



**Week of February 8<sup>th</sup> – What drives us? - Being disciples, growing as disciples, making disciples.** Do you know Austinmer Church's mission statement and discipleship pathway?

What is helpful/unhelpful about this picture? / where do you think you are on this pathway?

**Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-15** – 'For Christ's love compels us'

1. According to these verses what difference does it make to our lives, knowing that Christ loved us so much that he died for us?
2. How does this work out in our lives in practice?

**Read John 10:3-4, 7-18 and 27-30** – 'My sheep listen to my voice'

1. V.4 Why do sheep follow their own shepherd?
2. V.12-13 – Why does a man who looks after sheep for money, run away when the wolf comes?
3. V.14,15 What reasons does knowing that Jesus cares for his sheep give us to keep following him?
4. Vv14-16 If Jesus is our shepherd, what's involved in recognising and listening to his voice, so we follow faithfully as disciples?

**Read Matthew 7:15, 24-29** – '...like a wise man who built his house on the rock.'

1. What would have amazed the Jewish crowds about these words?
2. This picture of building suggests that there is a process of growing as disciples who listen and follow. What words of Jesus are you struggling to put into practice at the moment?
3. Can you think of anything that might help?
4. Pray for each other that our houses will not fall whatever storms come because we are building our lives on the rock.



**Week of February 22<sup>nd</sup> – Having the heart of a servant – giving sacrificially.**

**Read Luke 20:45 – 21:4** ‘she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.’

1. What are some of the differences between the ministry of the teachers of the law and the gift giving of the wealthy compared with the giving of the widow?
2. When we think about giving and serving are our hearts more closely aligned with the teachers or the widow? Is there anything God might be saying to us through these verses?

**Read John 21:15-22** – ‘do you truly love me...? Feed my lambs.’

1. Vv15-17 What was Jesus question, and what was his command to Peter? How did Peter do this? (Acts 2:14, 40-41, 3:19, 4:8-12, 5:3,29,41, 8:14-15,22,25, 9:32-43, 10:9,15,19-21,23,33-36,44,48, 11:2-4,18, 12:5,11, 1 Peter 1:1-2 – 2 Peter 3:17-18.

2. What did Peter’s obedience to this command cost him?

3. Peter, was not just a disciple but an apostle and leader so, if we are not apostles or church leaders is there anything we can learn from these words of Jesus to Peter?

**Read Jesus’ prayer in John 17:20-23.**

4. If we, like Peter, want to show our love for Jesus, how might his call to feed and take care of his sheep change our attitudes and priorities in our church involvement, change what we choose to do and how we do it?

Here are some examples to consider:

Thanks for those who come prayerfully to church even when its hard to get kids along etc for the sake of encouraging others.

Thanks for those who stay behind after the service to spray the chairs to ensure covid safety of others.

Thanks for those who joyfully go out of their way to clean, sweep extra thoroughly after a church programme in consideration of others who will use the building next.

Thanks for those who carefully take the time to look around for those who seem not to be part of a group during morning tea and choose to go and include them in a conversation.

Other examples you might like to give thanks for and ask God to help us find ways to serve sacrificially with joy.