

AUC Ministerial Association

Group Discussion Guide



Growing in Discipleship

“He has showed you O man what is good. And what does the Lord requires of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

Micah 6:8 (New International Version)

‘Love God with all your soul, mind and strength and to love people as you love yourself.’ Mark 12:30-31 (NLT)

Let your roots grow down into Christ and draw up nourishment from Him. See that you go on growing in the Lord, and become strong and vigorous in the truth. Colossians 2:7 (Living Bible)

“So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life – your sleeping, eating, going-to-work and walking around life – and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don’t become so well adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what He wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.” *Romans 12 Message*

“It is true that there may be an outward correctness of deportment without the renewing power of Christ. The love of influence and the desire for the esteem of others may produce a well-ordered life. Self-respect may lead us to avoid the appearance of evil. A selfish heart may perform generous actions. By what means shall we determine whose side we are on?’ Who has the heart? With whom are our thoughts? Of whom do we love to converse? Who has our warmest affections and our best energies? If we are Christ’s, our thoughts are with Him, and our sweetest thoughts are of Him. All we have and are is consecrated to Him. We long to bear His Image, breathe His spirit, do His will, and please Him in all things.” *E G White, Steps To Christ, 58*

“...rather train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.” 1 Timothy 4:7b-8 (NIV)

"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. For we are God's fellow Workers" (1 Corinthians 3:6, 9a).

Growing Disciples

What Is A Disciple?

How Would We Grow One?

What Steps Can I Take In Growing Someone in Discipleship?

The Vision of Disciple-Making

Jesus commands us to make disciples. We are commanded to make disciples not merely adherents as the products of our ministries.

How would you define a growing disciple?

How does your church/es grow people in discipleship?

What factors do you think limit discipleship in your congregation/s?

Six Qualities of A Disciple

- A Supreme Love For Jesus Christ Luke 14:26
- A Total Commitment Of My Life And Will Luke 14:27
- A Complete Sacrifice Of All I Own Luke 14:33
- Obedience To All Christ Commanded John 8:31
- Unconditional Love For One Another John 13:35
- Bearing Fruit For The Harvest John 15:8

Factors in effective discipleship (Greg Ogden):

- Multiplication: empowering those who are discipled to disciple others.
- Intimate relationships: developing deep trust as the soil for life change
- Accountability: lovingly speaking truth into another's life
- Incorporation of the biblical message: creating a holistic picture of the Christian life
- Spiritual disciplines: practicing the habits that lead to intimacy with Christ and service to others

Factors that negate discipleship:

- Unwillingness to call people to discipleship
- Diversion from primary calling
- Rely too heavily on programs for discipleship
- Reducing the Christian life to eternal benefits rather than life as students of Jesus
- An inadequate view of the church (need to see church as a faith growing community as opposed to simply a building, service or institution)
- No clear pathway

- Lack of personal discipling

Six reasons we fail in Discipleship (Gilliam – from Malphurs 'Strategic Disciple Making)

- The leaders don't know what a disciple looks like.
- The leaders don't know how to make a disciple even if they can define one
- The leaders don't know how church programs work together to make disciples
- There is no way to measure progress
- The leaders aren't model disciples but they reproduce after their own kind.
- They don't know how to become intentional without splitting the church.

Stages of Discipleship

Figure 4.1. Jesus' preparatory empowerment process

	PRE-DISCIPLE	STAGE 1	STAGE 2	STAGE 3	STAGE 4
Jesus' role	The inviter	The living example	The provocative teacher	The supportive coach	The ultimate delegator
The disciples' role	Seekers	Observers and imitators	Students and questioners	Short-term missionaries	Apostles
Readiness level	Hungry to know whether Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah	Ready to observe who Jesus is and the nature of his ministry and mission	Ready to interact with Jesus and publicly identify with him	Ready to test the authority of Jesus to work through them	Ready to assume full responsibility for making reproducing disciples
Key questions	Is Jesus the Messiah?	Who is Jesus, and what is his ministry and mission?	What is the cost of following Jesus?	Will the power of Jesus work through us when we take on his ministry?	Will I give my life entirely to the mission of making reproducing disciples?

