Path of Discipleship Assessment and Navigation Tool

We believe that God is calling the people of Grace to be committed disciples of Christ and to make committed disciples of Christ. We believe that committed disciples of Christ exercise the five practices on our Path of Discipleship.

Glorify: Discovering what makes God Smile (Worship)
Relate in Small Groups: Enjoy Christian Community (Fellowship)
Apply God's Word: Flesh Out Biblical Truth (Obedience)
Cultivate a Ministry: Serve God and Others (Service)
Expand God's Kingdom: Make Disciples for Jesus Christ (Evangelism & Discipleship)

Path of Discipleship Assessment and Navigation Tool

> *Test yourselves to make sure you are solid in the faith. Don't drift along taking everything for granted. Give yourselves regular checkups . . . Test it out. If you fail the test, do something about it.*
>
> 2 Corinthians 13:5 (The Message)

At GBC, we use the Path of Discipleship as a guide to help us navigate life during our faith journey. We believe that faithful followers of Jesus Christ should seek to balance the five practices of the Path of Discipleship as they Love, Follow, and Share Jesus Christ and seek ways to BRING Joy to others.

The *Path of Discipleship Assessment and Navigation Tool* helps you determine where you are at in your faith journey and helps you form a plan to better engage each of these five practices as you follow Christ. It is not a tool to see how you measure up against other people; nor is it a tool to see how close you are to perfection. We all know we'll never be perfect this side of heaven. Rather, this is a tool that will help you evaluate your spiritual health, and give you direction for developing a plan to balance these five practices as you follow God.

How To Use This Booklet

This booklet is divided into the five practices of our Path of Discipleship: Glorify, Relate, Apply, Cultivate, and Expand. To get the most out of this booklet we suggest you do the following:

1. Take the *Path of Discipleship* Assessment.

If you haven't already taken the *Path of Discipleship Assessment* (page 4), stop right now and take it. The assessment will give you a snapshot of your spiritual health, and pinpoint areas that may be out of balance. This will help you identify the practices you would like to work on and those in which you are strong. We also highly recommend that you tear out the *Friend Feedback Assessment* in the back of this booklet (page 21-22) and ask a friend or spouse to fill it out for you. Just as with your physical health, it can often be helpful to get a second opinion regarding your spiritual health.

2. Find the Practice You Want to Work On.

Find the practice you would like to work on by transferring your assessment scores to the Path of Discipleship *Navigation Tool*. We suggest you work on either the practice with the lowest score on your *Path of Discipleship Assessment*, or on a practice the Holy Spirit may be nudging you to consider.

3. Choose a Crawl, Walk, or Run Step to Get Started.

In this booklet you will find a table for each practice with a beginning step (crawl), an intermediate step (walk), and a more advanced step (run) for each of the questions found in the P*ath of Discipleship Assessment*. Pick the step or steps you want to take for the area you have chosen to work on. You will also find a resource page for each practice with recommended books and practical suggestions that will take you further in your growth.

4. Transfer the Steps to Your Navigation Tool.

Transfer the steps you have chosen to the *Navigation Tool* on page 23 of this booklet.

5. Find a Spiritual Partner.

Many of us start out with good intentions but lack the discipline to follow through with our plans. Make it a point to pair up with a spiritual partner who can help you follow through on the growth steps you have chosen to take. A Spiritual Partner is an individual, usually of the same gender, who is committed on an ongoing basis to helping you deal with life and all that it offers. This person should be a good friend who encourages you, helps with accountability when needed, and actively supports you as you take spiritual risks and face challenges unique to your life. One of your fellow small group members is likely to be this kind of friend.

Path of Discipleship Assessment

Glorify

	Doesn't describe me		Partially describes me		Generally describes me
How I live my life shows that God is my highest priority	1	2	3	4	5
I am dependent on God for every aspect of my life	1	2	3	4	5
There is nothing in my life that I have not surrendered to (kept back from) God	1	2	3	4	5
I regularly meditate on God's Word and invite Him into my everyday activities	1	2	3	4	5
I have a deep desire to spend time in God's presence	1	2	3	4	5
I am the same person in public that I am in private	1	2	3	4	5
I have an overwhelming sense of God's awesomeness even when I do not feel His presence	1	2	3	4	5

Total _____

Relate

I am genuinely open and honest about who I am	1	2	3	4	5
I regularly use my time and resources to care for the needs of others	1	2	3	4	5
I have a deep and meaningful connection with others in the church	1	2	3	4	5
I have an easy time receiving advice, encouragement, and correction from others	1	2	3	4	5
I gather regularly with a group of Christians for fellowship and accountability	1	2	3	4	5
There is nothing in my relationships that is currently unresolved	1	2	3	4	5
There is nothing in the way I talk or act concerning others that I would not be willing to share with them in person	1	2	3	4	5

