



DISCIPLESHIP **PATH:** OPPORTUNITY NUMBER THREE

INTENTIONAL CONNECTION

“We need to help people make space in their life for close relationships that lead to formation in Jesus.”

Another significant effect that COVID19 has had on the church is the ability to gather face-to-face. As mentioned before, the church has had to mostly gather online taking advantage of technologies such as Zoom for small groups, bible teaching, prayer meetings, youth groups, etc. While this is not ideal, it has given us the opportunity to reflect on the question, “what is the best way forward for those who attend CrossView Church?”

While the “success” of a church (rightly or wrongly) has been, in part, measured by how many people physically attend any particular service or activity, the future requires a different perspective given that, even in a post-COVID world, some will continue to be cautious about gathering in larger groups likely for some time. Churches in general, and CrossView in particular, needs to shift our thinking from seeing physical attendance only as the goal toward viewing true personal connection with other people (whether in-person or online) as the goal. We also need to emphasize steps taken our discipleship pathway.

Often the most meaningful moments of change and transformation in life, in particular spiritual transformation, happen within the context of a personal relationship. For many people the most significant moments of change they can remember are closely tied with a person; a pastor, mentor, coach, teacher, close friend, small group, family member, etc. This second shift is about leaning into the reality that most formation comes through the investment of others into our circumstances and personal wellbeing.

Even while not currently being able to gather together in larger groups, the church can help facilitate this type of vital interaction and discipleship. We want to help people move from only being in the same room with other people to actually getting to know other people and be known by other people. We want to help people make space in their life for close relationships that lead to formation in Jesus.

In order to accomplish this we have clarified a discipleship pathway that encourages everyone on the journey of following Jesus. We also will avoid over-programming and over-scheduling ministry activities and events. The goal is to bring the clarity and consistency needed to prioritize movement on the discipleship pathway including the building of close transformative relationships.

Key Take Aways:

- We need to shift from seeing physical attendance only as the goal toward viewing true personal connection and steps taken on a clear discipleship path as the goal.
- We need to help people move from being in the same room with other people to actually getting to know other people and being known by other people.
- Create clarity and consistency and avoid over-programming.