TRANSFORMING DISCIPLESHIP

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LIFE STAGE	LIFE STAGE NEED	DISCIPLE'S ROLE	PAULS ROLE
Infancy	Modeling and direction	Imitation	Model
Childhood	Unconditional love and protection	Identification	Hero
Adolescence	Increased freedom and identity formation	Exhortation	Coach
Adulthood	Mutuality and reciprocity	Participation	Peer

Figure 5.1. Paul's parental empowerment model

People in your congregation are at various points.

What do you think the implications are for preaching/teaching?

Discipleship Framework – The Five Purposes

In the opening section of Romans 12 Paul outlines what it means to be a 'living sacrifice' and making everything we do an offering to God. He then moves on in the chapter to describe what a 'living sacrifice' life looks like. Basically he describes five aspects of life. These five life purposes are the same five for the church (see Adventist Fundamental 12).

Paul describes a 'living sacrifice' as someone who shapes their life around:

Worshipping, Connecting, Serving, Growing & Reaching

Revelation 12 and 14 (three angels) give these purposes extra significance for Adventists and our mission.

As we seek to have Christ formed in us we will pay particular attention to shaping our lives around these purposes. We will get involved in activities and environments that promote these activities. In balancing these five aspects we will also be ensuring we are growing as wholistic Christians and not becoming so involved in one aspect that we forget its relationship with other aspects of the Christian life.

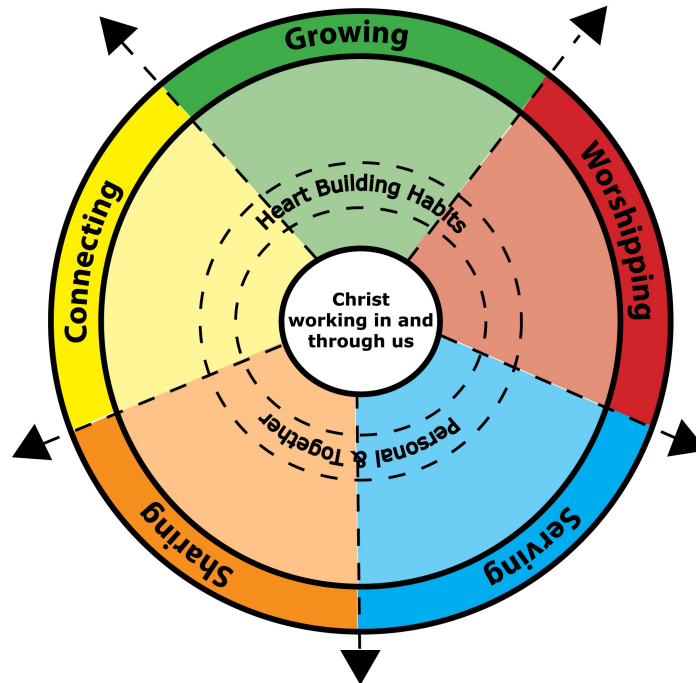
As leaders we will pray, dream about, explore and implement ways our congregations can grow in these five areas.

Recognising that the purposes for our life are the same as for the church we will aim to grow our members to become:

1. **Connecting Believers** - Hebrews 10:24-25, Ephesians 2:19
(Community, Fellowship)
2. **Growing Believers** - Colossians 1:28, Ephesians 4:15
(Spiritual Growth, Discipleship)
3. **Serving Believers** – Ephesians 4:11-13, 1 Corinthians 12:7
(Serving as Part of The Body)
4. **Sharing Believers** – Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 20:24
(Evangelism, Outreach)
5. **Worshipping Believers** – Romans 12:1 & 2, Psalms 27:6

Discipleship Framework

Growing Toward Maturity in Christ



These five factors are also expressed in our Fundamental 12

Seventh-day Adventists Believe...

