

# Encounters with God

A series of eight devotional guides designed to help those who are considering involvement in Navigators Church Ministries (NCM) to prayerfully explore this opportunity.

Is God Calling You Toward  
**NAVIGATORS CHURCH  
MINISTRIES?**



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# ENCOUNTERS WITH GOD

## Introduction

Welcome.

Thank you for embarking on a journey to prayerfully consider your possible association with Navigators Church Ministries (NCM). To aid in your decision, we have developed the following devotional study guides. The guides, “Encounters with God,” are rooted in Scripture and express the heart and culture of The Navigators and its NCM ministry. We pray that you will be as excited about this journey as we are in sharing it.

In addition to the devotional guides, an NCM mentor will walk with you through this process. Discussions with the mentor will give you an opportunity to clarify any questions, discuss personal and ministry applications, and gain insight from the perspective of an NCM practitioner.

Each devotion is designed to take about two hours and can be completed in a single session or in several sessions. You and your mentor will schedule several discussions, based upon your situation, preferences, and ministry needs. Discussions will be scheduled after completion of each unit or after a group of two to three units. The study completion timeline will be developed through conversations and agreement between you and your mentor.

Our prayer as you explore this material is that God would reveal to you whether NCM is the team and The Navigators is the organization where He desires you to co-labor. Is NCM a good fit for you to be challenged, encouraged, supported, and equipped in living your life in Christ and on His mission?

In these devotional study guides you will find the words “laborer” and “disciplemaker” used interchangeably and often. It is probably best that we define these terms up front. We, The Navigators, consider ourselves to be “laborers” or “disciplemakers” within His harvest fields. The U.S. Navigator leadership has defined a “laborer” or “disciplemaker” as a person who is living out the following five characteristics:

- Walking with Jesus
- Knowing and living the Scriptures
- Participating in community

- Engaging with those who do not know Jesus
- Reproducing spiritual generations

None of us within NCM lives out all five characteristics fully, but we seek to grow in our personal love of Christ, Scripture, others, and His Church. We are committed to living these five characteristics in our own lives and helping others to do the same.

Again, thank you for taking the time to journey with us through “Encounters with God.” We pray it will help you get to know our NCM hearts and culture and to hear from the Lord regarding your possible future involvement.

# Unit #1

## The NCM Navigator is on a Journey Toward ...

... a growing passion to know, love, and become like Jesus Christ.

... a growing knowledge of the truth and sufficiency of the Scriptures for the whole of life.

### Pray

Ask God to help you see His perspective about your present walk with Him. Ask Him to guide you in discerning your readiness to serve as an NCM Navigator, particularly as it relates to your own connection with Him.

### Devotional Reading

Spend some time reading and praying through the following passages. Let these familiar parts of God's Word soak into you anew and help you take a fresh look at your own response to Jesus' invitation to **follow Him**, to **take up your cross daily**, and to **remain in Him**. How is your walk with the Lord really going?

(We've left some space beside and below each passage where you can write your thoughts, your feelings, and your responses to God's Word.)

#### Matthew 4:18-22

<sup>18</sup> As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup> "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." <sup>20</sup> At once they left their nets and followed him.

<sup>21</sup> Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee,

preparing their nets. Jesus called them,<sup>22</sup> and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

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### **Luke 9:18-27**

<sup>18</sup> Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, “Who do the crowds say I am?”

<sup>19</sup> They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life.”

<sup>20</sup> “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

Peter answered, “The Christ of God.”

<sup>21</sup> Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone. <sup>22</sup> And he said, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.”

<sup>23</sup> Then he said to them all: “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. <sup>24</sup> For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. <sup>25</sup> What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self? <sup>26</sup> If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. <sup>27</sup> I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God.”

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## John 15:1-17

<sup>1</sup> “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

<sup>5</sup> “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. <sup>8</sup> This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

<sup>9</sup> “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.

<sup>10</sup> If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup> My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command. <sup>15</sup> I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

<sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. <sup>17</sup> This is my command: Love each other.”

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## Exploratory Questions

1. What does it look like for someone to be a **dedicated follower** of Jesus Christ?

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2. How do you feel you are doing as such a follower?

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3. What does it look like for someone to have a **vibrant and intimate walk** with Christ?

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4. How would you describe your present walk with the Lord?

What is strong about your walk, and what is weak?

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5. What are some areas where you sense God leading you toward further growth?

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### Your Walk Matters

A key role of an NCM Navigator is helping strengthen the devotional lives of church leaders. This is done by personal modeling and vulnerability, life-to-life encouragement and exhortation, and teaching and leading seminars such as *The Invitation*.

Therefore, to serve effectively, an NCM Navigator needs to have an active, personal walk with the Lord.



## Devotional Reading

### Ezra 7:8-10

<sup>8</sup> Ezra arrived in Jerusalem in the fifth month of the seventh year of the king.  
<sup>9</sup> He had begun his journey from Babylon on the first day of the first month, and he arrived in Jerusalem on the first day of the fifth month, for the gracious hand of his God was on him. <sup>10</sup> For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the Lord, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel.

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### Joshua 1:1-11

<sup>1</sup> After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: <sup>2</sup> "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. <sup>3</sup> I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. <sup>4</sup> Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Great Sea on the west. <sup>5</sup> No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.

<sup>6</sup> "Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. <sup>7</sup> Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. <sup>8</sup> Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. <sup>9</sup> Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

<sup>10</sup> So Joshua ordered the officers of the people: <sup>11</sup> “Go through the camp and tell the people, ‘Get your supplies ready. Three days from now you will cross the Jordan here to go in and take possession of the land the Lord your God is giving you for your own.’”

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## **Luke 8:1-15**

<sup>1</sup> After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, <sup>2</sup> and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; <sup>3</sup> Joanna the wife of Cuza, the manager of Herod’s household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means.

<sup>4</sup> While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable: <sup>5</sup> “A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. <sup>6</sup> Some fell on rock, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. <sup>7</sup> Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. <sup>8</sup> Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown.”

When he said this, he called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

<sup>9</sup> His disciples asked him what this parable meant.

<sup>10</sup> He said, “The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that,

“though seeing, they may not see;  
though hearing, they may not understand.’”

<sup>11</sup> “This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. <sup>12</sup> Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.

<sup>13</sup> Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away.

<sup>14</sup> The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life’s worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. <sup>15</sup> But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.”

## Exploratory Questions

6. How has God’s Word influenced your life? How have you experienced healing and transformation through it? Where have you seen it strengthen you in your ministry?

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7. The Navigators ministry has always been very focused on helping people grow in their ability to experience God’s Word deeply. We all need help to “hear the word, retain it, and by persevering, produce a crop.” (Luke 8:15) So in our Navigator ministries we teach people to “grasp” their Bible better by learning and practicing the disciplines of hearing, reading, studying, memorizing, and meditating on the Scriptures. (The “Hand Illustration” shown on page 13 is a classic instructional diagram that The Navigators use to help people remember these disciplines and understand how they work best when practiced together.) Take a few minutes now to consider your current level of personal interaction with God’s Word.

- a. As you spent time in Luke 8, which of the subjects in the parable do you identify with most in terms of your current intake and retention of God’s Word?

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b. In what ways could you improve your “grasp” of the Scriptures and be more like the good soil?

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c. How would you describe your comfort level and competency in teaching others to hear, read, study, memorize, and meditate on God’s Word?

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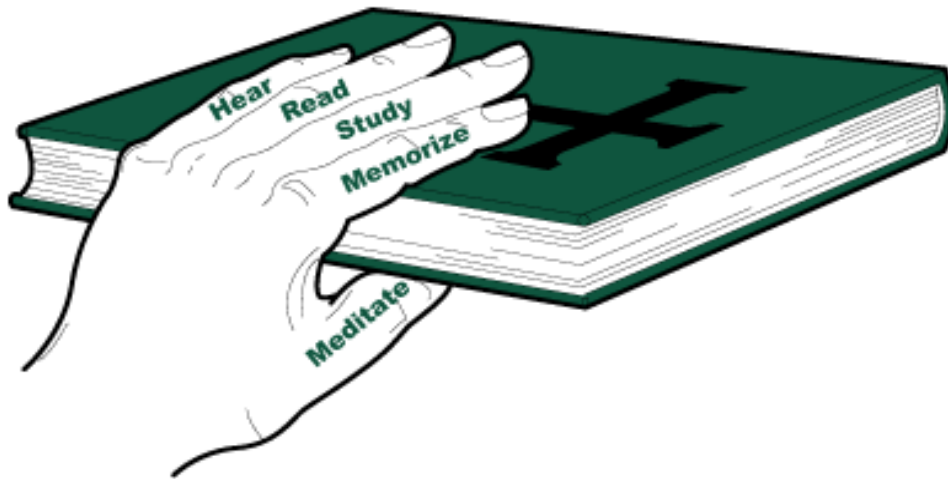
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8. How would you summarize your beliefs regarding the truth and sufficiency of the Scriptures and their relevance to one’s life?