Total _____

Apply

I am quick to confess anything in my character that does not look like Christ	1	2	3	4	5
A review of how I use my finances shows that I think more about God and others than I do about myself	1	2	3	4	5
I allow God's Word to guide my thoughts and change my actions	1	2	3	4	5
I am able to praise God during difficult times and see them as opportunities to grow	1	2	3	4	5
I find I am making better choices to do what is right when I am tempted to do wrong	1	2	3	4	5
I have found that prayer has changed how I view and interact with the world	1	2	3	4	5
I am consistent in pursuing habits that are helping me model my life after Jesus	1	2	3	4	5

Total _____

Cultivate

I regularly use my time to serve God	1	2	3	4	5
I am currently serving God with the gifts and passions he has given me	1	2	3	4	5
I regularly reflect on how my life can have an impact for the Kingdom of God	1	2	3	4	5
I often think about ways to use my God-given gifts and abilities to please God	1	2	3	4	5
I enjoy meeting the needs of others without expecting anything in return	1	2	3	4	5
Those closest to me would say my life is a reflection of giving more than receiving	1	2	3	4	5
I see my painful experiences as opportunities to minister to others	1	2	3	4	5

Total _____

Expand

I feel personal responsibility to share my faith with those who don't know Jesus	1	2	3	4	5
I look for opportunities to build relationships with those who don't know Jesus	1	2	3	4	5
I regularly pray for those who don't know Christ	1	2	3	4	5
I am confident in my ability to share my faith	1	2	3	4	5
My heart is full of passion to share the good news of the gospel with those who have never heard it	1	2	3	4	5
I find that my relationship with Jesus comes up frequently in my conversations with those who don't know him	1	2	3	4	5
I am open to going anywhere God calls me, in whatever capacity, to share my faith	1	2	3	4	5

Total _____

Now that you have completed the *Path of Discipleship Assessment* and transferred your scores to the *Navigation Tool*, you are ready to take the next step forward on the Path of Discipleship.

Choose one practice from the *Path of Discipleship* that you want to focus on. In the following pages you will find a table for each practice with a beginning step (crawl), an intermediate step (walk), and a more advanced step (run) for each of the questions found in the *Path of Discipleship Assessment*. Pick the step or steps you want to take for the area you have chosen to work on. You will also find a resource page for each purpose with recommended books and practical suggestions that will take you further in your growth.

While you may need to challenge yourself to step up to the task, you also need to be realistic in your expectations, otherwise you might become discouraged and give up. So consider starting off with a crawl step—a target you can easily hit in the next thirty days. Then you can move on to a walk step—a tangible goal that will stretch you over the next sixty to ninety days. Finally, choose a run step—something that will require a leap of faith, but through the power of the Holy Spirit will bring you to a whole new level of spiritual maturity.

When you have selected the purpose you want to work on and the steps you want to take, we encourage you to share your decisions with a trusted friend who can help you stay the course by praying for you and holding you accountable. Don't try to do this alone. Isolation can lead to procrastination. But a loving friend can encourage you if you're feeling discouraged and help you up if you fall down.

> *Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.*
>
> Ecclesiastes 4:9–12, NIV

Glorify

Using the chart below, choose a step you would like to take and transfer it to your *Path of Discipleship Navigation Tool.*

