

Engage Your People In Spiritual Growth:

# NURTURING FAITH IN THE A.M.E. CHURCH



# INTRODUCTION: THE CALL TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH

- Spiritual growth is essential for every believer
- Matthew 5:48 (MSG): "In a word, what I'm saying is, Grow up..."
- Growth transforms us from salvation to sanctification to glorification
- How can we foster spiritual growth in our A.M.E. congregations?



# LAW 1: SPIRITUAL GROWTH IS INTENTIONAL

- Psalm 119:106 (MSG): "I've committed myself and I'll never turn back"
- Spiritual growth doesn't happen by accident!
- It requires commitment and intentional effort.
- How have you intentionally pursued spiritual growth recently?

# LAW 2: SPIRITUAL GROWTH IS SEQUENTIAL

**Spiritual growth follows a natural progression**

2 Peter 1:6-8(TLB): 6 Next, learn to put aside your own desires so that you will become patient and godly, gladly letting God have his way with you. 7 This will make possible the next step, which is for you to enjoy other people and to like them, and finally you will grow to love them deeply. 8 The more you go on in this way, the more you will grow strong spiritually and become fruitful and useful to our Lord Jesus Christ.



# LAW 2: SPIRITUAL GROWTH IS SEQUENTIAL

Spiritual growth follows a natural progression

## Oak Ridge Church-The Growth Track process:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Base: How do I GATHER with God's people?
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Base: How do I GROW in God's principles?
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Base: How do I GIVE back what God has provided?
- Home plate: How do I GO out in partnership with God?

Which stage of growth are you currently in?



## LAW 3: SPIRITUAL GROWTH IS PRACTICAL

**Spiritual growth is measurable and practical**

**2 Timothy 2:15 (TLB): "Work hard so God can approve you"**

### **KEY PRACTICES:**

- Regular Bible study
- Daily devotional time
- Application of God's Word in daily life

**What practical step can you take this week to grow spiritually?**

# LAW 4: SPIRITUAL GROWTH IS RELATIONAL

Spiritual growth thrives in community

**Hebrews 10:24-25(NLT):** 24 Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. 25 And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

Small groups foster accountability and encouragement

How can you deepen your relationships within the church community?



# LAW 5: SPIRITUAL GROWTH IS SEASONAL

**Ecclesiastes 3:1(NKJV): To everything there is  
a season**

**Four seasons of spiritual growth:**

1. Spring: Rapid growth
2. Summer: Enjoying God's blessings
3. Fall: Potential backsliding
4. Winter: Feeling distant from God

**Which season do you feel you're in right now?**



# LAW 6: SPIRITUAL GROWTH IS MULTI-DIMENSIONAL

1 Thessalonians 5:23: ...may your **spirit** and **soul** and **body** be kept strong and blameless until that day when our Lord Jesus Christ comes back again.

## **Holistic growth encompasses:**

- Spiritual, psychological, relational aspects, physical, emotional, educational dimensions, vocational, and financial areas (the A.M.E. mission statement)