# The Hand



The Hand illustrates five ways that we can get a grasp of the Word of God. Each one of them is important and vital to our growth in Christ.

## **Hearing**

God has called leaders to preach and teach the Bible to us. Each of us needs the instruction and encouragement of Hearing the Word taught on a regular basis.

## **Reading**

In order to gain an understanding of God's work and plan from beginning to end, we must read the Bible. The whole Bible can be read in as little as 80 hours by the average reader. Reading the Bible gives us breadth.

## **Studying**

Studying the Word gives us insight into the meaning of God's message to us. Studying the Word gives us depth.

## **Memorizing**

Choosing select passages and Memorizing the Word is valuable both for our own personal growth but also for ministry to others. We can share the gospel message with those who don't know Christ and share the Word with fellow believers.

## **Meditation**

Meditation on God's Word is the thumb of the Hand. The thumb is able to touch each of the fingers. Likewise we can meditate on the Word as we hear it taught, read through it, study it and memorize it. Meditation is considering the implications of God's Word for our own lives. It is reflection on the Word for the purpose of personal application.

## Five Characteristics of a Laborer

Laborers/Disciplemakers are those with the interest, intent, and commitment to live out these five characteristics:

- Walking with Jesus
- Knowing and living the Scriptures
- Participating in community
- Engaging with those who don't know Christ
- Reproducing spiritual generations

The U.S. Navigator leadership defines a laborer/disciplemaker as a person who is living out these five characteristics. None of us in Navigators Church Ministries lives out all five characteristics fully or all the time. But we are seeking to grow in our personal love of Christ and of the Scriptures and influencing others to do so. We are committed to these five characteristics and to helping others do the same.

As you review this list of characteristics, how do these characteristics strike you?

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What questions do you have about this list?

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How do you assess your readiness for a ministry where your personal walk with Christ and your commitment to the Scriptures will be especially visible to others and are essential ingredients for successful ministry to church leaders and members?

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# Unit #2

## The NCM Navigator Is on a Journey Toward ...

... being a fruitful disciplemaker who ministers among lost and broken people and helps them experience salvation and become fruitful disciplemakers—thus reproducing spiritual generations.

### Pray

Ask God to give you new insight and inspiration about reaching the lost and broken and helping them grow as disciples of Christ.

### Devotional Reading

Since our beginnings in the 1930's, The Navigators has been very focused on reaching the lost, helping them grow as disciples, and nurturing them to yield spiritual generations of disciplemakers. Below are a few Scriptures that direct us to advance the gospel and make disciples who make still more disciples. Take a few minutes to slowly review and listen deeply to these important verses. (We've left some space beside each passage where you can write your thoughts, feelings, or responses to God's Word.)

#### Matthew 13:24-30

<sup>24</sup> Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. <sup>25</sup> But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. <sup>26</sup> When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. <sup>27</sup> "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?' <sup>28</sup> "An enemy did this," he replied. "The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' <sup>29</sup> "No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them. <sup>30</sup> Let both grow together until the harvest.



At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.”

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## **1 Peter 2:12, 3:15-16**

<sup>12</sup> Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

<sup>15</sup> But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, <sup>16</sup> keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

## **Matthew 28:16-20**

<sup>16</sup> Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

## **2 Timothy 2:1-2**

<sup>1</sup> You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.

## Exploratory Questions

1. As you read these passages, what were a few of the highlights and key takeaways for you?

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2. What has been your experience with personal evangelism? What fruit have you seen from it? What key lessons have you learned?

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3. How are you currently building relational bridges with unsaved people? To what extent do you feel your current lifestyle can be characterized as one of “living and ministering among the lost”?

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### How are NCM Navigators Personally Involved in Evangelism and Disciplemaking?

A key role of an NCM Navigator is helping to strengthen the discipling skills and practices of church leaders and members. This occurs through direct personal discipleship, group-level training (such as leading the Discipling Others Seminar or a small-group study using *The 2:7 Series* or *The Ways of the Alongsider*), and by helping shape various ministries in the church so that they better foster discipleship and create a conducive environment marked by love, trust, life-to-life ministry, and through integration of the spiritual disciplines.

In all these activities, being personally obedient to our biblical mandate to share the gospel and make disciples enables us to be more credible and relevant as we engage and train others to live out the Great Commission.

4. What has been your experience being disciplined by someone?

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5. What has been your experience in personally disciplining someone? Successes? Failures? To what extent have you seen spiritual reproduction occur through those you have helped?

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6. Most disciples who are familiar with church settings will recognize the need to hold events that welcome unbelievers to come to church to hear the gospel. But for some the idea of going to their unbelieving friends outside of the church for gospel conversations may be less comfortable. Investing in your community by doing good among those who inhabit your everyday life can give us the opportunity to develop relationships outside the four walls of the church that will lead to those gospel conversations. How do you balance these come-to, go-to, and do-good perspectives in your efforts to impact your community in outreach?

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7. What are some ways in which you need to grow in order to be a more effective discipler?

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8. Review the NCM Navigator Description Statement:

*An NCM Navigator is on a journey toward being a fruitful discipler who ministers among lost and broken people and helps them experience salvation and become fruitful disciplers – thus reproducing spiritual generations.*

How accurately does this statement reflect your experience and fruitfulness as a discipler? Do you see yourself fitting well into an organization which is very focused on this aspect of ministry? Ask God to give you wisdom and discernment to see His perspective in this key area of ministry alignment.

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# Unit #3

## The NCM Navigator Is on a Journey Toward ...

... living out their love for Christ by co-laboring with God in the expansion of His Kingdom within the local church and community.

... living out their love for Christ by encouraging, equipping, and supporting local church and ministry leaders in intentional discipling.

### Pray

Ask God to open your eyes and heart in a fresh way to consider His love for His people as we gather as His church. Ask the Lord to show you how He wants you to engage in serving His church and helping the body of Christ to unify and labor together in advancing the gospel of Jesus and His Kingdom.

### Devotional Reading

Read through the following Scriptures, noting the deep relationship Paul had with the local church elders. The excerpts from that letter show Paul's shepherd's heart, his longing to protect, and doing whatever he can to teach and warn them.

Follow this thread of Scriptures which demonstrate God's love and concern for the church, and to the advancement of the gospel to an ever-widening circle of neighborhoods, towns, and villages.

### Acts 20:17-32 - Paul's Farewell to the Ephesian Elders

<sup>17</sup> From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church. <sup>18</sup> When they arrived, he said to them: "You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came into the province of Asia. <sup>19</sup> I served the Lord with great humility and with tears, although I was severely tested by the plots of the Jews. <sup>20</sup> You know that I have not hesitated to preach

anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. <sup>21</sup> I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.

<sup>22</sup> “And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. <sup>23</sup> I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. <sup>24</sup> However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God’s grace.

<sup>25</sup> “Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again. <sup>26</sup> Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of all men. <sup>27</sup> For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God. <sup>28</sup> Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. <sup>29</sup> I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. <sup>30</sup> Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. <sup>31</sup> So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

<sup>32</sup> “Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”

## **Ephesians 1:1-2, 15-23; – Paul’s Greeting and Encouragement for the Ephesian Church**

<sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus: <sup>2</sup> Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>15</sup> For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, <sup>16</sup> I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup> I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. <sup>18</sup> I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup> and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like

the working of his mighty strength, <sup>20</sup> which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup> And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

## Exploratory Questions

1. What did you notice about Paul's love for the church at Ephesus?

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2. How would you describe the concern God has put on your heart to love and serve His church?

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3. How has your life and ministry thus far reflected your love and care for the church and the advancement of the gospel to family, neighbors, and friends?

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4. How have you been involved in discipling? Where have you experienced success in this? Where have you experienced challenges?

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5. What concerns do you have about helping churches? Do you have any issues, beliefs, or “wounds” (lingering effects from painful church experiences) which might negatively affect your ability to love and serve the church? Are there areas or aspects of church ministry you would not feel comfortable working within?

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# The Kingdom of God

## The Kingdom of God is broader than just the local church...

### **Daniel 4:3 King Nebuchadnezzar's Proclamation**

How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an eternal kingdom; his dominion endures from generation to generation.