The church is the **community** of believers who confess **Jesus Christ** as Lord and Saviour. In continuity with the people of God in Old Testament times, we are called out from the world; and we join together for **worship**, for **fellowship**, for **instruction** in the Word, for the **celebration** of the Lord's Supper, for **service** to all mankind, and for the worldwide **proclamation** of the gospel. The church derives its authority from **Christ**, who is the incarnate Word, and from the Scriptures which are the written Word. The church is **God's family**; adopted by Him as children, its members live on the basis of the new covenant. The church is the **body of Christ**, a **community** of faith of which Christ Himself is the Head. The church is the bride for whom Christ died that He might sanctify and cleanse her. At His return in triumph, He will present her to Himself a glorious church, the faithful of all the ages, the purchase of His blood, not having spot or wrinkle, but holy and without blemish –

Fundamental Belief, 12 (was no 11 before introduction of new fundamental at 2005 General Conference Session)

Discipleship Mind-Shifts:

From Compartmentalism - Spirituality Is Your Life?

Your physical life is your spiritual life

Your social life is your spiritual life

Your emotional life is your spiritual life

Your mental life is your spiritual life

People need to see all of life as spiritual rather than compartmentalised.

From Consumerism to Community

98% of church members have a consumeristic world view (Barna *Transforming*). Time = Money = Happiness. People with this worldview don't have 'time' to connect, serve, grow, share and worship as these purposes threaten their ability to generate 'happiness'.

-We sacrifice the very things we need at the alter of consumerism.

What ideas do you have for addressing the consumeristic worldview in your congregation. (We are putting together a unit on consumerism for a future cluster meeting)

From Trying to Training

"...rather train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come."

1 Timothy 4:7b-8 (New International Version)

Trying hard can accomplish only so much. If you are serious you have to enter into a life of training. To enter a life of training means to arrange your life around certain exercises and experiences that will enable you to do eventually what you are not yet able to do, even by trying hard.

Threats To Connection

Some common threats to spiritual passion include:

Consumerism/Materialism
It's All About Me Thinking
Noise
Hurry
Externalism.
Comfort

Be still and know that I am God Psalm 46:10

Reflection Time

What would you say are the biggest threats to spiritual growth in your life?

What do you think it means to 'find rest for your soul'?

What ideas do you have for living life at a less frantic pace?

Consider a time when you have been running on empty, what were the worst symptoms?

If you drew a picture of your life would it be characterised more as a flowing stream or a stagnant pond? Why?

What space can you make in your day to allow God to penetrate this world's 'all about me' culture and be intimately involved in your life.

Heart Building Habits - Spiritual Disciplines

In Pursuing spiritual formation we need to orient our lives around practices and habits that remind us of what matters and gives God space to work in us.

We are unlikely to deepen our relationship in a haphazard manner – some intentional commitment and reorganization is necessary. Spirituality cannot be orchestrated or controlled with a generic formula but neither is it random. All of us know the frustrations of random, haphazard efforts that lead nowhere in spiritual life. We don't drift, we decide.

What Heart Building Habits Are Not

Heart Building Habits are not a measure of your spirituality, rather they are the habits/practices that we put in place in order to grow in the fruits of the Spirit. Heart Building Habits should end up being fun.

Heart Building Habits will not earn God's favour. This is an important point. You already have His favour. Keep in mind that these heart building habits do not save you. They are not a pursuit in themselves. They are to help us grow towards the life God desires for us.

Many have an idea that they must do some part of the work alone. They have trusted in Christ for the forgiveness of sin, but now they seek by their own efforts to live aright. But every such effort must fail. Jesus says, 'Without me you can do nothing.' Our growth in grace, our joy, our usefulness all depend upon our union with Christ. E G White, *Steps To Christ*

What Heart Building Habits Are

Heart Building Habits include any activity that helps me gain the power to live the life Jesus taught and modelled. There are as many heart building habits as there are people. God desires a unique relationship with you. However there are some basic habits that we see modelled in Jesus' life and which people throughout history have found useful in connecting with God.