**How can we support holistic growth in our A.M.E. congregations?**



# LAW 7: SPIRITUAL GROWTH IS DEVELOPMENTAL

1. CHILD STAGE:

Enjoying Grace

2. YOUNG STAGE:

Employing Grace

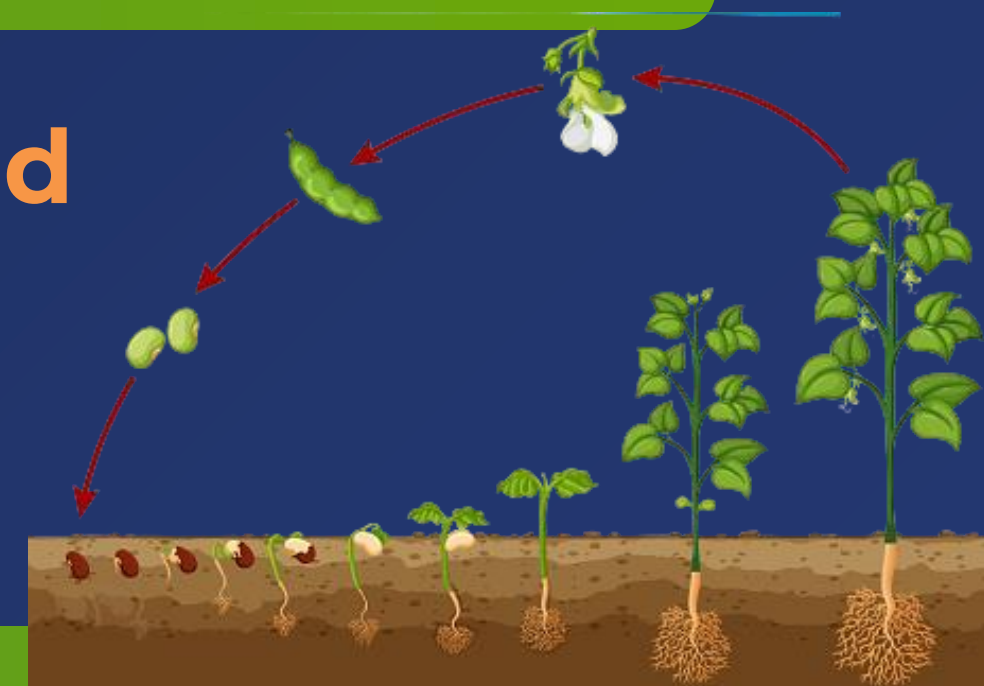
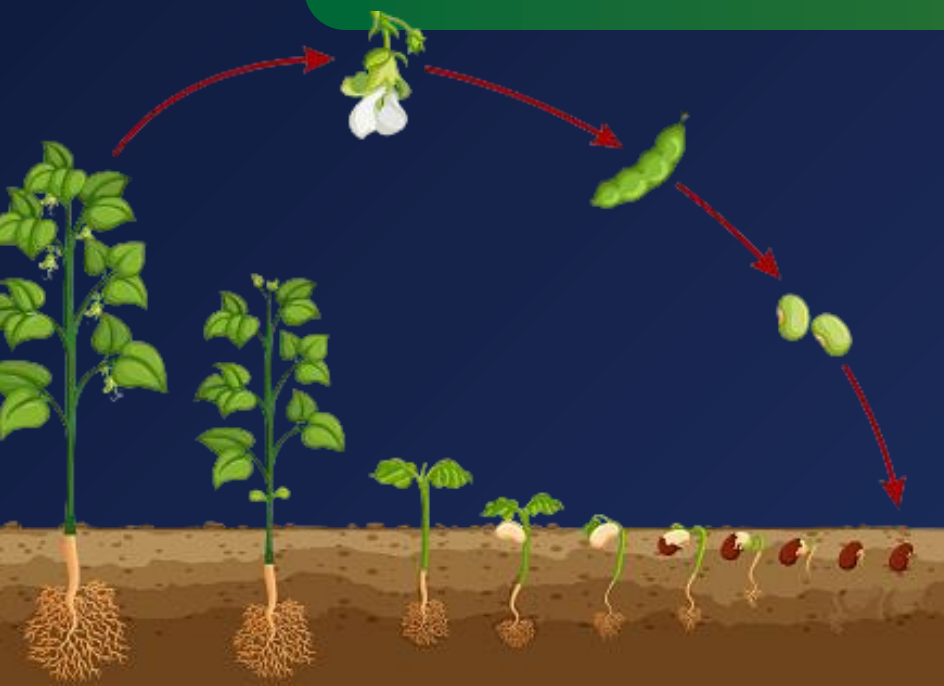
3. PARENT STAGE:

Deploying Grace

Goal: Move From Consuming To Caring and Sharing

What stage do you identify with, and how can you progress?

1 John 2:12-13(NLT)



# LAW 8: SPIRITUAL GROWTH IS INCARNATIONAL

**\*BECOMING MORE CHRIST-LIKE\***

**Ephesians 4:13(NIV)**

**"until we all... become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the  
fullness of Christ."**

- Spiritual growth should lead us to embody Christ's character
- Strive daily to reflect Jesus in thoughts, words, and actions