### **Mark 1:14-15 Jesus Begins His Public Ministry**

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. <sup>15</sup> "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

### **Matthew 6:9-13 Sermon on the Mount**

"This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, <sup>10</sup> your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. <sup>11</sup> Give us today our daily bread. <sup>12</sup> Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. <sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

### **Matthew 6:33 Sermon on the Mount**

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

### **Matthew 12:25-30 Jesus Teaching on the Kingdom**

Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand. <sup>26</sup> If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand? <sup>27</sup> And if I drive out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your people drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. <sup>28</sup> But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. <sup>29</sup> "Or again, how can anyone enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man?"

Then he can rob his house.<sup>30</sup> “He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters.”

6. What similarities and distinctions do you see between the Kingdom of God and the church?

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7. What are the implications of the Kingdom of God for how ministry should be conducted? Consider ideas like diversity, calling, roles in ministry, ministry outside the four walls of the church, etc.

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## Gifts and Experiences

### Romans 12:5-8

... so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.<sup>6</sup> We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith,<sup>7</sup> If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach;<sup>8</sup> if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

### Ephesians 4:11-16

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers,<sup>12</sup> to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up<sup>13</sup> until we all

reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. <sup>14</sup> Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. <sup>15</sup> Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. <sup>16</sup> From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

8. What are some of the abilities and gifts God has given you? Which do you feel will be most helpful in serving as an NCM Navigator?

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9. How have your work and ministry experiences prepared you for NCM ministry? Do you feel you will be able to influence or partner with church, community, and other ministry leaders and help them transform their organizations?

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## Character

### 2 Peter 1:3-11

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. <sup>4</sup> Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

<sup>5</sup> For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; <sup>6</sup> and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; <sup>7</sup> and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. <sup>8</sup> For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.

<sup>10</sup> Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, <sup>11</sup> and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

10. Which of the character traits listed in verses 5-7 above are relative strengths for you?

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11. In 2 Corinthians 12 Paul discusses the thorn in his side and how our weaknesses serve to make us stronger. What thorns or weaknesses have you experienced? In what ways do you think these may enable you to minister more effectively as an NCM Navigator?

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# Faith

## Hebrews 11:1-12

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.<sup>2</sup> This is what the ancients were commended for.<sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

<sup>4</sup> By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead.

<sup>5</sup> By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God.<sup>6</sup> And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

<sup>7</sup> By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

<sup>8</sup> By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.<sup>9</sup> By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise.

### Typical Skills and Competencies Involved in Navigators Church Ministries

Involvement in Navigators Church Ministries draws us into a broad set of arenas and disciplines. This is both exciting and daunting. While no one in this ministry is great at every aspect of it (which is why we try to always work in teams), there are some skills and competency areas which we tend to draw upon most often. Read through the next paragraph and think and pray about which of these are areas of strength and which are areas where you may need to grow.

Each NCM Navigator and local/regional team develops its own style and ministry approach, based on our respective abilities and experiences as well as on the needs of the local church ministry environment. And we all find ourselves being stretched in our faith as we work beyond our means and abilities to help build the Kingdom of God. This is the wonderfully challenging and thoroughly rewarding world of NCM ministry!

<sup>10</sup> For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

<sup>11</sup> By faith Abraham, even though he was past age—and Sarah herself was barren—was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise. <sup>12</sup> And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

12. Abraham trusted God's promises, and we are to do the same (see 2 Peter 1:4 on page 27). How have you demonstrated faith in God's promises during your Christian walk? What specific promises has God made especially clear to you?

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13. It is a difficult challenge to work with a diverse mix of organizations which vary in culture, doctrine, ministry style, form of governance, season of growth or decline, etc. It takes much wisdom, maturity, and selflessness to operate across such a broad ecclesiastical spectrum. Indeed, it takes a great deal of reliance on the Holy Spirit. How comfortable are you entering such a ministry arena and working to produce lasting organizational change? What ministry and/or life experiences have prepared you for such a role?

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14. How ready do you feel about beginning to learn and practice the art and science of Navigators Church Ministries? Sum up how your abilities, experience, and character match up with those required for NCM ministry.

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# Unit #4

## The NCM Navigator Is on a Journey Toward ...

... living out a personal calling to ministry which is in harmony with the Calling of The Navigators,

... living out beliefs consistent with The Navigators Statement of Faith,

... living out values that are consistent with the Core Values of The Navigators,

... and living out their commitment to the mission, vision, and strategy of NCM.

### Pray

Ask God to help you see His perspective about your calling to serve in ministry. Ask Him to show you whether there is appropriate consistency between your own calling, beliefs, and values and those of The Navigators.

### Devotional Reading

God calls people into ministry in a variety of ways. Sometimes it involves a supernatural means by which God calls a person to a specific role or task. Other times it looks more ordinary, with a person stepping into ministry in response to God's Word and general call, and then experiencing fruitful ministry which confirms that God's hand is indeed upon that ministry. In order to think biblically about your own calling into ministry, first consider how God called a few others. Spend some time reading and praying through the following passages that recount the calling of Moses and Peter. As you read and reflect on these scriptures, reflect also on your own call into ministry.

## Exodus 3:1-15

<sup>1</sup> Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup> There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. <sup>3</sup> So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.”

<sup>4</sup> When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!”

And Moses said, “Here I am.”

<sup>5</sup> “Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” <sup>6</sup> Then he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

<sup>7</sup> The Lord said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. <sup>8</sup> So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. <sup>9</sup> And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. <sup>10</sup> So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”

<sup>11</sup> But Moses said to God, “Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

<sup>12</sup> And God said, “I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.”

<sup>13</sup> Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?”



<sup>14</sup> God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

<sup>15</sup> God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’ This is my name forever, the name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation.”

### **John 21:15-19**

<sup>15</sup> When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

<sup>16</sup> Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me?” He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”

<sup>17</sup> The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my sheep. <sup>18</sup> I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” <sup>19</sup> Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!”

## **CALLING**

1. As you read these Scriptures, what did you notice about God’s call into people’s lives?

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2. How have you experienced God calling you into ministry? The biblical examples above involve overt, supernatural encounters between men and God. Some contemporary missionaries testify to experiencing similarly supernatural and pronounced callings. Others’

callings are less distinct – appearing more as simple, obedient responses to God’s general calling to all of us via the great commission. How would you describe your own experience of God calling you into ministry?

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3. How would you (briefly) describe to an interested friend or potential donor what God has called you to do?

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**The calling of The Navigators is ...**

*To advance the Gospel of Jesus and His Kingdom into the nations through spiritual generations of laborers living and discipling among the lost.*

4. In what ways is your personal calling consistent with The Navigators’ calling? Do you see any differences? To what extent does The Navigators seem to be a good “vehicle” in which you can respond to God’s calling? Ask God to give you wisdom and discernment to see His perspective in this.

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## VALUES

When discerning one's fit with an organization, it is important to consider what values the organization thinks are important. The Navigators have articulated their core values in the following set of statements. As you read through them, reflect on how these compare to your own values.

1. The passion to know, love and become like Jesus Christ.
  2. The truth and sufficiency of the Scriptures for the whole of life.
  3. The transforming power of the Gospel.
  4. The leading and empowering of the Holy Spirit.
  5. Expectant faith and persevering prayer rooted in the promises of God.
  6. The dignity and value of every person.
  7. Love and grace expressed among us in community.
  8. Families and relational networks in discipling the nations.
  9. Inter-dependent relationships in the Body of Christ in advancing the Gospel.
5. Which of the values above resonate with you or stir your heart the most? Which resonate with you least? Do you have any key ministry values that are not listed here?

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6. How would you describe the alignment of your own ministry values with those of The Navigators? Are you excited about these things that The Navigators are excited about?

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## BELIEFS / STATEMENT OF FAITH

In addition to comparing values, one should, of course, also compare one's core beliefs with those of the ministry organization being considered. The Navigators holds several core beliefs that form the foundation of our ministry. Read through these beliefs and reflect on their consistency with your own beliefs.

### **We Believe:**

- That the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are inspired by God and inerrant in the original writings, and that they are of supreme and final authority in faith and life.
- In one God, the Creator; eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- That Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, and that He was and remains true God and true man.
- That God created Adam and Eve in the divine image; that they sinned, and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God; and that, as a result of Adam's sin, all human beings are now born with a sinful nature and stand guilty before God.
- That the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice; and that all who believe in Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood.
- In the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord, in His ascension into Heaven, and in His present life there for us, as High Priest and Advocate.
- In the blessed hope of the personal and imminent return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
- That all who by faith receive the Lord Jesus Christ are born again of the Holy Spirit and thereby become children of God.
- That the Holy Spirit indwells and gives spiritual life to all believers, enables them to understand biblical truth, empowers them for godly living, and equips them for service and witness.
- In the bodily resurrection of the just and unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved, and the everlasting punishment of the lost.