Some Foundational Heart-Building Habits

Solitude
Worship
Prayer
Service

Scripture
Journaling
Fellowship

Spiritual Pathways

Adapted from John Ortberg and Haley Barton, *An Ordinary Day With Jesus*, Zondervan, 2001 and Gary Thomas, *Sacred Pathways*, Zondervan, 2000

God seeks a unique connection with each of us and there are as many different ways to connect with God as there are people. However there are some general ways these connections work. A spiritual pathway is the way we most naturally connect with God and grow spiritually. The main pathways are:

- Intellectual
- Relational
- Serving
- Worship
- Contemplative
- Creation

Most people connect with God best through at least one or two of these main pathways and there is usually at least one pathway that is very unnatural for us.

While we must shape our life around heart-building habits that connect us with God we must also recognise the opportunities to extend ourselves in our relationship with God in the areas that are not our natural pathways.

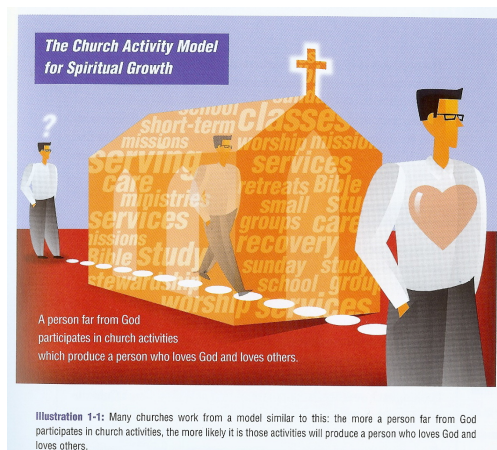
- People in your congregation will have different mixes in regard to Spiritual Pathways.
- This will impact how they experience a church service
- Help people thrive in their strong areas and stretch in the areas they are not as strong in.
- Means that there are lots of ways to grow. What works for us may not be a primary growing factor for someone else.

Implications of Reveal for Discipleship

(We can measure things like membership and attendance, but do these measures really tell us whether or not someone is becoming more like Christ? How do we measure the human heart?)

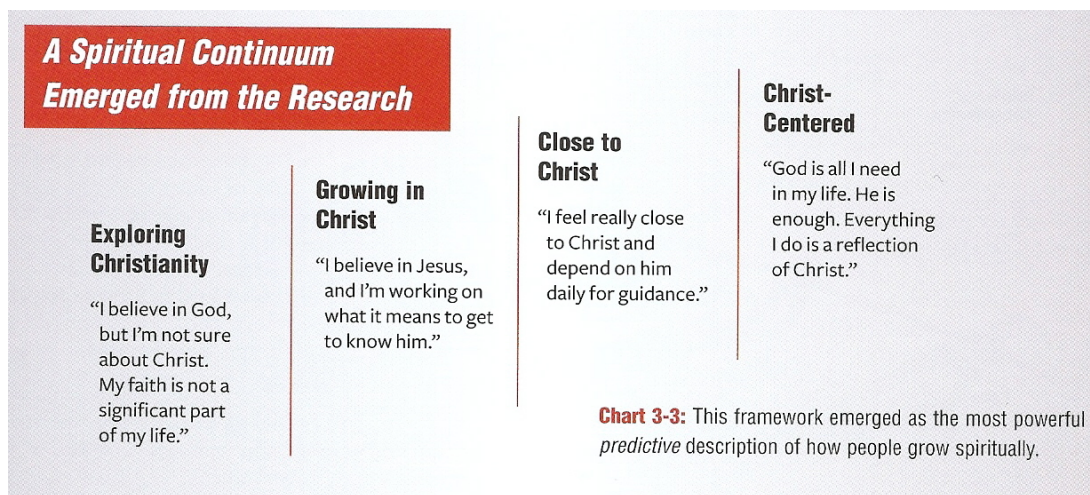
Reveal Study: 235 000 people in 850 various church contexts were asked about their spiritual growth.

The Church Activity Model for Spiritual Growth – we have often used this model without assessing are people actually growing.



Church activity alone made no direct impact on growing the heart.

