CHURCH USE AND ADAPTATION AGREEMENT

40 Day Discipleship Journey

A Life of Grace: Learning to Follow Jesus One Step at a Time

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Purpose of This Agreement

The 40 Day Discipleship Journey has been developed to help congregations grow together in Christian discipleship through daily readings, small-group gatherings, video presentations, worship, preaching, and shared spiritual practices.

These resources are provided for use by local congregations. This agreement protects the integrity of the original materials while encouraging churches to exercise creativity and pastoral judgment in adapting the supporting ministry resources to their own settings.

By signing this agreement, the participating congregation accepts the following conditions.

1. Protection of the Participant Book and Videos

The Participant Book, A Life of Grace: Learning to Follow Jesus One Step at a Time, including its standard and large-print editions, and the accompanying video presentations are copyrighted works.

The congregation agrees that:

- The original text of the Participant Book will not be changed, abridged, rewritten, reorganized, or otherwise altered in copies distributed to participants.
- The video presentations will be used in their original form and will not be edited, shortened, modified, dubbed, or incorporated into other video productions without written permission.
- No altered version of the Participant Book or videos will be published, distributed, or presented as an authorized version of the Discipleship Journey.
- Copyright notices and author acknowledgments will be preserved.

These provisions do not prevent participants from making personal notes or leaders from discussing, explaining, or applying the material in ways appropriate to their groups.

2. Permission for Local Congregational Use

The congregation is granted a limited, nonexclusive, nontransferable right to use the Discipleship Journey materials in its own ministry.

This permission includes:

- Printing or reproducing unchanged copies of the supplied Participant Book for use by the congregation’s participants.
- Providing copies of appropriate leadership and small-group resources to those serving in the congregation’s Discipleship Journey.
- Sharing the authorized materials through restricted electronic means with the congregation’s participants and leaders.
- Showing the original videos through the authorized viewing links during church-sponsored gatherings, including small groups meeting in homes or other local settings.

Materials may be provided to individuals participating in the congregation’s ministry, whether or not they are formal church members. Participants may retain their supplied copies for personal devotional use.

The congregation agrees not to reproduce, sell, distribute, publish, or make the Participant Book, video recordings, or complete resource packages available for use by other congregations or organizations without prior written permission from the copyright holder.

The Participant Book and other complete copyrighted resources may not be posted on public websites, social media platforms, or unrestricted file-sharing services. Videos may not be downloaded, reuploaded, or publicly broadcast without separate authorization. Sharing links to the original authorized videos is permitted.

Each congregation using the Discipleship Journey is expected to obtain its own authorization.

3. Freedom to Adapt Worship, Communications, and Preaching Resources

The worship, communications, and preaching resources are intentionally provided as adaptable ministry resources rather than fixed scripts.

Congregations are expressly encouraged to adapt these materials to reflect their own worship traditions, pastoral needs, community circumstances, and styles of communication.

This includes permission to:

- Develop original sermons using the supplied sermon outlines, theological reflections, illustrations, and sample manuscripts.
- Revise or adapt sample sermons to reflect the preacher’s own voice, experiences, illustrations, and knowledge of the congregation.
- Select, revise, rearrange, or supplement suggested prayers, calls to worship, liturgies, service outlines, and other worship elements.
- Adapt announcements, publicity materials, invitations, promotional language, and other communications for local congregational use.
- Adjust schedules, leadership practices, and organizational arrangements to meet local needs.

Locally adapted sermons, worship services, and communications may be used in the congregation’s ordinary ministry, including its customary worship broadcasts, publications, and congregational communications.

These permissions do not authorize the separate publication, sale, or distribution of the original supporting resources, or substantially reproduced resource collections, for use by other churches.

The intent is to preserve the essential purpose and shared themes of the Discipleship Journey while giving congregations the freedom to make the experience meaningful in their own setting.

4. Copyright and Ownership

All rights to the original Discipleship Journey materials remain with Robert A. Stippich.

The limited copying and adaptation permissions granted in this agreement constitute written permission for the uses specifically described above. They do not transfer copyright ownership or grant permission for commercial publication or wider distribution.

Any additional reproduction, distribution, modification, or other use beyond the permissions stated here requires prior written authorization from the copyright holder.

Materials belonging to third parties, including copyrighted music, Scripture translations, or other works, remain subject to any separately applicable permissions or licensing requirements.

5. Congregational Acknowledgment

By signing below, the congregation affirms that it understands and agrees to these conditions.

In particular, the congregation agrees to preserve the original Participant Book and video presentations without alteration, to limit reproduction and distribution to its authorized local ministry, and to use the worship, communications, and preaching resources with the flexibility intended for local congregational adaptation.

Name of Congregation: _____

City and State: _____

Authorized Representative: _____

Position or Title: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____