7. How would you describe the alignment of the beliefs of The Navigators with your own beliefs? Do you see any important differences?

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## MISSION, VISION, STRATEGY

The Bible is full of missions, visions, and strategies. Think of Noah, Moses, Joshua, Jonah, David, Nehemiah, Peter, Paul and, of course, Jesus. Each had one or more clear missions before them and their own unique responses to those missions. We believe God has given NCM a specific mission related to serving churches and advancing the gospel. Let's now review a biblical instance of mission and allow God's Word to speak directly to our hearts and minds. As you explore the following Scriptures related to Paul's mission, reflect also on your own experiences with mission, vision, and strategy related to the advancement of the Kingdom of God.

### Acts 26:12-18

<sup>12</sup> "On one of these journeys I was going to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. <sup>13</sup> About noon, O king, as I was on the road, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, blazing around me and my companions. <sup>14</sup> We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.'

<sup>15</sup> "Then I asked, 'Who are you, Lord?'

"'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,' the Lord replied. <sup>16</sup> 'Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen of me and what I will show you. <sup>17</sup> I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them <sup>18</sup> to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'"

## Romans 15:14-20

<sup>14</sup> I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another. <sup>15</sup> I have written you quite boldly on some points, as if to remind you of them again, because of the grace God gave me <sup>16</sup> to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles with the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

<sup>17</sup> Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God. <sup>18</sup> I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done— <sup>19</sup> by the power of signs and miracles, through the power of the Spirit. So from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ.

<sup>20</sup> It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation.

8. As you read the above passages, what stood out to you about Paul's ministry mission, vision, and strategy?

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9. In your ministry or life experiences, when have you been involved in an endeavor which had an especially clear mission, vision, and/or strategy? How did it feel? What happened as a result?

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10. What is your ministry mission? What are you motivated to accomplish?

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### **The U.S. Navigators “God-Sized Goal” and the characteristics of a disciplemaker**

The goal of the U.S. Navigators is: “By 2030, our goal is to have one million multiplying disciplemakers living and discipling together among the lost in the U.S. and to the ends of the earth.”

Disciplemakers are those with the intent and commitment to live out these five characteristics:

- Walking with Jesus
- Knowing and living the Scriptures
- Participating in community
- Engaging with those who don't know Christ
- Reproducing spiritual generations

11. Does the U.S. Navigators goal of identifying and training one million disciplemakers by 2030 interest and excite you?

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## **NCM MISSION, VISION, STRATEGY**

### **NCM MISSION STATEMENT**

Partnering with church leaders to develop generations of disciples in everyday life—where they live, work, and play

## **NCM VISION STATEMENT**

Every church leader a discipler

## **NCM STRATEGY**

We will accomplish our Mission by:

- Modeling a personal and corporate commitment to our Mission, Vision, and Values
- Training and coaching Staff and leaders in the implementation and development of disciplemaking environments (critical components: Prayer, Teaming, Assessment, Core Mission, Discipleship, Gospel Movement, Kingdom Leadership, Intentional Community, and Life-to-Life)
- Establishing and communicating intimacy with the Lord as foundational for life and ministry
- Partnering with strategic international leaders and churches in developing a world-wide disciplemaking movement
- Helping churches and communities of people develop the vision for growing spiritual generations through life-to-life ministry and equipping disciples who are skilled in living and discipling among the lost
- Recruiting and developing a network of competent NCM Staff and Ministry Partners and leaders in the Body of Christ to accomplish our Mission and Vision
- Linking with other Navigator Missions/Ministries in helping impact cities and communities of people with the Gospel of Christ
- Partnering with key Ethnic leaders and churches in developing intentional disciplemaking environments in their cultures
- Identifying and developing Staff and non-Staff Women ministry leaders to serve local churches and communities of people in developing intentional disciplemaking environments
- Providing resources, tools, and services that empower the church in intentional disciplemaking



12. How does the above strategic direction align with that of your personal ministry? Which parts resonate with you the most? What concerns do you have?

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13. Having read through NCM's mission, vision, and strategy, how do they fit with your own sense of ministry mission, vision, and strategy?

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# Unit #5

## The NCM Navigator Is on a Journey Toward ...

- ... being a team player within the Navigator community by
- ... extending and receiving grace to work in harmony with others,
- ... submitting to leadership,
- ... being teachable and willing to mentor others,
- ... handling an appropriate share of the broader organizational responsibilities.

### Pray

As Christians, our teaming begins in our relationship with the Lord. Therefore, as you begin this time of seeking to understand how God would have you participate in the NCM Navigator team, seek first to align your heart and mind with His.

### Devotional Reading

Next, spend some time reading and reflecting on the following passages which take us into the hearts and circumstances where the early Christians first experienced the fellowship of uniting around a kingdom-building mission.

#### **Proverbs 13:20**

He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.

#### **Proverbs 27:17**

As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.

## **Acts 2:42-47**

<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common.

<sup>45</sup> Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.

<sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

## **Acts 6:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. <sup>2</sup> So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. <sup>3</sup> Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them <sup>4</sup> and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

<sup>5</sup> This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. <sup>6</sup> They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

<sup>7</sup> So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

## **1 Corinthians 12:4-7**

<sup>4</sup> There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. <sup>5</sup> There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

## Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

## Ephesians 4:11-13

<sup>11</sup> It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to prepare God's people for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up <sup>13</sup> until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

## Exploratory Questions

1. How does God feel about teamwork within the body of Christ? Why do you think this is so important to God?

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2. What are some of the **benefits** of being part of a team? When have you experienced such benefits most in your life and ministry? What specific benefits are you expecting to experience from being a part of The Navigators NCM family?

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3. What spiritual gifts and other talents do you see yourself contributing to an NCM team?

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4. There are also **costs** involved with being part of a team. Successful teammates are submitted to their leadership (“Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every authority instituted among men ...” 1 Peter 2:13a). They must also be teachable and willing to teach others. In addition, they must have a servant’s heart and a willingness to carry their share of organizational responsibilities. At this point in your life and career, how willing are you to be such a team player and make these kinds of investments?

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5. The nature of NCM ministry requires that, in addition to good teaming skills, we also be able to work independently to a significant degree. People who are more used to traditional office environments and close daily contact with supervisors sometimes have difficulty adjusting to ministering under less structured, more self-directed conditions. What experience do you

### Learning to Build Environments of Grace, Truth, and Creativity

God longs to reveal His kindness and love to everyone. So He asks us to build loving relationships and communities that release the fragrance of grace and truth to others. All are welcomed as together we pray, share, worship, labor, etc. We creatively grow environments where people can feel safe, be authentic, be affirmed, trust and be trusted, let go of false selves, and embrace truth. In the humility and integrity that comes from Christ, we do not demand performance or exert power inappropriately; instead, we nurture one another and trust Christ to heal us and make us whole from the inside out. We envision these communities becoming environments where we integrate the pursuit of our mission with the ongoing process of living out our true identity in Christ.

In recent years, The Navigators has been working to better understand and implement these biblical principles related to building environments of grace, truth, and creativity. In NCM, we are creating such environments in our own local and regional ministry teams. Meanwhile, we are also helping the churches we work with to grow similarly.

have working independently? How do you feel about the challenges you might face with this aspect of NCM ministry?

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6. How would you summarize your readiness and willingness to be part of the NCM team?

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### **Where Might You Specifically Fit into the NCM picture?**

As you consider possibly affiliating with The Navigators Church Ministries team, several obvious questions are: Where do you fit in? and What role might you play? In this next section we will look at part of The Navigators organizational structure to help you understand where Navigators Church Ministries fits into The Navigators organization. Then we will look at three possible roles that you might play.

#### The Big Picture Navigators Organization

The Navigators organization is a worldwide partnership of international missions and ministries. The various Navigators organizations have a combined worldwide staff of more than 5,000 and serve in more than 100 countries around the world. The largest of The Navigators organizations is the U.S. Navigators that is headquartered in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The Navigators Church Ministries is a subset of the U.S. Navigators.

The U.S. Navigators are focused on developing disciples and disciplemakers life-to-life and encouraging spiritual growth across all life stages. A disciple is someone who believes in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, intentionally learns from Him, and strives to live more like Him. Disciplemakers intentionally help people learn from and live more like Christ by praying

with them, spending time together in His Word, walking alongside them in everyday life, and equipping them to do the same with others.

God is using the U.S. Navigators to transform lives through these spiritual generations. The U.S. Navigators are fulfilling the message of 2 Timothy 2:2: “And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses, entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others (NIV).”