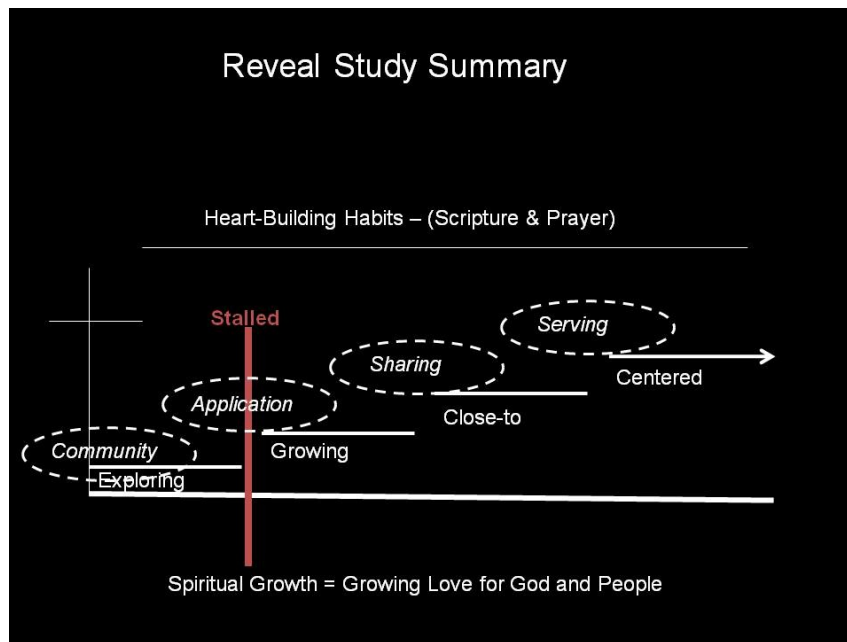
The Spiritual Continuum



Spiritual growth is all about increasing relational closeness to Christ.

‘Personal spiritual practices are the central building blocks for a Christ-centred life.’

Catalysts to Spiritual Growth Along The Continuum.



Summary of findings from the Reveal study:

- The most dominant force driving spiritual engagement is a routine practise of spiritual disciplines.
- People grow spiritually through multiple inputs – from teaching and study, to spiritual coaching and everyday experiences. It is a highly individualised process. There is no clear pattern of stepping stones that guarantees spiritual maturity.

“It is hard to over-estimate the importance of establishing a daily rhythm and routine of spiritual practices.”

Stalled:

What factors do you think stall people in their spiritual growth?

- The core Christian beliefs of those who are stalled are similar to those who are not stalled. The difference is in the application of them.
- Those who are stalled report much lower levels of personal spiritual practices than those who are not stalled.
- People ‘uninstall’ by reengaging in spiritual practices.

The stalled segment reports much lower levels of personal spiritual practices than other believer segments.

The people in your church really want to grow closer to Christ. They are just unsure what the next step is.

Create Steps

- As leaders we must establish the right amount of tension in order to catalyze change.
- Help people realise where they are now spiritually
- Paint a 'vision' of where God wants them to be
What does a follower of Christ look like?

How does my spiritual life connect to the rest of my life?
- What's Next for Me
- If the gap seems too insignificant, people won't think the changes are worth the effort. If the gap seems too enormous, people will find the challenge too overwhelming and give up before they try. People need to know next steps that they can take.

Personalise The Steps

- Our challenge as spiritual coaches is to personalize these steps for the people in our congregations – designing the first or next steps someone needs to take, keeping in mind that not everyone needs to take the same next steps. It takes a lot of discernment to help figure out where to go next.
- Because this personalizing can be so difficult, our churches often default to creating lots of ministries, and we tell people to do all of them. While most, or all, of these programs and ministries might be sound and biblically based, we really haven't succeeded in helping people determine the gaps they need to close as individuals.

Reveal Where Are You? (2007) Follow Me (2008) Focus (2009)
Greg Hawkins and Cally Parkinson, Willow, 2007

Developing a Discipleship Plan

Aubrey Malphurs

Strategic Disciple Making – A Practical Tool for Successful Ministry

Baker Books, 2009.

a– Determine the Church's Mission

Needs to be shaped around God's purposes for the church and how they can be applied

b– Ask the Sanctification Question

- (Worship, Fellowship, Biblical Instruction, Evangelism, Service)
- Abiding in God's word
- Loving one another
- Bearing fruit
-

c– Ask the Communication Question

- How will you communicate these marks?