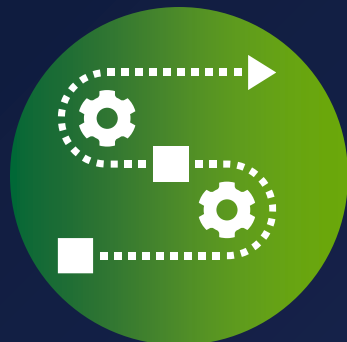


**How can we encourage Christ-likeness in our church community?**

# IMPLEMENTING GROWTH STRATEGIES IN YOUR CHURCH



Develop a clear vision of a mature disciple



Create a systematic process for spiritual growth



Prioritize small groups and community building



Measure progress and celebrate growth



**What's one strategy you can implement in your church this month?**



# CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

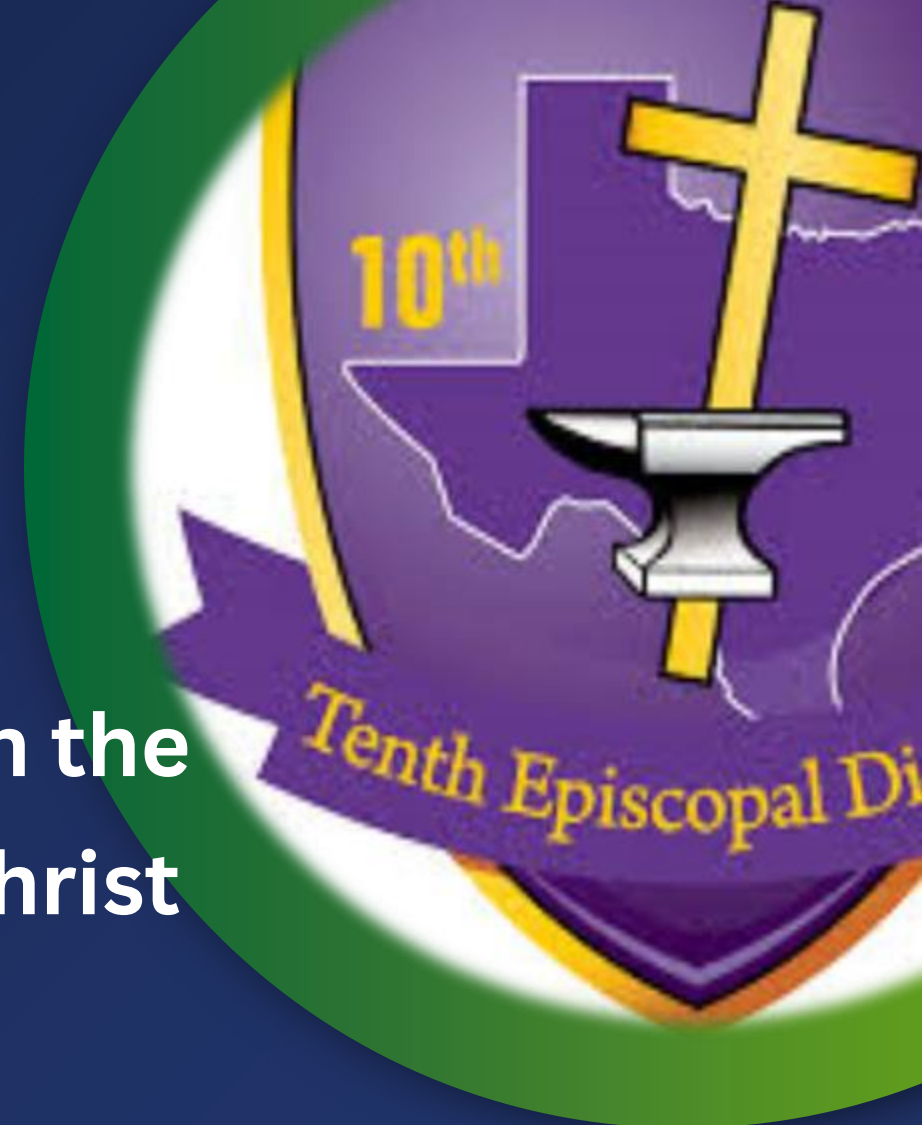
## SO HOW DO I GET STARTED?

**STEP 1:** Huddle with your leadership team and agree on the characteristics you want to see in a disciple of Jesus Christ

**STEP 2:** Choose or develop your discipleship system

**STEP 3:** Prepare a small group program that helps every adult feel connected and included

**STEP 4:** Create a metrics template and track your church's spiritual growth





**THANK YOU**

**Rev. Dr. Mittie C. Muse Jr.**  
**Presenter**