ASSESSMENT QUESTION	CRAWL	WALK	RUN
How I live my life shows that God is my highest priority.	Ask a friend or spouse to help you identify your top priorities. What changes do you need to make?	Spend time reading through the life stories of some of the people in the Old Testament. Journal about the characteristics in their lives that demonstrated that God was a priority. What principles could you implement in your own life?	Make it a daily habit to reflect on your activities for that day. Journal or spend time in prayer over how you saw God in your daily activities. How are your priorities shaped by a recognition of God's presence?
I am dependent on God for every aspect of my life.	Wake up with a prayer of thanks to God every morning.	Read through the Psalms. Note all the times the writer of the Psalms talks about his dependency on God. How do those words describe your own dependence on God?	Fast from food or some object on which you normally depend. Focus on God as you fast, and remind yourself how dependent you are on God for your life. Do this on a regular basis.
There is nothing in my life that I haven't surrendered (kept back) from God.	Take an inventory of your life and note everything you have not surrendered to God. Share your results with a friend. How can you work on these things to surrender them to God?	Set up a plan for giving up one thing you have held back from God. You may need to ask a friend or spouse to hold you accountable to do this.	Regularly fast from the things you have trouble surrendering to God. The "Suggestions" section on the next page lists several helpful tips for fasting.
I regularly meditate on God's Word and invite him into my everyday activities.	Meditate on a verse of Scripture on a daily basis. You may want to take some notes on what you have learned about God.	Set aside time to study God's Word on a daily basis. Pray and ask God for insight into his Word and how it can apply to your daily life.	Memorize Scripture. Choose some scriptures from your daily reading to memorize. Make it a priority to hide God's Word in your heart.
I have a deep desire to spend time in God's presence.	Give God a one minute prayer every day.	Set aside some time to go on a spiritual retreat to be alone with God.	Identify a place you can go to focus on God and worship him. Make it a habit to spend time in this place on a regular basis.
I am the same person in public that I am in private.	Have a friend or spouse complete the *Friend Feedback Assessment* found on page 21-22.	Have that friend or spouse who took the *Friend Feedback Assessment* sit down and explain areas they believe you need to grow.	Set up a regular appointment with a friend, spouse, or mentor to discuss how well you are living a life that is transparent. Allow this person to speak the truth to you, and to hold you accountable.
I have an overwhelming sense of God's awesomeness even when I do not feel his presence.	Study the names of God using the Psalms. You may want to keep a journal to remind yourself what you have learned about God.	Prepare yourself for a worship time using the method outlined in the "Suggestions" section on the next page.	Practice the presence of God in your everyday life. Use the methods in the "Suggestions" section on the next page.

Glorify Resources

Books

The Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren (Specifically Days 8 to 14)

The Way of a Worshiper by Buddy Owens

Awaken by Priscilla Shirer

The Unquenchable Worshipper: Coming Back to the Heart of Worship by Matt Redman

The Air I Breathe: Worship As a Way of Life by Louie Giglio

Small Group Studies (Contact Pastor of Spiritual Development for potential Small Group Studies)

Suggestions

Practicing the Presence of God: Practicing the presence of God involves looking for God in every detail of life. To do this you may want to think of God as ever present in every situation, and remember you are never alone. Look at everything you do not as something you do by yourself, but something you do together with God. Spend time speaking with Jesus as if he were right there with you. Take some time to think about him every hour of the day.

Fasting: The purpose of a traditional fast is to abstain from food in order to focus clearly on your relationship with God. You can also fast from television, entertainment, reading, or anything that distracts you from God. Those who are diabetic, pregnant, or who suffer from severe physical disorders when fasting from food should fast from other things that are not physically damaging. Remember, the goal is to develop a focus on God. In order to fast you may want to consider the following:

- What is the purpose of this fast?
- Begin with something small like one meal or one time slot.
- During the fast, commit the time you would have spent eating to prayer, bible study, worship, etc. Use it as a time to focus on God.

Journaling: Sometimes it is helpful to journal in order to see God's work in our lives. You may want to start a journal that allows you to record some of the victories and struggles you are having. Record your thoughts and feelings as you go through a process of self-examination. Make it a point to review your journal annually to see how God has worked in your life over the past year.

Worship: Find a place where you can worship God privately. It may be a spot outdoors, in the privacy of your bedroom, or even in your car while commuting to work with a good worship soundtrack. Wherever it is, make a habit of visiting this place regularly and worshiping God there.

Meditate on God: Take some time to meditate on who God is and to get a sense of his greatness. You may want to use the Psalms as a guide. Read through a Psalm and note what the psalmist says about God's character and about his experiences with God. Take some time to praise God for who he is and for what he has done in your life.

Worship as a Lifestyle: Make it a point to see every action as a worship sacrifice to God. When you wake, thank him for the day. As you go to work or school, sing praise music or adore him for who he is. Throughout the day, try to commit every word, thought, and action to him as a way of thanking him and worshiping him, realizing every breath is his gift to us. At home, bring God into every activity. Talk with others about the things God has done in your life.

Preparation for Corporate Worship: Spend some time preparing yourself for your church worship service. As you approach the building, take a moment to stop and thank God for your church. Before the service begins, say a prayer of thanks to God. Tell him you are looking forward to meeting him in worship. Pray that God would prepare your heart to worship him. Spend some time praying for the pastor and everyone involved in worship that day. Look around at those entering the church and pray for as many as you can specifically that God would touch their hearts and souls during the service. During worship, try to picture Christ seated on the throne (read Isaiah 6:1–8) and thank him for his sacrifice.