The U.S. Navigators are best known for their collegiate and military ministries. Thousands of college students and military personnel are helped every year by The Navigators collegiate and military ministries. But what happens to these people after they graduate or end their term of service? The U.S. Navigators hope to continue serving these people and to continue helping them maintain and deepen their spiritual lives in the next stage of life, and prayerfully, for a lifetime.

The Navigators Church Ministries (NCM) is one of five Navigators ministries structured to reach and disciple people where they work, live, worship, and play. These ministries focus on continuing to walk with and disciple others after college, the military, or others who are at their “getting started with life” stage. These ministries are organized under the U.S. Navigators mission titled “Disciplemakers for Life” (D4L).

Here is an overview of the Disciplemakers for Life (D4L) mission and its five component parts.



Disciplemakers for Life (D4L) mission exists to help people advance the gospel and make disciples right where God has planted them. This means we serve people where they live, work, worship, and play. We also have ministries that focus on people in their 20s and

on those pushed to the margins of our society. D4L focuses on helping people to integrate all areas of their life within their pursuit of following Christ. We want them to truly be disciplemakers for life. D4L is made up of the five smaller Navigator ministries that are outlined below. Though each of these ministries are led by individual leadership teams, they often work together to strategically minister to a specific local area or to a specific ministry focus.



Navigators Church Ministries (NCM) pursues the calling to raise up, encourage, and train lifelong laborers within the context of the local church. NCM helps churches and their leaders create a culture of intentional Life-to-Life® discipleship within their churches and local communities through coaching, mentoring, and disciplemaking.

In the early church disciples were increasing in numbers “by leaps and bounds” (Acts 6:1 MSG). It’s still happening today as the Spirit uses NCM staff and tools to make disciples who build disciplemaking cultures and trust God for a disciplemaking movement; all of it is rooted in the local church.

But how? Three words: Relationship. Process. Priority.

The NCM team starts the way God does — relationally. God is unquestionably relational. He birthed a nation through a family and later, a movement through twelve friends. Jesus demonstrated the power of relationships, relationships that start small, go slowly, and build deeply. A relational life-to-life approach to disciplemaking is at the core of NCM ministry.

With the relationship comes an invitation to an intentional process. NCM has a biblical and time-tested process to help churches build a disciplemaking culture in their church. NCM staff helps church leaders take biblical principles and apply them to their unique context and local setting. Whether someone leads a church, a woman’s ministry, or a Bible study, NCM will customize an intentional process to make disciples and a culture of disciplemaking that fits that particular context.

Priority protects it all. As our Savior’s final command to make disciples becomes a church’s passion, NCM helps these churches maintain that priority. Disciplemaking can’t simply be bolted onto a church’s list of ministries, it must be baked into everything. NCM helps churches work disciplemaking into the DNA of the church.



Navigators Neighbors (Nav Neighbors) endeavors to help equip, encourage, and empower laypeople to reach their neighbors. Our neighbors are those who live near us, our family, our friends, and anyone else God puts in our path throughout the course of our day. We

want to reach out from our own homes and neighborhoods with the intention of producing spiritual generations of laborers.

### **Who Are Nav Neighbors**

We are a mission with a focus on local communities, neighborhoods, and relational networks. We’re here to connect with those who are all around us. As we like to say, we’re “next door to everyone” and desire to make a difference for good and for God in their lives.



## What Nav Neighbors Does

We are committed to helping people communicate the Good News in their natural contexts. We believe in the importance of **people** (families, affinity groups, other relational connections) and of **place** (neighborhoods, communities, towns, and cities). We believe God is transforming not merely individuals but communities as well. We want to join Him in that.

As **neighbors**, we are passionate about nurturing and developing lifelong laborers who flourish in generational fruitfulness. That's a heavy task, yet we are not alone. For it is by the power of Jesus Christ and through the wisdom of the Holy Spirit who directs our steps that we move toward initiating deeper relationships with those around us. Our vision is to see workers for the Kingdom next door to everyone who are partnering with God and others to transform families, neighborhoods, and communities all across America.

How do we seek to accomplish this? Our strategy is to reach those without Christ, develop them into lifelong laborers who flourish in generational ministry, and help them transform their extended family, relational networks, neighborhood, and community.

## Why Nav Neighbors Serves

We believe Jesus came so that everyone who believes in Him “may have life and have it abundantly” (John 10:10). People need this abundant life that God offers through Jesus. The heartbeat of Nav Neighbors is discipleship. Jesus came alongside a few ordinary people at a pivotal point in history and walked with them so that they might know Him and make Him known. Our goal is to be among those we serve. We desire to show them Christ's love in a truthful and powerful way, that will change their lives forever. “We loved you so much that we shared with you not only God's Good News but our own lives, too” (1 Thessalonians 2:8).



I:58

Navigators I:58 (I:58) is advancing the Gospel of Jesus and His Kingdom among people who live in communities directly affected by systemic injustice. Believing in the power of presence, I:58 mission staff labor alongside local leaders in a process of whole-life discipleship

seeking to renew hope, restore justice, and rebuild communities.

I:58's name is sourced from Isaiah 58. Central to this passage is God's heart for those who are “yoked” by “chains” of systemic injustice. In this passage God promises that if, collectively, we pursue “loosening the chains of injustice...setting the oppressed free,” then hope will arise, and neighborhoods and communities will be renewed. With a preference towards following local

heroes, 1:58 staff and local leaders seek to love God and our communities, crossing the divides of economics and race, by pursuing justice through racial reconciliation, youth programs, business initiatives, advocacy work, re-entry, affordable housing, and more.

Our hope is that God would raise up generations of disciplers who renew hope, restore justice, and rebuild communities in the places and the people who society has put in the margins. Whatever form our ministry takes, the heart is the same as ever: we are passing on the living gospel of Jesus' Kingdom from one generation to the next so that Jesus can bring transformation and wholeness.

We are neighbors, children, parents, grandparents, tias and tios. We are poets, artists, musicians, activists, and community members. We are teachers, ice cream makers, gardeners, engineers, advocates, dancers, landscapers, social workers, and entrepreneurs. We are disciples and disciplers—ministers of reconciliation. We are generation-changers in pursuit of more just and merciful futures that we may never see.



Navigators Workplace – Transforming the worker, the work, and the workplace...

Navigators Workplace (Nav Workplace) inspires and equips Christians in the workplace to serve with excellence, competence, and faithfulness. We long to

see Christians move from merely working for a paycheck to being used of God to make a transformative difference right where they are. We believe that God will use Nav Workplace to transform workplaces for generations to come.

Many spend more than half their waking hours at their job. How can people bring their faith to work? Nav Workplace is about helping people integrate their faith at work and share Christ with their coworkers. Our goal is to bring practical discipleship where people live out their careers; to win spiritual generations in unlikely places, such as financial brokerages, real estate offices, and startup communities. We inspire and equip Christians in the workplace to serve with excellence and faithfulness. We want to help Christian workers be used by God to make a transformative difference right where He has placed them. The Workplace ministries around the country provide a variety of offerings, including monthly luncheons with business people, CEO roundtable discussions, gatherings with diplomats, and Bible studies with Capitol Hill staffers.

Where you live, work, and play...

Investing right where you are. Navigators 20s (Nav20s) aims to keep “20 somethings” engaged in the Great Commission with the peers God has given them—where they live, work, and play.



In Nav20s, we focus on four key areas for thriving in your twenties. With Jesus front and center, we call these areas the Four Pursuits. The Four Pursuits of Nav20s are...

- Christ – Follow Christ and walk with Him with all our hearts.
- Work – Honor Christ in our workplaces, jobs, and professions.
- Mission – Live the mission – discipling among those without Christ, especially our peers.
- Community – Team with each other as Christ-followers of like heart and purpose.

## **There Are Three Possible Roles You Might Play Within NCM... Let's take a look...**

### **A. Ministry Partner – Volunteer – Does not raise financial support**

The purpose of the NCM Ministry Partner role is to allow someone to co-labor in a volunteer role with NCM staff members in advancing the NCM mission and vision of spiritual growth and intentional discipling within local churches and ministry organizations. The obvious benefit of a Ministry Partners' service to NCM is the expansion of the influence and effectiveness of NCM ministry. The benefit of being a Ministry Partner, for the partner, is to allow the Ministry Partner to minister under the umbrella of The Navigators and to increase their ministry effectiveness by their partnership with NCM. NCM Ministry Partners are a part of a local NCM ministry team and serve in their particular ministry calling, implementing applicable aspects of the Growing an Intentional Discipling Culture (GiDC) process within their respective environments. Regular NCM training and development are available to Ministry Partners as needed and desired. The NCM Partner role remains in effect by the mutual consent of the Ministry Partner and NCM. The Ministry Partner role does not include any fundraising or ministry expense reimbursement.

