life

Practices

What are some helpful family habits?

In Portland

Mission

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

– Matt 9v35-38

As disciples of Jesus, we are missionaries who aim to do the work that Jesus did, in our city, so each Community commits to a shared mission. This looks like setting aside time each month to do justice work and/or to serve those around us who are far from God. In our Communities, we seek to encourage and hold one another accountable to carrying out the work of Jesus in Portland.

Commitments

Monthly Event

Individual Mission

Practices

What are some of the needs you see in our city?

Community Rhythm

Getting 12–15 people together for a weekly meal, practices, and shared life is a lot of work. If we are going to live in community together, it is going to take intentionality – in other words, it is going to take scheduling. Below we have included suggested rhythms for a month in Community and a single night in Community.

Monthly Rhythm

Three Weeks	Practices
One Week	Free Night
One Time	Mission

Nightly Rhythm

6:15 – 6:30 PM	Arrive and set out food
6:30 – 7:15 PM	Communion, dinner, and conversation
7:15 – 8:15 PM	Practice
8:15 – 8:30 PM	Pray

Temporary Monthly Rhythm For COVID-19

WEEK A	Whole community meets online to discuss the community guide.
WEEK B	Bridgetown Triads

Community Leadership

Each Bridgetown Community is encouraged to share responsibility. This allows you to operate out of your strengths and passions while remaining emotionally healthy by not carrying too much responsibility.

Community Leader

The Community Leader serves as the frontline pastor of his/her Community and gives oversight to the Community in partnership with his/her Coach.

Mission Coordinator (Optional)

The Mission Coordinator works in partnership with the Community Leader to plan, organize, and facilitate the Community's monthly mission.

Communication Coordinator (Optional)

The Communication Coordinator works in partnership with the Community Leader to keep the Community communication organized. This looks like maintaining a calendar and managing any necessary group communication for the weekly gathering and other activities.

Hospitality Coordinator (Optional)

The Hospitality Coordinator works in partnership with the Community Leader to plan out where the Community will gather and what they will eat each week, and who is bringing what for the meal together.

Community Commitments

Practicing The Way of Jesus

Daily Apprenticeship to Jesus

- Participate in Practicing The Way with Bridgetown Church.
- Working toward the basic practices of Jesus: bible reading, prayer, silence and solitude, sabbath, church gatherings, community, and generosity.
- Living under the authority of the Scriptures and the Bridgetown Elders.

Together

Weekly Meal

- Regular attendance unless you're out of town, sick, or there is an unforeseen, unavoidable circumstance outside of your control.
- 24 hours notice for any absence with a phone call, not a text, to the Community Leader.
- Help with the meal, hosting, and clean up.
- Active participation, like engaging the Practices and putting your phone away.

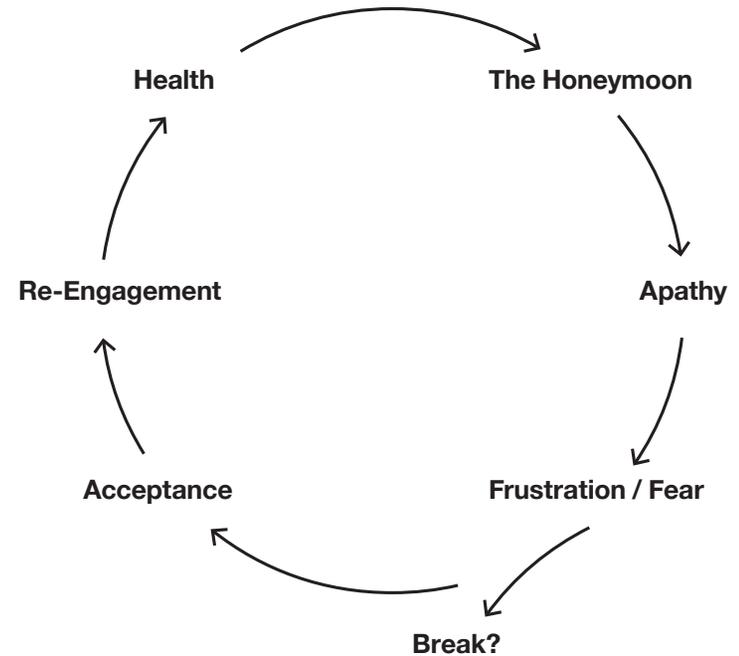
Regular Life

- If possible, sit together at church gatherings.
- Extracurricular activities.
- When necessary, help each other with resources and finances.
- Show each other courtesies, like always returning text messages.
- Pray together