Relate

Using the chart below, choose a step you would like to take and transfer it to the *Path of Discipleship Navigation Tool*

ASSESSMENT QUESTION	CRAWL	WALK	RUN
I am genuinely open and honest with others about who I am.	Have a friend or spouse complete the *Friend Feedback Assessment* on page 21-22. Discuss openly the differences between how your friend/ spouse views you and how you view yourself.	Honestly share your faults and struggles with someone who will commit to praying for you on a regular basis.	Give a testimony to your group or church about how God helped you in your struggles.
I regularly use my time and resources to care for the needs of others.	Pray for a need that someone has. Make it a point to ask them about it when you see them and pray for them on the spot.	Find someone who has a need in your small group or at church, and then meet that need.	Rally your small group to care for someone who has a need. Contact the church for more information on people who have needs in the church or community.
I have a deep and meaningful connection with others in the church.	Attend a worship service in person on regular basis.	Join a small group at GBC	Invite others to attend your small group at GBC
I have an easy time receiving advice, encouragement, and correction from others.	Establish a friendship and share something of your life with that person.	Find a spiritual partner and meet with him or her about a specific issue in which you would like to grow.	Be a spiritual partner to someone else.
I gather regularly with a group of Christians for fellowship and accountability.	Attend a small group weekly.	Invite your friends (people who you spend time with regularly) to your small group.	Lead a small group weekly.
There is nothing in my relationships that is currently unresolved.	Pray for someone you have a conflict with. Make this a regular prayer that will move you towards reconciling the relationship.	Make it a point to seek forgiveness or give forgiveness to someone you have a conflict with.	Mend a broken or hurting relationship in your life, and seek to reconcile with that person.
There is nothing in the way I talk or act concerning others that I would not be willing to share with them in person.	Don't participate in gossip.	Challenge those who gossip to speak with the person directly.	Make it a point to share directly with a person instead of talking about the person behind his or her back.

Relate Resources

Books

The Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren (Specifically Days 15 to 21)

Connecting by Larry Crabb

The Power of Together by Jim Putman

Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Faith in Community by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Small Group Studies (Contact Pastor of Spiritual Development for potential Small Group Studies)

Suggestions

Spiritual Partners: Search out a spiritual partner who will commit to meeting with you regularly and help you grow in your relationship with Jesus. It could be an older person or a peer. Set up a consistent time to meet together. It could be through e-mail conversation or in person. This needs to be a person with whom you can openly share your struggles and ask for prayer, discuss behaviors you need to change and want to be held accountable for, share devotional insights you have learned in your personal study of Scriptures, and talk about general life issues.

On-The-Spot Prayer: Prayer is usually a great way to build community with others. The next time a person shares a need or concern with you, stop right there and ask if it is okay to pray for them. Make this a regular habit, and watch what it does for the level of intimacy you have with the people around you.

Seek Reconciliation: For many of us, there are strains in our relationships that come from false perceptions or hurts we have chosen to harbor instead of heal. Take a look at your own life. Are there any strained relationships? Are you angry with someone else? Are you holding a grudge? Are you mad at God for not coming through for you? Are you always critical of yourself and others? As you reflect on your answers to these questions (there may be other questions you think of), make it a point to seek to be reconciled to people you are separated from because of these issues. You may want to talk with a counselor or your pastor before you seek reconciliation.

How Do You Relate?: What relational problems are unmanageable for you? Are there patterns in your relationships that you repeat over and over again? What bad habits do you bring to your relationships? Many of us experience relational problems due to the ways we relate to others. Make it a point to explore these issues with a counselor, pastor, or spiritual friend.

Ethnic Reconciliation: Strongly consider seeking out relationships with people from different ethnic backgrounds and hear their heartache concerning issues of race and ethnicity. Historically, the majority of our country has not always treated people from a Non Anglo-Saxon background with dignity and love. At GBC, we believe God's heart is for the nations and believe He wants His kingdom to be comprised of wondrous diversity and unity.

Apply

Using the chart below, choose a step you would like to take and transfer it to the *Path of Discipleship Navigation Tool.*