The NCM team envisions hundreds of NCM Partners linked with NCM staff fruitfully serving the Lord in local churches and various local ministry environments all across the nation.

## **B. Navigator Associate Staff Representative – Volunteer – Can raise financial support to cover ministry expenses**

Being a Navigator Associate Staff Representative requires a closer tie to Navigators Church Ministries than being a Ministry Partner. The Associate Staff Representative is stepping into this role as one who has demonstrated a commitment to being a Navigator laborer. The Associate Staff position requires an increased commitment of the Associate Staff person to The Navigators and a like commitment of The Navigators to the person. In making this commitment the Associate Staff person is making a greater commitment to engaging in NCM ministry in their church and other local churches or ministries. The Associate Staff person is making a greater commitment to the local NCM leader and possibly to the local Navigator team. At the same time, the local NCM leader is making a greater commitment to training and to supporting the Associate Staff person in their specific ministry assignments and accountabilities.

With these increased responsibilities and commitments the Navigator Associate Staff Representative will be assigned a Nav ID number and will be authorized to raise funds to cover ministry expenses incurred by the Associate Staff person. The Associate Staff position is still a volunteer position and as such the person does not receive a full or part-time salary. So there is no fundraising for salary. Support raised and receipted by The Navigators can only be used to reimburse ministry expenses.

## **C. NCM Navigator Staff Representative – May be a full or part-time salaried position**

A Navigator Staff Representative requires the highest commitment level of the person to the Navigator organization and family. The Staff Representative, in making this commitment, is embracing all of The Navigator's calling, vision and core values. The Navigator Staff Representative will be required to fulfill all the organizational responsibilities required and outlined in their job description. The Staff Representative will be required to participate in both the new staff training and initial administrative process and then in ongoing training and administrative processes.

Being a Navigator Representative may be either a full or part-time salaried position. But in either case the staff representative is responsible to raise 100% of their ministry budget (their salary and ministry expenses) to include Navigator administrative expenses. Current Navigator administrative expenses are at 15% of funds raised. Their annual budget will be established based on the agreed to salary costs and, in addition, all of the ministry expenses and administrative charges.

If in the end you and The Navigators conclude that your joining the NCM team is the right decision, then you and your NCM coach will decide together which of these three possible roles is appropriate at the time.

# Unit #6

## The NCM Navigator Is on a Journey Toward ...

... becoming familiar with NCM tools that are often used in helping individuals and church leaders catch a vision for being used by God to disciple and train others.

... helping church leaders build discipleship and disciplinemaking into one of the key metrics for their church's success.

### Pray

As you continue seeking to understand how God would have you participate with the NCM Navigator team, ask the Lord to help you become familiar with some of the tools that are often used by NCM personnel in training church leaders and individuals in discipling others. Ask the Lord to help you understand if you would be comfortable using these tools with individuals and with church leadership teams.

### Devotional Reading

Unit 6 is not particularly devotional; it is more informational. The purpose of this unit is to familiarize you with some of the main tools that NCM practitioners use in helping others become disciples and then in turn help others become disciples. Also, there are several links to additional information about these tools. We encourage you to go to the linked websites and review the additional information. There are some questions to consider, but the major consideration here is for you to have a general overview of these NCM tools and to think and pray about your interest and ability to using these tools.

*Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15 ESV)*

As Navigators Church Ministries (NCM) Practitioners we want to be able to please the One who has called us to partner with churches and other ministry leaders. As we consider the

“God-Sized Goal” of one million disciplemakers that we mentioned in Unit 4, having some tools that can sustain our labors and make them more efficient is evidence of wisdom. Over the 50 years of our history as NCM, many tools have been developed to aid us in our work, but in this unit, we’ll explore four categories of tools that address distinct needs of our ministry context.

## **Materials**

This category is primarily composed of books that have been developed in conjunction with our publishing ministry, NavPress. However, the use of these books has been supplemented through websites and training approaches to enhance their impact.

### The 2:7 Series

*So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. (Colossians 2:6-7 NIV)*

*The 2:7 Series*, developed in the early 1970s, is now celebrating 50 years of fruitfulness around the world. It has received multiple updates, most recently in 2020, and has been used in over 48 countries and translated into 58 languages. It’s comprised of three books that each contain eleven sessions. The first book is designed to enable a believer in Christ to experience the basics of knowing Christ and making Him known. The final two books work to establish the believer more firmly in these practices.

More extensive information about *The 2:7 Series* can be found at: <https://nav27series.org/>, but simply put, the purpose of this tool is to help church and ministry leaders produce disciples.

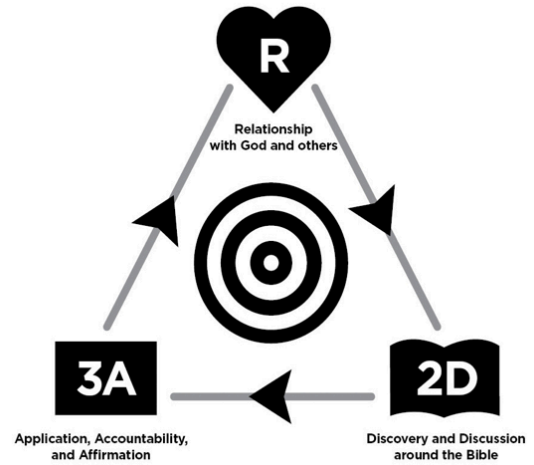
### The Ways of the Alongsider

*The Ways of the Alongsider*, published by NavPress in 2012 but developed over many years of ministry by Navigator Bill Mowry, is a natural companion to *The 2:7 Series*. While *The 2:7 Series* is designed to produce disciples, *The Ways of the Alongsider* helps church and ministry leaders to raise up disciplemakers. This one volume course contains ten chapters, the first four of which build a conceptual framework for the role of the alongsider/disciplemaker. The next five chapters provide specific skills that are utilized by the alongsider, and the final chapter helps to launch these alongsiders into the relational ministry of making disciples.

*The Ways of the Alongsider* is a door-opener for us with pastors. We work through it with them to help them make personal gains in discipling, in the process deepening our relationship with them and their commitment to making disciples. This approach often leads to developing other opportunities with their congregations.

For people to begin to live the ways of the alongsider, a few key conditions should be present. These conditions are represented in this illustration.

1. Bull's-eye. The New Testament portrait of a disciple becomes the target you aim for in making disciples.
2. R. The R stands for relationships. A relationship with God and a relationship with those whom we disciple provide the appropriate context for the discipling process.
3. 2D. There is always an open Bible between an alongsider and the person he or she is discipling. Around this open Bible, discovery and discussion (2D) take place.
4. 3A. 3A describes application, accountability, and affirmation. *The Ways of the Alongsider* is an application journey. Accountability relationships encourage follow-through. Affirmation gives an “attaboy!” that encourages people to keep going.



When you incorporate these elements into the alongsider experience, you increase the probability for change.

More information about *The Ways of the Alongsider* can be found at: <https://alongsider.com/>

Information about some of the other resources we use in NCM can be found at:

<https://navigatorschurchministries.org/resources/>

In addition, a library of Navigator messages and sermons that you may find helpful is available at: <http://www.discipleshiplibrary.com/>

### **The Growing intentional Discipling Cultures (GiDC) Process**

It's possible to think of discipling as a process that takes place between two individuals, the growing disciple and the discipler. This is a valid format that has borne fruit