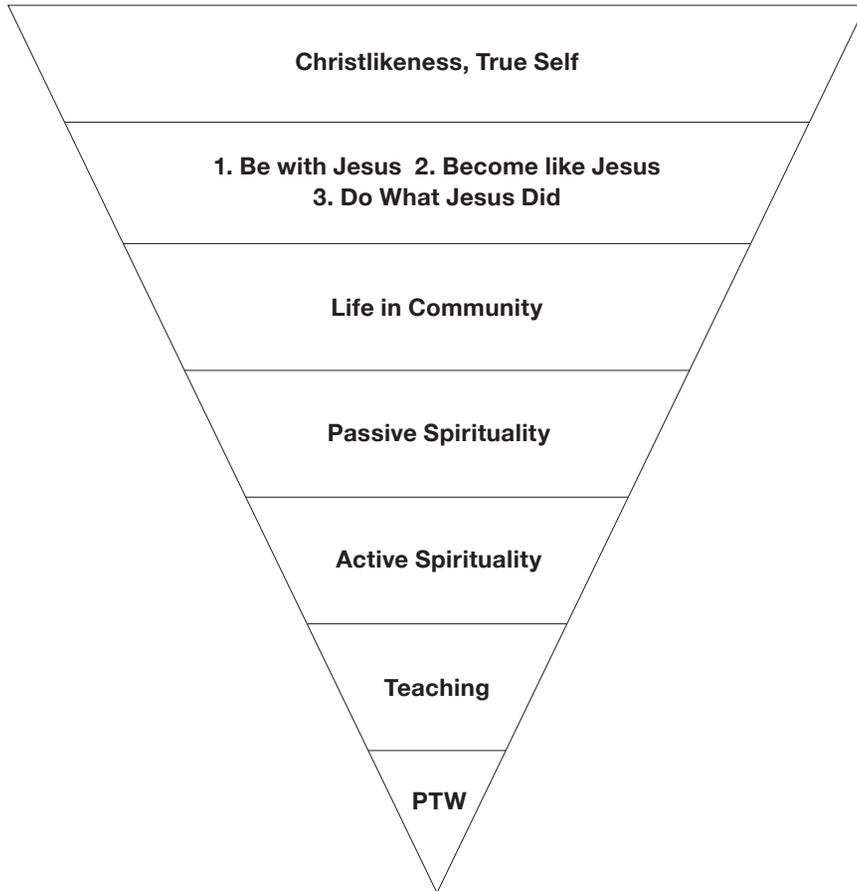
In Portland

- Monthly Event
- Individual Mission

Six Stage Cycle of Community



Apprenticeship Plan



Future

Christlikeness, True Self

End result

Long Term

1. Be with Jesus 2. Become like Jesus 3. Do What Jesus Did

Organizing goals of life

Life in Community

Exposure and encouragement to map your progress

Passive Spirituality

Meeting the season of your life, Acceptance

Active Spirituality

Facing your shadow side, Fighting the world, flesh, and devil

Teaching

From a pastor, spiritual direction, mentor, therapist, podcast, author, etc.

Practicing The Way

Habits of mind and body to index us toward the path of transformation

Time

Goals

Today

Short Term

Apprenticeship Plan

As part of the Apprenticeship Plan, work through the following questions on your own:

1. Christlikeness, True Self

Do I have a vision of myself in the future? Who do I see myself becoming as I become more like Jesus?

2. Be With Jesus, Become Like Jesus, Do What Jesus Did

Are these three goals my top priorities? What is the evidence that these are my priorities? If not, what is?

3. Life in Community

Who is my community? How do we go deeper this year?

4. Passive Spirituality

What are the invitations of God in this season of my life? Where is God trying to get my attention? What is outside my control but a potential portal for growth? What do I need to stop fighting and accept?

5. Active Spirituality

What are specific sins, wounds, and habits that the Spirit is leading me to fight in the year ahead? What am I actively doing to fight them?

6. Teaching

What steps can I take to fill my heart and mind with truth in the year ahead? (Podcast, reading list, Bible Project, etc.)

7. Practicing The Way

What Practices make up my rule of life? What practices do I want to add in, subtract, edit, or re-envision?

Question & Response