



welcome to equip

We believe that every person is unique, gifted, and full of potential—and that Jesus came to give us life in all its fullness. It's up to each of us to take intentional steps to grow into the purpose God has for us.

Equip is designed to guide you through four key steps that will continually shape your journey with Jesus. Through this process, we aim to help you discover and develop the life God has prepared for you.

If you're new to our church, Equip is also your starting point at Equippers. You'll learn more about who we are, what we believe, and how you can get involved.

Session 1

Plant yourself in the house of God

Understand God's plan and purpose for His Church, as well as discover who Equippers Church are.

Session 2

Live in a wide, open space

We explore four disciplines that, when we embrace them, actually lead us into greater freedom in life.

Session 3

Be part of something bigger

Our goal is to help uncover your motivational gifts and explore how they can be used to impact the world and serve the church.

Session 4

Step into the flow of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is God's greatest gift to us — He fills us, guides us, and empowers us to fulfil our calling. It's our privilege to conclude the course by praying for you as you go out equipped and ready to engage.

Session 2

Live in a wide, open space

Today we're exploring four disciplines that, while sometimes are seen as limiting, actually lead us into greater freedom in life.

Romans 5:1-2 (MSG)

By entering through faith into what God has always wanted to do for us—set us right with him, make us fit for him—we have it all together with God because of our Master Jesus. And that's not all: We throw open our doors to God and discover at the same moment that he has already thrown open his door to us.

We find ourselves standing where we always hoped we might stand—out in the wide open spaces of God's grace and glory, standing tall and shouting our praise.

God's design for us is to live in freedom

So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don't get tied up again in slavery to the law. (Galatians 5:1)

True freedom isn't about unlimited independence—it's about choosing the right kind of dependence: on our Creator and His purpose for our lives.

Nothing holds us back more than fear, lies, addiction, worry, and insecurity.

Session 2 of Equip explores how you can live in the freedom God offers and reveals some disciplines that lead to a life of lasting freedom.

01 - Personal Devotions

Personal Devotions are foundational for all of us as Christians in knowing God more. It's an invitation to get to know the God who loves you.



On a scale of 1-10 where would you rate your daily devotions currently?

Devotionals aren't a tick box but a lifeline.

We seek the God who is seeking us. (Luke 19:10)

Two simple ingredients for our personal devotions are **reading the Word** and **talking to Jesus** through prayer

A key to connecting with God is to **remove distractions**

But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. (Matthew 6:6)

Learn to close the door on distractions for the time set aside (the people you live with, mobile phone, social media, to-do list, etc)

Personal Devotions

- **Fed us**
- **Build strength**
- **Produce fruit**

Be intentional in cultivating Personal Devotions

Identify a time

- Make is a calendar invite
- Treasure the time

Set aside a place

- It may look different in different seasons
- It could be a specific room in the house, your car, a walking route

Remove Distractions

- Focused towards God
- Rearrange your day so that other priorities aren't competing

Be determined to encounter God

- Write down what stands out
- Journal what God says or shows you



What do your personal devotions look like?



What needs to change?

02 - Praise

Praise is a password to enter God's presence

Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. (Psalm 100:4)

Worship - *our position*

- We acknowledge who God is.

Thanksgiving - *our response*

- We acknowledge what God has done.

Praise - *a proclamation*

- A declaration of who He is. Nothing to do with us.

Praise orders my life

- It puts things in perspective, I remind myself who God is
- It lifts our eyes off our situation and onto God (Psalm 121:1-2)

Praise is always a choice

- Like a garment we need to embrace wearing (Isaiah 61:3)
- We choose to praise, whether we *feel* like it or not (Psalm 118:24)
- Praise is a sacrifice, an offering to God (Hebrews 13:15)
- It should cost us (2 Samuel 24:24, Luke 7:36-50)

Praise brings breakthrough

- It makes a way in impossible situations (Acts 16:16-40)
- Our first line of attack, not last line of defence (2 Chronicles 20)

Praising God can seem difficult—perhaps because it's;

- an **EXTRAORDINARY** response
- an **EXTROVERTED** display
- an **EMOTIONAL** activity

Praise is not a personality type

- It requires us to step outside of our comfort zone.
- It requires us to be unashamed in our response to God.
- It requires us to engage with more than just our mind.

