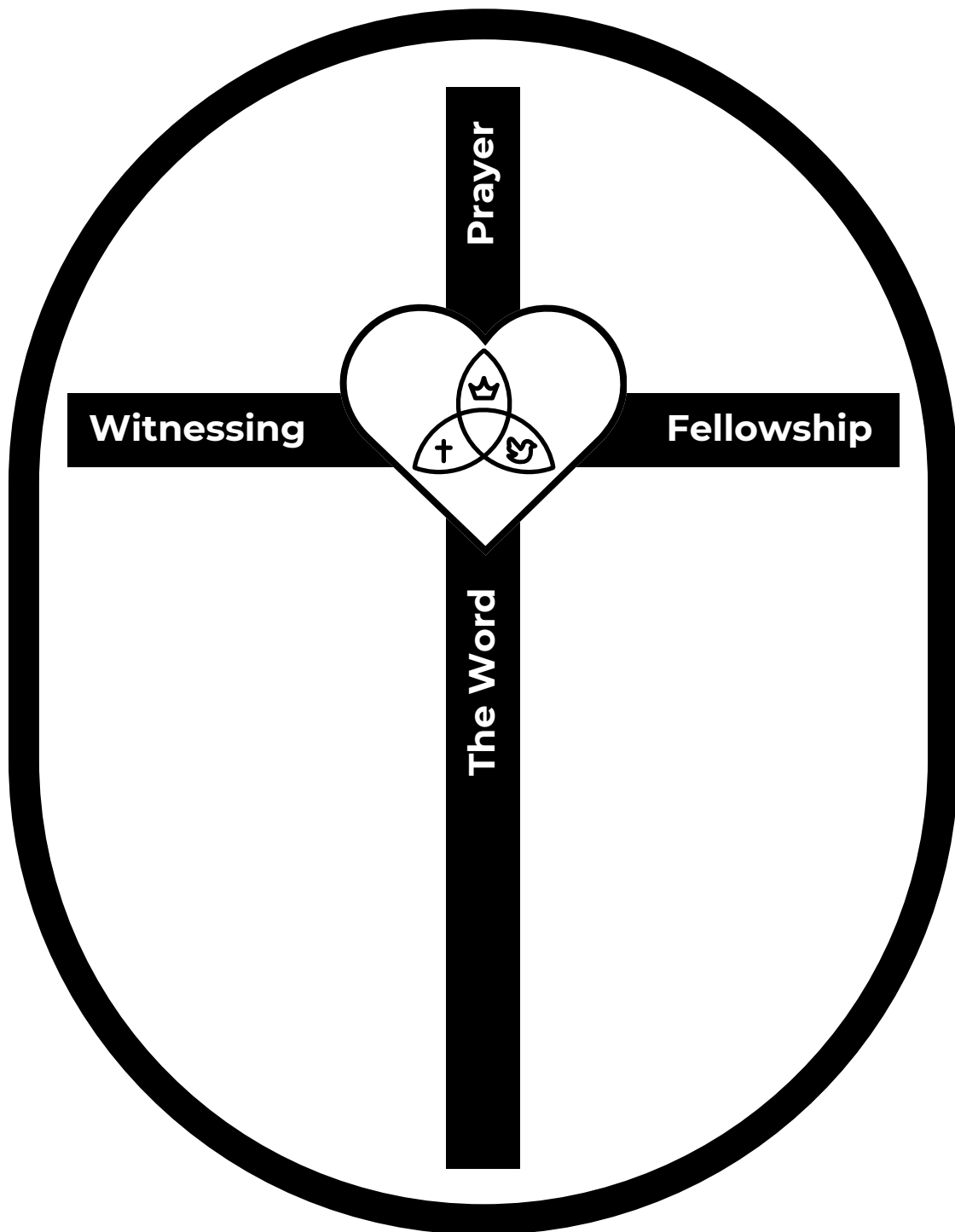


FOLLOWING JESUS (LUKE 9:23)



Step 1: The Heart of the God

Draw a heart at the center of the page.

- This represents the core message of the Gospel—a loving community.
- The Law of Christ is summed up in The Great Commandment **Matthew 22:36-40**.
- Jesus' heart: Humility and meekness. **Matthew 11:28-29**
- Our love for God is the foundation from which everything else flows.

Step 2: A Genuine Relationship with God Leads to Obedience

Draw a large circle around the paper. We walk in obedience by the power of the Holy Spirit through an intentional relationship with God.

Key habits that strengthen this relationship:

- **Daily time with God** – Learning to prioritize being present with Him.
- **Moment-by-moment awareness** – Living in step with Him throughout the day and adjusting our behavior to match Jesus'
- **Putting God first in all things** – Letting His will and His Word shape our decisions and actions.
-

Step 3: The Vertical Element – Communication with God

The vertical beam of the cross represents communication, which is foundational to any relationship. Spending time with God teaches us how to talk with Him and listen for His voice.

Prayer – Speaking to God

1. Our prayers should align with God's will, not just our desires.

2. The A.C.T.S. I. model helps structure our prayers:

- **A** – Adoration (Worshiping God)
- **C** – Confession (Acknowledging sin)
- **T** – Thanksgiving (Expressing gratitude)
- **S** Supplication (Asking for needs)
- **I** – Intercession is crucial—praying in agreement with God's will, not just for what we think is best.

The Word – Hearing from God

The Bible is our unchanging reference point for God's will.

Through Scripture, we align our prayers, attitudes, and behaviors with Him.

Just as the bottom of the cross is twice as long, so should our time with God be more about hearing from Him through His Word than speaking.

Step 4: The Horizontal Element – Relationships with Others

Our relationship with God is the model for our relationships with others. The horizontal beam of the cross represents our interactions with both believers and non-believers, which should be balanced.

Fellowship – Growing with the Body of Christ

Fellowship builds us up and strengthens our faith as we grow in knowledge and obedience. It allows for the unique giftings of the Spirit to be expressed through love for works of service. Accountability is essential at all levels.

It takes five key forms, each essential for building spiritual maturity:

1. **Rabbi-Disciple:** Life-to-life discipleship built upon apprenticeship which is lived out day-by-day in all areas of life.
2. **Household:** The foundation of society is the family. Immediate and extended living under one roof. Parents, especially fathers, have been given the responsibility to instruct and train their household in the ways of God.
3. **Small Group:** Believers met day-by-day in the natural flows of life **Acts 2:42**.
4. **Local Church:** A weekly gathering held on the Sabbath which is rooted in the synagogue. A means to reinforce and admonish the local body of Christ. Led by local leadership, prioritizing the people over the location.
 - a. Collective Worship
 - b. Collective Prayer
 - c. Public Reading of Scripture
 - d. Wise Teaching
 - e. The Lord's Supper
5. **Universal Church:** Gatherings of the Body of Christ that transcend race, gender, nationality, or sect (denomination). The Old Testament had feasts and festivals, today we have holidays and conferences.

Witnessing – Reflecting Christ to the World

We are Christ's representatives to those who don't know Him.

No matter where we are in our spiritual journey, we can make a difference by:

- Living in a way that reflects Jesus.
- Loving others authentically.
- Having Spiritual conversations and sharing the Gospel when the opportunity arises.

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:14-16