ASSESSMENT QUESTION	CRAWL	WALK	RUN
I am quick to confess anything in my character that does not look like Christ.	Evaluate your character.	Have a friend take the *Friend Feedback Assessment* on page 21-22 and get feedback on the results.	Find a spirtual partner and establish a relationship of accountability.
A review of how I use my finances shows that I think more about God and others than I do about myself.	Give something to the church or someone in need.	Give the first 10% of your income to your church on a regular basis.	Give from your abundance above the first 10%.
I allow God's Word to guide my thoughts and change my actions.	Read one Bible verse a day. Considering asking someone spiritually mature what they get out of the verses you are reading.	Read the Bible straight through like a story or novel. See the "Suggestions" list on the next page for more information on how to do this.	Make a regular habit of studying the Bible in depth. You may want to get some tools to help you or take a class at your church.
I am able to praise God during difficult times and see them as opportunities to grow.	During a crisis thank God for all he has done for you and how he will help you grow through this trial. Share what you are learning with a friend or mentor.	Journal about your circumstances to see how God is working in and through them. Spend some time reminding yourself of his work by re-reading what you have written.	Minister to others through the pain you have experienced by joining ministries at church that specifically focus on meeting the needs of those who are struggling where you have struggled.
I find I am making better choices to do what is right when I am tempted to do wrong.	Examine the areas of your life where you struggle with temptation. What are those areas of struggle and what should you start doing to avoid them?	Develop a plan for handling specific temptation in your life. Find a spiritual partner to help you.	Make confession and repentance a regular part of your time with God. Name the things you have done and commit yourself to making the right choices in the future.
I have found that prayer has changed how I view and interact with the world.	Pray a one sentence prayer from time to time to bring God into your circumstances.	Spend some time praying through structured prayers on a daily basis (see the "ACTS Model" or "The Lord's Prayer" in the "Suggestions" section on the next page).	Make spontaneous prayers a regular part of your day. (See "Flash Prayers" in the "Suggestions" section on the next page).
I am consistent in pursuing spiritual habits that are helping me model my life after Jesus.	Develop the spiritual habit of praying. After waking up, take a moment to offer a prayer to God.	Journal for a month regarding the injustice you see in the world and then spend time praying about how God would have you address the injustice you see.	Commit to practicing regular spiritual habits on a daily basis such as quiet time, prayer, etc. Have a spiritual friend help you evaluate which habits you need to implement.

Apply Resources

Books

The Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren (Specifically Days 22 to 28)

Knowing God by J. I. Packer

Attributes of God by Arthur W. Pink

Woke Church by Eric Mason

Knowledge of the Holy by A. W. Tozer

The Pursuit of God by A. W. Tozer

Just Do Something: A Liberating Approach to Finding God's Will by Kevin DeYoung.

Small Group Studies (Contact Pastor of Spiritual Development for potential Small Group Studies)

Suggestions

Book Study: Choose a book of the Bible and commit to studying it in depth. Read through the entire book a few times. While doing this, get a basic understanding of how the book is structured, what the author's message is, who he is speaking to, what the book's purpose is, etc. Then start with a section of one chapter and read this through a few times asking the same questions as above. To help you in your study, you may want to pick up a commentary that helps explain things verse by verse.

The ACTS Model: The ACTS model of prayer involves breaking our prayers up into different phases or focuses. The "A" stands for adoration. The first portion of our prayers should focus on adoring God for who he is and giving him honor and glory. The "C" stands for confession. A very basic part of prayer is self-examination and coming clean before God about our sin, confessing it, and then turning from it. The "T" stands for thanksgiving. Thanksgiving involves thanking God for who he is and what he has done. The "S" stands for supplication, which involves bringing our requests before God. This model helps us stay balanced in our prayers and attuned to the will of God.

Journaling: Sometimes it is helpful to journal in order to see God's work in our lives. You may want to start a journal that allows you to record some of the victories and struggles you are having. Record your thoughts and feelings as you go through a process of self-examination. Make it a point to review your journal annually to see how God has worked in your life over the past year. Also journal about the injustices that you see in the world. Reflect upon how God might use you to address some of the injustices that you see in the world.

The Lord's Prayer: When asked by his disciples to teach them to pray, Jesus gave them what has come to be known as the Lord's Prayer. The Lord's Prayer is a model of prayer that can be broken up into six R's. The first three R's deal with prayers directed toward God. They are: Remember the Lord is near (*"Our Father in heaven"*—Matthew 6:9), Reflect on who God is (*"hallowed be your name"*—Matthew 6:9), and Refocus our lives toward his Kingdom and His will (*"your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven"*—Matthew 6:10). The second three R's deal with prayers for our needs. They are: Request the needs you have for today (*"Give us today our daily bread"* —Matthew 6:11), Repent of the sins you have committed (*"Forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors"*—Matthew 6:12), and Rest in God's deliverance and presence in times of temptation (*"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one"*—Matthew 6:13).

Flash Prayers: Frank Laubach talked about "flashing" prayers at anyone you meet. He explained how he would pray silently for those he came into contact with and ask for God's joy and presence in their lives. He would "flash" these prayers at anyone he saw, people on the bus, the street, in a plane, etc. Take some time to experiment with this approach to prayer. At church you may want to flash prayers at those you pass by or see in the worship center. In every instance ask for God's joy and presence in the person's life. Then look for the response. Do you notice a difference in them?

The Bible as Story: For many people Scripture can become dry because it is read like an encyclopedia. Take some time to read the Bible like a novel. Start at the beginning and read it straight through. Instead of looking for something to apply that day, look for overall themes and indications of what God is like and how he interacts with people.