We put aside our preferences to give God our all.

Q How do you feel about putting on the 'Garment of Praise'?

03 - Giving

Giving in a 'given'

In the middle of Jesus' 'Sermon on the Mount' he teaches about what some people call the 'Holy Habits' - he says "when you pray", "when you fast", and "when you give". They are assumptions - that, as followers on Jesus, these are things you just do.

We are STEWARDS of what God has given us

We are given stewardship, not ownership

Everything belongs to God.

The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him. (Psalm 24:1)

We're ENTRUSTED with what God has given us

Money is not an end in itself, it's a TOOL

When put to good use, money can accomplish great things

Here's the lesson: Use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends. Then, when your possessions are gone, they will welcome you to an eternal home. (Luke 16:9)

Money is a great servant but a terrible master.

No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money. (Matthew 6:24)

Money reveals our PRIORITIES

When we look at the flow of our money, we can quickly realise where the priority of our life is.

Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.
(Matthew 6:21)

Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. (Matthew 6:33)

When God, His Kingdom and His Church are our priority, it's natural to see our finances reflect this.

God loves a person who gives cheerfully

Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. (2 Corinthians 9:6-8)

Tithing

We believe in the **PRINCIPAL** and the **POWER** of tithing

The word '*tithe*' means '*a tenth*'

We return to God the first 10% of everything we have

**When we give God our FIRST and our BEST,
we can trust him with the REST.**

God says 'put me to the test'

Should people cheat God? Yet you have cheated me!

But you ask, 'What do you mean? When did we ever cheat you?'

You have cheated me of the tithes and offerings due to me. You are under a curse, for your whole nation has been cheating me. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test! Your crops will be abundant, for I will guard them from insects and disease. Your grapes will not fall from the vine before they are ripe," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies. "Then all nations will call you blessed, for your land will be such a delight," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies. (Malachi 3:8-12)

The rewards of tithing

- **We're PART of resourcing God's house**
- **We're POSITIONED to receive God's blessing**
- **We're PROTECTED from the work of 'the devourer'**

Impact Offering

Impact Offering is our Annual opportunity to go above and beyond with our giving at Equippers Church.

Impact Offering helps us to '**Accelerate Kingdom opportunities as opportunities arise**' - in other words, when a need presents itself, we're in a position to respond.

You can find out more at equippers.co.uk/impact

How to Give

There are many ways to give. You'll find that we don't pass a bucket along the rows on Sundays anymore, most people give online.

Here are a few options; **by Credit/Debit Card, by Bank Transfer, by Standing Order.**

Find out more information at equippers.co.uk/give

04 - eGroups

eGroups are a really important expression of us being 'together, together'.

We need big gatherings, we also need smaller gatherings.

Jesus modelled this;

- He has **3** close friends (Peter, James and John)
- He spent a lot of time with the **12** disciples
- He preached to **1000s** of people in the crowds

Jesus ministered to the crowds but he disciplined people in small groups.

Modelled in the Early Church (Acts 20:20, Acts 2:46)

Taught by Paul in Ephesians (Ephesians 4:11-12, 16)

eGroups are where we **do life** together and are **KNOWN**

"Church is not a place where everyone knows everyone, but where everyone is known by someone."

"We're a small church with a lot of people"

"Equippers is a whole group of friends, challenging one another to go higher in Christ"

How to find an eGroup

There are lots of different groups meeting throughout the week at Equippers - and there's one just for you!

If you'd like to join an eGroup, here are some next steps;

- Speak to your Equip Course host
- Head to the Connection Point on Sunday
- **Complete this form** and our team will get in touch