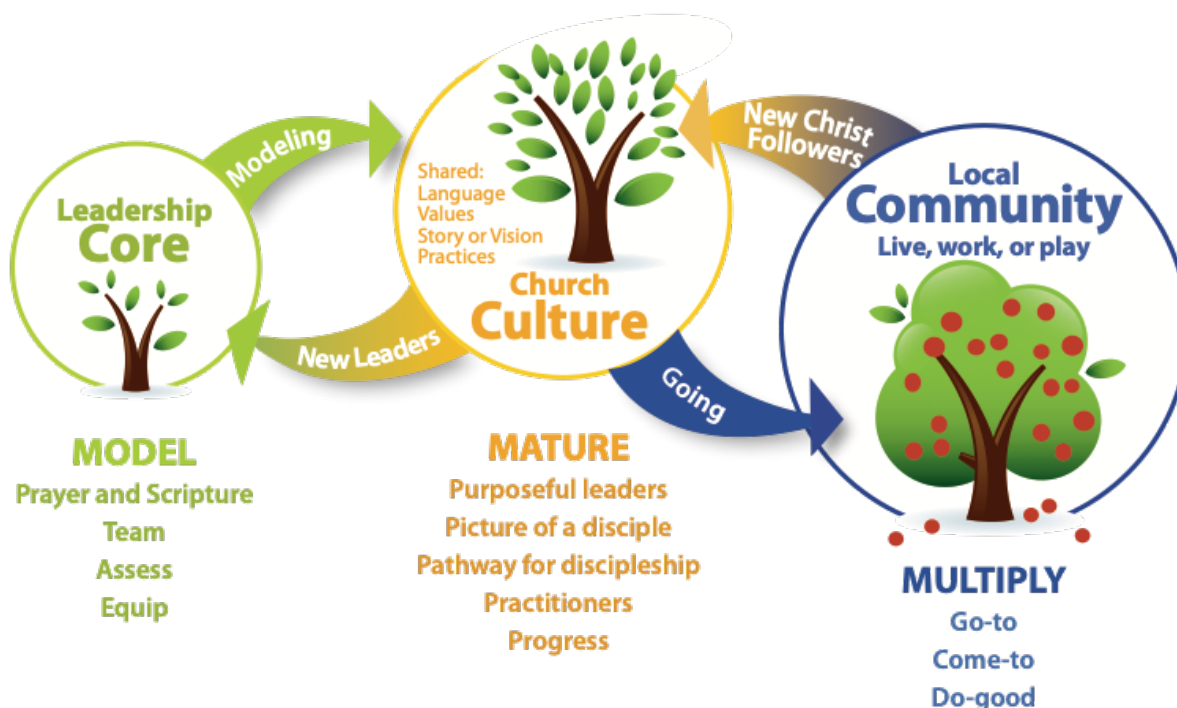


throughout the history of God’s people. But as we consider discipling in the context of a local church, we’ve been moved to consider what a church-wide discipling setting could accomplish. What would be the outcome if every person in your local church was exposed to discipling concepts and practices on a regular ongoing basis? What if discipling was not restricted to a class or program but rather became the overall atmosphere of your church?

While most would agree to the desirability of these questions, shaping such a culture doesn’t come about by accident. It requires intentionally focusing on building models of maturity that can multiply and send disciplers into our church’s communities. The illustration below pictures this process. This is a long-term church change process that usually requires a considerable investment of 3-5 years of partnership between NCM and individual churches.

## Growing *intentional* Discipling Cultures

A process to help churches multiply and send disciples into their communities



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Version 2.0

Please see: <https://navigatorchurchministries.org/what-we-do-overview/church-culture/> for a more extensive explanation of the NCM GiDC process.

## NCM Life and Leadership Coaching

Over our years of serving churches, it has become apparent that church leaders who are facilitating and shaping disciplemaking cultures often need additional development beyond what they may have received in seminary or other in-service training. Coaching taps into an individual's deepest motivations, and then provides them with achievable steps that allow them to more effectively live out God's fullest desires for them.

NCM has invested considerably in a certification and ongoing support function for NCM coaches to be able to provide high-impact coaching for church leaders. This generally involves at least a year of bi-weekly sessions that are often administered by phone. The conversations that take place on these calls help church leaders design action steps that will move them from their current reality into their intended future. Four areas comprise the spheres that are addressed:

1. **Life Plan** (Managing positive change in the various domains of life such as faith, priorities, health, family, friends, finances and service)
2. **Ministry Vision** (clarifying the future direction you perceive that God is calling you toward)
3. **Ministry Plan** (how you intend to achieve the vision God has given you)
4. **Priority Management** (how you execute your intentions outlined in the various spheres above)

Please see: <https://navigatorschurchministries.org/what-we-do-overview/life-and-leadership-coaching/> for a more extensive explanation of the NCM Life and Leadership Coaching process.

## Communities of Practice

As you can imagine, these tools bring tremendous potential for impacting the Kingdom of God. Taking on the responsibility for becoming proficient in using these tools may, however, seem a daunting task for you. We want you to understand that you are not alone in this assignment; specific communities for each tool have been developed both at the organizational level and in more local settings. These communities connect you with cohorts of people who are also learning how to administer the skills inherent for NCM as well as other communities that can be a sounding-board and support for you as you apply them in your local setting.

Currently there are communities of practice for *The 2:7 Series*, the GiDC process, and Life and Leadership Coaching. These groups are fluid in nature, so contact the NCM leader who has provided you with this Encounters with NCM resource for more information.

### Exploratory Questions

1. What tools/curriculum have been helpful in your own growth and in those you've disciplined? What were the strengths and weaknesses of them?

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2. Which of the NCM tools referenced above have you already utilized? What do you sense are the strengths and weaknesses of them?

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3. From your experience, what conditions in a curriculum facilitate transformation of disciples?

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4. What conditions have you seen that facilitate a group of people rapidly growing and moving out in mission for Christ? Where in Scripture do you find encouraging examples of this type of movement?

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# Unit #7

## The NCM Navigator Is on a Journey Toward ...

... fully living in unity with and ministering with the support and approval of your spouse.

... being willing and able to sustain their ministry long-term through good stewardship of the Lord's provision of funds such as through maintaining an adequate team of donors and/or by tent-making alternatives where appropriate and agreed upon.

### Notes

The first part of Unit 7 is for married people considering joining NCM. If you are not married, or soon to be married, then you don't need to complete this part.

The second part of Unit 7 is about fundraising. If you are only considering being a NCM Ministry Partner, then you don't need to complete this part.

### Pray

Enter God's presence and ask Him to show you His perspective about your faith, your abilities, your experiences, your character – and how He may have already prepared you for a role in NCM ministry with The Navigators. Listen for and be submitted to His will and plans for your life and ministry.

### Devotional Reading and Exploratory Questions

Take time to “marinate” in the three Scriptures that follow and the associated questions after each, which will lead you through the themes of (1) our unique abilities and experiences as members of the body of Christ, (2) our character and how it is to reflect Christ's character, and (3) our faith, which enables us to persevere as Kingdom builders despite our shortcomings and the difficulty of our mission.

## Genesis 2:20-25

<sup>20</sup> So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. <sup>21</sup> So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. <sup>22</sup> Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

<sup>23</sup> The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."

<sup>24</sup> For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. <sup>25</sup> The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

## Exploratory Questions

1. How comfortable are you, as a couple, with the clarity of your calling into ministry? How thoroughly have you discussed this and prayed about it together?

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2. At this point, what do you imagine your involvement in NCM ministry would look like in terms of your respective roles and levels of involvement? Are you aware of a couple within NCM that you believe your ministry as a couple would parallel? In what ways?

## Ministering As Couples in The Navigators and NCM

NCM staff who are married serve together in a variety of forms and levels. In some cases, both spouses are integrally involved in full-time ministry work, while in other cases one spouse plays the primary NCM ministry role. We welcome this diversity and recognize that each couple's ministry strategy must take into account the spouses' unique gifts and interests, style of working together and individually, and the family circumstances and stage of life.

However, we also know that a calling and commitment to NCM ministry requires a couple to be unified. This takes focused prayer and careful discernment.

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3. What questions or concerns do you have about ministering together as a couple? What issues or struggles do you think you might face as you partner in ministry?

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**RECOMMENDED REVIEW:**

If you have not reviewed and discussed the material and concepts of these “Encounters with God” with your spouse, then we highly recommend that you do so now. Please take some time to review the material together and talk about the highlights and your emerging sense of the ministry fit between yourself and NCM. Not all spouses are actively engaged in ministry with their spouse, but they need to understand it and be supportive of their spouse in that ministry.

4. At this point in your discernment process, what is your sense of how you as a couple feel about any ministry opportunity with NCM? What aspects of NCM ministry are you most unified about? What concerns, if any, do you have?

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**Finances and Fund Raising**

The following passages provide some glimpses of how God provides for those He calls into ministry. Those who join The Navigators will have a chance to attend a comprehensive training about support-raising, which includes a very extensive Bible study on this topic. This

devotional time is intended only as an initial exposure to God’s Word on the subject and an aide to your discernment about pursuing donor-supported ministry with NCM. As you read these passages, look for patterns in the way God provides, and try to tune in to God’s heart and style in these matters. (We’ve left space for you to write your thoughts, feelings, and responses to God’s Word.)

### **Numbers 18:20-24**

<sup>20</sup> The Lord said to Aaron, “You will have no inheritance in their land, nor will you have any share among them; I am your share and your inheritance among the Israelites.

<sup>21</sup> “I give to the Levites all the tithes in Israel as their inheritance in return for the work they do while serving at the Tent of Meeting. <sup>22</sup> From now on the Israelites must not go near the Tent of Meeting, or they will bear the consequences of their sin and will die. <sup>23</sup> It is the Levites who are to do the work at the Tent of Meeting and bear the responsibility for offenses against it. This is a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. They will receive no inheritance among the Israelites. <sup>24</sup> Instead, I give to the Levites as their inheritance the tithes that the Israelites present as an offering to the Lord. That is why I said concerning them: ‘They will have no inheritance among the Israelites.’”