Money Management: Take some time to look over how you manage your money. If you don't have a budget you may want to establish one. Spend some time praying over what God wants you to do with the money he has given you. This will then help you budget with God's priorities in mind. If you need help with this it may be a good idea to see a Christian financial counselor.

Cultivate a Ministry

Using the chart below, choose a step you would like to take and transfer it to the *Path of Discipleship Navigation Tool.*

ASSESSMENT QUESTION	CRAWL	WALK	RUN
I regularly use my time to serve God.	See your family and/or job as a ministry.	Give one hour to serve at your church each week.	Commit to serve in a ministry at church that may require more time.
I am currently serving God with the gifts and passions he has given me.	Volunteer at your church for something.	Commit to serve in some kind of ministry	Lead a ministry.
I regularly reflect on how my life can have an impact for the Kingdom of God.	List five ways your life can impact the Kingdom. Seek a pastor if you need help.	Contact the church and get information about 5 different ministries that need help.	Commit to serve for a year within a ministry at GBC.
I often think about ways to use my God-given gifts and abilities to please God.	Take a spiritual gifts survey to discover your strengths.	Meet with your pastor to discover where your spiritual gifts and abilities can best be utilized in your church.	Commit to serving in a ministry and using your gifts to glorify God.
I enjoy meeting the needs of others without expecting anything in return.	Discuss with a friend five practical ways you can meet needs around you.	Pick one practical way to meet a need and do it.	Serve at the your church on a weekly basis helping fill the needs of the church.
Those closest to me would say my life is a reflection of giving more than receiving.	Serve at your church during the weekday helping out the staff.	Choose a ministry in Akron to serve at 4 times this year (e.g. Haven of Rest, Akron Food Bank, Summit Mission, the IWC). Get your small group to join you!	Take on a leadership role within a ministry that best expresses your gifting.
I see my painful experiences as opportunities to minister to others.	Write out how Christ has healed or used a painful experience in your life for God's glory.	Share with a friend or your small group how Christ has healed or used this painful experience for God's glory.	Share this painful experience with your pastor to see if you can use it to help others in your church.

Cultivate a Ministry Resources

Books

The Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren (Specifically Days 29 to 35)

The Call by Os Guinness

True Spirituality: Becoming a Romans 12 Christian by Chip Ingram

Just Do Something: A Liberating Approach to Finding God's Will by Kevin DeYoung.

Improving Your Serve by Chuck Swindoll

A Heart for the Community by Fuder & Castellanos

Small Group Studies (Contact Pastor of Spiritual Development for potential Small Group Studies)

Suggestions

Join a Ministry: Join an existing ministry at your church that best fits your spiritual gifts, interests, passions, talents, abilities, personality type, and experiences.

Jump in Anywhere: You discover your gifts by getting involved in ministry. If you don't know your gifts and abilities yet, then just find something that sounds interesting and get involved. You'll never know what you're good at until you get started. If it doesn't work out, call it an "experiment" and try something else. *"If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done"* Ecclesiastes 11:4 (NLT).

Start a New Ministry: You may have an idea for a ministry that does not currently exist at your church. Spend some time in prayer to determine if this ministry idea is something you would like to pursue. If it is, then contact your pastor or church leader who is in charge of ministries.

Expand the Kingdom

Using the chart below, choose a step you would like to take and transfer it to the *Path of Discipleship Navigation Tool.*

ASSESSMENT QUESTION	CRAWL	WALK	RUN
I feel personal responsibility to share my faith with those who don't know Jesus.	Meet with a church leader to pray that God would burden you to share the gospel.	Lead your small group through an evangelism curriculum.	Lead a small group for seekers.
I look for opportunities to build relationships with people who don't know Jesus.	Invite an unsaved neighbor over for dinner.	Host a "Matthew Party" with your small group where you invite unsaved neighbors or friends over for dinner, a time of fellowship, or a social event.	Lead a seeker small group based on the Chosen TV Series. Allow those attending to ask lots of questions about Jesus.
I regularly pray for those who don't know Christ.	Identify names of unsaved people and pray daily for their salvation	Ask your small group for names of unsaved friends and hold each other accountable to share your faith with them.	Do a prayer walk through your neighborhood where you walk the block praying for each neighbor and any specific needs they may have.
I am confident in my ability to share my faith	Write out your testimony and share it with a friend.	Lead your small group through a study focused on evangelism.	Volunteer for a local crosscultural mission project.
My heart is full of passion to share the good news of the gospel with those who have never heard it.	Do a prayer walk through your neighborhood.	Lead a seeker small group based on the Chosen TV Series. Allow those attending to ask lots of questions about Jesus.	Volunteer for a local crosscultural mission project. Look for opportunities to speak about Jesus.
I find that my relationship with Jesus comes up frequently in my conversations with those who don't know him.	Write out your testimony and share it with a friend.	Lead your small group through an evangelism curriculum.	Lead a seeker small group at work or in your neighborhood.
I am open to going anywhere God calls me, in whatever capacity, to share my faith.	Pray for an unsaved people group.	Volunteer for a local crosscultural mission project.	Explore serving on a shortterm mission trip.