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### **Luke 8:1-3**

<sup>1</sup> After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, <sup>2</sup> and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; <sup>3</sup> Joanna the wife of Cuza, the manager of Herod’s household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means.

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## Matthew 10:5-11

<sup>5</sup> These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. <sup>6</sup> Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. <sup>7</sup> As you go, preach this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven is near.’ <sup>8</sup> Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. <sup>9</sup> Do not take along any gold or silver or copper in your belts; <sup>10</sup> take no bag for the journey, or extra tunic, or sandals or a staff; for the worker is worth his keep. <sup>11</sup> Whatever town or village you enter, search for some worthy person there and stay at his house until you leave.

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## Acts 18:1-5

<sup>1</sup> After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. <sup>2</sup> There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, <sup>3</sup> and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them. <sup>4</sup> Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks. <sup>5</sup> When Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ.

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## 1 Corinthians 9:1-18

Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not the result of my work in the Lord? <sup>2</sup> Even though I may not be an apostle to others, surely I am to you! For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

<sup>3</sup> This is my defense to those who sit in judgment on me. <sup>4</sup> Don't we have the right to food and drink? <sup>5</sup> Don't we have the right to take a believing wife along with us, as do the other apostles and the Lord's brothers and Cephas? <sup>6</sup> Or is it only I and Barnabas who must work for a living?

<sup>7</sup> Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its grapes? Who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk? <sup>8</sup> Do I say this merely from a human point of view? Doesn't the Law say the same thing? <sup>9</sup> For it is written in the Law of Moses: "Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain." Is it about oxen that God is concerned? <sup>10</sup> Surely he says this for us, doesn't he? Yes, this was written for us, because when the plowman plows and the thresher threshes, they ought to do so in the hope of sharing in the harvest. <sup>11</sup> If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much if we reap a material harvest from you? <sup>12</sup> If others have this right of support from you, shouldn't we have it all the more?

But we did not use this right. On the contrary, we put up with anything rather than hinder the gospel of Christ. <sup>13</sup> Don't you know that those who work in the temple get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar? <sup>14</sup> In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.

<sup>15</sup> But I have not used any of these rights. And I am not writing this in the hope that you will do such things for me. I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of this boast. <sup>16</sup> Yet when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, for I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! <sup>17</sup> If I preach voluntarily, I have a reward; if not voluntarily, I am simply discharging the trust committed to me. <sup>18</sup> What then is my reward? Just this: that in preaching the gospel I may offer it free of charge, and so not make use of my rights in preaching it.

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## Exploratory Questions

5. What do you notice in these five passages about how God provides for those who serve Him in ministry?

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6. If you become an NCM Navigator, what skills and experiences do you have which will be helpful as you begin to raise support?

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7. In what ways do you see the process of fundraising as a form of ministry to your prospective donors and prayer partners?

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### **Most NCM Navigators' First Ministry Assignment Is Raising Financial Support**

As you have seen in this brief devotional, God provides for those He calls into ministry. In most cases in NCM, this provision is through a team of individuals and churches who donate regularly to a given Navigator staff member. Therefore, one of your first priorities if you come on staff will be to raise up such a team of supporters. We will provide you with thorough training and ongoing support in this effort. A several-day training course called NSO (New Staff Orientation) Funding School is conducted regularly at our Colorado Springs headquarters.

I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. (Philippians 4:10)

In this course, you will study God's Word about fundraising, learn principles and methods, and develop a detailed budget and corresponding plan to raise enough support to fund that budget. You will also learn how to present your ministry vision to prospective supporters.

You will find that fundraising is actually an important form of ministry, and in the process you will develop a team of friends and supporters who will under-gird your whole ministry with their prayers, encouragement, giving, and even involvement.

## 2 Corinthians 9:8-10

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: "He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.

8. What concerns or questions do you have about fundraising?

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9. It is especially difficult to set out into ministry when one's personal finances are not in order. How would you assess your ability to manage your personal finances? How is this reflected in your current financial situation? (For example, are you burdened by significant debt and/or an unbalanced monthly budget?)

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# Unit #8

## The NCM Navigator Is on a Journey Toward ...

... hearing the voice of the Lord and making a final decision, with NCM, about joining with the Navigator team, or moving in some other direction.

“What do you want?”

“That’s the question. It is the first, last, and most fundamental question of Christian discipleship. In the Gospel of John, it is the first question Jesus poses to those who would follow Him. When two would-be disciples who are caught up in John the Baptist’s enthusiasm begin to follow, Jesus wheels around on them and pointedly asks, ‘What do you want?’ (John 1:38)

“It’s the question that is buried under almost every other question Jesus asks each of us. ‘Will you come and follow me?’ is another version of ‘What do you want?’, as is the fundamental question Jesus asks of his errant disciple, Peter: ‘Do you love me?’ (John 21:16).

“Jesus doesn’t encounter Matthew and John—or you and me—and ask, ‘What do you know?’ He doesn’t even ask, ‘What do you believe?’ He asks, ‘What do you want?’ This is the most incisive, piercing question Jesus can ask of us precisely because we are what we want. Our wants and longings and desires are at the core of our identity, the wellspring from which our actions and behavior flow. Our wants reverberate from our heart, the epicenter of the human person. The Scripture counsels, ‘Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it’ (Proverbs 4:23). Discipleship, we might say, is a way to curate your heart, to be attentive to and intentional about what you love.

“So discipleship is more a matter of hungering and thirsting than of knowing and believing. Jesus’s command to follow him is a command to align our loves and longings with His—to want what God wants, to desire what God desires, to hunger and thirst after God and crave a world where He is all in all—a vision encapsulated by the shorthand ‘the kingdom of God.’”

*You Are What You Love*; James K.A. Smith; p. 1-2.

## A Final Review and Assessment

As you begin your final review and prayerful discernment about seeking to join NCM and make this calling your own, take a few minutes to revisit the great commission in the five passages below, listening afresh as Jesus calls His followers to dedicate their lives to spreading the good news and making disciples.

### Matthew 28:16-20

<sup>16</sup> Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

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### Mark 16:14-20

<sup>14</sup> Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating; he rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him after he had risen.

<sup>15</sup> He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. <sup>16</sup> Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. <sup>17</sup> And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; <sup>18</sup> they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."

<sup>19</sup> After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. <sup>20</sup> Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.

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## **Luke 24:45-49**

<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.

<sup>46</sup> He told them, “This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

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## **John 20:19-23**

<sup>19</sup> On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” <sup>22</sup> And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

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## **Acts 1:6-9**

<sup>6</sup> So when they met together, they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

<sup>7</sup> He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” <sup>9</sup> After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

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## Exploratory Questions

1. As you review these passages, what thoughts come to your mind?

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2. Describe your feelings about taking a more active role in being used by God in His Kingdom work?

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The Calling of The Navigators is to:

*Advance the gospel of Jesus and His Kingdom into the nations through spiritual generations of laborers, living and discipling among the lost.*

As you read and reflect on The Navigators calling, what are the thoughts that come to your mind?

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3. On a scale of 1 – 10, 10 being high, what is your interest level in becoming a part of the Navigator family and joining that family in advancing the gospel of Jesus and His Kingdom?

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In Unit 5, three possible roles with NCM were described: Ministry Partner (volunteer, no fund raising); Associate Staff Representative (volunteer, raising funds for ministry expenses); and Navigator Staff Representative (employee, raising funds for your salary and ministry budget). Describe which of these possible roles might be the best fit for you.

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4. What areas of uncertainty or concern do you still have regarding your fit or readiness for NCM ministry?

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Now that you have completed this *Encounters with God* devotional series – immersing in God’s Word and prayerfully processing the different aspects of NCM – do you feel you are



ready to apply to either become a member of the NCM Navigator staff or engage with us as a NCM Ministry Partner? Talk to God and write how you feel about your overall fit with NCM and your Heavenly Father's will for this aspect of your life. Use these thoughts to have a discussion with your NCM coach about this final decision.

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We are always very happy when someone hears the Lord's voice, and feels called to join the Navigator family, and makes a decision to move in that direction. We are also happy when someone hears God's voice leading them in some other direction. Our joy comes from our bedrock conviction that God's will can be, and should be, known and followed. We are always delighted when people have that sense of calling and move forward in faith toward whatever God has called them to do, be it with The Navigators, or with some other ministry or calling.

May God richly bless you in whatever you decide.