Expand Resources

Books

The Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren (Specifically Days 36 to 40)

Becoming a Contagious Christian by Mark Mittelberg and Lee Strobel

The Kingdom Agenda by Tony Evans

One thing you Can't Do in Heaven by Mark Cahill

Suggestions

Be Ready to Care: Be ready to care for the hungry or needy wherever you go. Carry gift certificates from your local grocery and department stores like Target or Wal-Mart to give on the spot to those who have need, without worrying about cash. Carry the numbers for local shelters and food services with you so you can help the homeless. Buy an extra hamburger or bagel and share it with someone who needs it.

Community Compassion: Look for opportunities to care for the needs of your community. There are many community programs that help share the love of Jesus through meeting the needs of others. Look for ways to take your faith outside the walls of your church.

Deliver Food: Set aside some time to volunteer at your local food bank with your family or small group. Make it a special day or evening out. Allow everyone to participate in the food delivery process. Go out for a meal or dessert afterwards and talk about how it felt to serve others. How was Jesus seen through your actions?

Serve with International Welcome Center: Visit https://www.theiwc.org/volunteer to learn what ways you can serve refugees in the Akron area. See if you can pull together your small group to serve together.

What's Your Style: You may feel pressure when it comes to sharing Christ because you think you have to "sell" someone on Jesus. Sharing Christ can happen in many different ways. Take some time to explore your style. You could read *Becoming a Contagious Christian* by Lee Strobel and Mark Mittelberg or set up a meeting with one of the pastors at GBC to talk about how to share your faith. You may be more comfortable speaking directly to people about Jesus; or maybe it is easier for you to let it come up naturally in a conversation. Find your style and begin to share your faith with others.

Short-Term Mission: Choose to go on a short-term mission trip. Through these missions trips you get a better understanding of other people's need for Jesus, and a better understanding of the heart of God. Check out the short-term missions opportunities that are available at our church.

Count Conversations: Often we can put too much pressure on ourselves to "convert" someone or have all the right answers. It is the Holy Spirit who converts, not us. All you have to do is talk about the Gospel (see Matthew 28:19, 20). Instead of counting the number of people you have led to Christ, start counting the number of conversations you have with others about Jesus. You may be shocked to find how easy it is to talk naturally about Jesus when you don't pressure yourself to convert them.

Pray for Your Friends: Make it a point to pray specifically for people you know who don't know Jesus. You may want to write their names on a bookmark in your Bible, or in a prayer journal. Set aside a regular time in your day to pray for them.

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Path of Discipleship Assessment and Navigation Tool
Friend Feedback Assessment Instructions

You have a rare privilege! You have been given this Friend Feedback Assessment by someone who trusts you. By asking you to fill it out on their behalf, they are telling you that your opinion matters to them. Most likely, you are a close friend, a spiritual partner, or a spouse who knows this person well, and they know you will respond honestly and prayerfully to this assessment.

Why are they taking the *Path of Discipleship Assessment*? To maintain physical health, we need regular check-ups with a doctor who can assess our vital signs—blood pressure, temperature, weight, and so on. For our spiritual health, we need to regularly check and balance the five vital practices of a healthy Christian life…the practices on our Path of Discipleship.

Glorify: Discovering what makes God Smile (Worship)
Relate in Small Groups: Enjoy Christian Community (Fellowship)
Apply God's Word: Flesh Out Biblical Truth (Obedience)
Cultivate a Ministry: Serve God and Others (Service)
Expand God's Kingdom: Make Disciples for Jesus Christ (Evangelism & Discipleship)

Your friend has already completed a self-assessment in regards to the practices on our Path of Discipleship. But just as with our physical health, it can often be helpful to get a second opinion. That's where you come in. Your role is really quite simple and should only take a few minutes of your time . . . but it could have a life-long impact on your friend. So here's what we are asking you to do.

Pray. Ask God to sharpen your mind and speak to your heart as you fill out the assessment.

Read each statement carefully, and respond to the best of your ability. If you can't answer a particular question because you don't know the person well enough, just give them a "3" for that question. You may want to mark those questions so your friend can identify them when you return the assessment.

Return the assessment to your friend and offer to answer any questions they might have.

Keep in mind that the *Path of Discipleship Assessment and Navigation Tool* measure our health at a particular point in time. It is not a tool to see how we measure up against other people; nor is it a tool to see how close we are to perfection. We all know we'll never be perfect this side of heaven. Rather, this is a tool that will help your friend evaluate their spiritual health, and give them direction for developing a plan to bring balance to the five practices on the Path of Discipleship.

Friend Feedback Assessment

Glorify	Doesn't describe		Partially describes		Generally describes
It is apparent by the way this person lives his/her life that God is his/her highest priority	1	2	3	4	5
This person is dependent on God for every aspect of his/her life	1	2	3	4	5
There is nothing in this person's life that he/she has not surrendered to (kept back from) God	1	2	3	4	5
This person regularly meditates on God's Word and invites Him into his/her everyday activities	1	2	3	4	5
This person has a deep desire to spend time in God's presence	1	2	3	4	5
This person is the same person in public that he/she is in private	1	2	3	4	5
This person has an overwhelming sense of God's awesomeness even when he/she does not feel His presence	1	2	3	4	5
			Total _____		

Relate					
It is apparent that this person is genuinely open and honest about who he/she is, with others	1	2	3	4	5
This person regularly uses his/her time and resources to care for the needs of others	1	2	3	4	5
This person has a deep and meaningful connection with others in the church	1	2	3	4	5
This person has an easy time allowing someone that knows them, speak truth about them	1	2	3	4	5
This person gathers regularly with a group of Christians for fellowship and accountability	1	2	3	4	5
There is currently nothing in this person's relationships that is unresolved	1	2	3	4	5
There is nothing in the way this person talks or acts concerning others that they would not be willing to share with them in person	1	2	3	4	5
			Total _____		

Apply					
This person is quick to confess anything in his/her character that does not look like Christ	1	2	3	4	5
A review of how this person uses their finances shows that he/she thinks more about God and others than he/she does about him/herself	1	2	3	4	5
This person allows God's Word to guide his/her thoughts and change his/her actions	1	2	3	4	5
This person is able to praise God during difficult times and see them as opportunities to grow	1	2	3	4	5
This person finds he/she is making better choices to do what is right when tempted to do wrong	1	2	3	4	5
This person has found that prayer has changed how he/she views and interacts with the world	1	2	3	4	5
This person is consistent in pursuing habits that are helping them model his/her life after Jesus	1	2	3	4	5
			Total _____		

Cultivate					
It is apparent that this person regularly uses his/her time to serve God	1	2	3	4	5
This person is currently serving God with the gifts and passions He has given them	1	2	3	4	5
This person regularly reflects on how his/her life can have an impact for the Kingdom of God	1	2	3	4	5
This person often thinks about ways to use his/her God-given gifts and abilities to please God	1	2	3	4	5
This person enjoys meeting the needs of others without expecting anything in return	1	2	3	4	5
Those closest to this person would say his/her life is a reflection of giving more than receiving	1	2	3	4	5
This person is able to see his/her painful experiences as opportunities to minister to others	1	2	3	4	5
			Total _____		

Expand					
It is apparent that this person feels personal responsibility to share his/her faith with those who don't know Jesus	1	2	3	4	5
This person looks for opportunities to build relationships with those who don't know Jesus	1	2	3	4	5
This person regularly prays for those who don't know Christ	1	2	3	4	5
This person is confident in their ability to share his/her faith	1	2	3	4	5
This person finds that their relationship with Jesus comes up frequently in his/her conversations with those who don't know Him	1	2	3	4	5
This person's heart is full of passion to share the good news of the gospel with those who have never heard it	1	2	3	4	5
This person is open to going anywhere God calls them, in whatever capacity, to share his/her faith	1	2	3	4	5
			Total _____		

Path of Discipleship Navigation Tool for _____(your name)_____

I will share my plan with _____ who will be my spiritual partner

Practices of the Path	Plan	Partner	Progress
What practices are out of balance?	*What do I need to do?*	*How will my spiritual partner help me in this purpose?*	*What progress have I made?*
GLORIFY How I scored myself _____ How my friend scored me _____			
RELATE How I scored myself _____ How my friend scored me _____			
APPLY How I scored myself _____ How my friend scored me _____			
CULTIVATE How I scored myself _____ How my friend scored me _____			
EXPAND How I scored myself _____ How my friend scored me _____			

Path of Discipleship Assessment and Navigation Tool

for use in small group ministries

at

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH

BRINGING JOY AS WE LOVE, FOLLOW, AND SHARE JESUS CHRIST

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