Church Ministries

The church's ministries are it means or activities that God used to implement or incarnate its marks of maturity in the believer's life.

Involves what we do, who does it (staff) and the budget

Types of Ministries

Primary

These are not ministry electives but essentials. They provide the blueprint of game plan to accomplish the church's mission and are mandatory for those who are serious about spiritual growth.

Assimilation is how a church orders or arranges its primary ministries to bring people into the life of church, keep them involved in that life and move them onto spiritual maturity.

Secondary

Secondary ministries can be very valuable but can also:

- Distract not attract – people more than programs attract people.
- Confusion not clarity
- Complexity not simplicity

- Diffusing energy instead of directing energy
- Requiring staff and funding

Designing a Unique Disciple-making Strategy

- **Step 1 – Construct a maturity matrix**

(Ministry)	Worshipping	Serving	Growing	Connecting	Sharing

- **Step 2 – Identify your primary ministries**

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- **Step 3 – Evaluation**

- Is this ministry designed to develop at least one of the characteristics of maturity in our disciples' lives?
- How is this ministry developing that characteristic?
- Do any ministries need to be tweaked or even replaced?
- Are there any ministries that do not develop any characteristics of maturity?
- Are there any characteristics of maturity that no primary ministry develops?
- Are you aware of other churches' primary ministries? While unique to their communities such knowledge can be helpful as you 'tweak' your ministries.

Factors That May Affect Primary Ministries

- Predominant Generations
- Context of Ministry – Location
- Ethnicity
- Size
- Confidence in Pastoral Leadership

Are You Making Disciples?

Leading Discipleship

Real Change Begins With You

Takes one to make one

10 Questions for Spiritual Health

Are you Spiritually Healthy or just Spiritually Busy?

1. Do you thirst for God?
2. Are you governed increasingly by God's Word?
3. Are you more loving?
4. Are you more sensitive to God's presence?
5. Do you have a growing concern for the spiritual and temporal needs of others?
6. Do you delight in the 'bride of Christ'?
7. Are the spiritual disciplines increasingly important to you?
8. Do you still grieve over sin?
9. Are you a quicker forgiver?
10. Do you yearn for heaven and to be with Jesus?

From Whitney, Donald S.
Ten Questions to Diagnose Your Spiritual Health
Colorado Springs, Navpress

As a leader, people listen to what you say – they become what you are.

Wayne Cordeiro

True leadership is having the people closest to you love and respect you the most.

"The greatest thing we have to offer our people
is not our education.
It is not our good ideas.
It isn't even our gifts and abilities.
It is the fruit of the time
we have spent with the Saviour,
The utterly unique and unparalleled thing
that happens to us
When we are simply
In His Presence."
Ben Patterson

Appendix A

Five Growth Areas

Church – Assessment

Take some time to work through the following 50 questions (it should take about 15 minutes). Circle the answer that comes to mind without having to think too much about each question. This assessment is more to give an indicator to get started than it is a precise measurement of your church. Some questions ask your opinion in regard to the culture in your congregation. While you may not feel qualified to answer on behalf of your congregation take your best guess as this will still be helpful.

Natural Church Development

If your church has completed a Natural Church Development profile in the last year, you will find it useful to look at the NCD scores in relation to this tool.

In terms of the framework being used in this guide your NCD scores will somewhat correspond to the following areas:

Loving Relationships = Connecting

Inspiring Worship = Worshipping

Passionate Spirituality = Growing

Need's oriented evangelism = Sharing

Gifts oriented ministry = Serving

In reality we can never really assess where a church is up to in terms of discipleship as we don't know everyone's spiritual practises and in any case the church is a fluid body that is always changing. However your perceptions, combined with those of your leadership team, will give you a starting point to guide your discussion as you move forward in creating your discipleship process.

- Answer the following statements as they apply to your church.

5=This is exactly us
4=Very much describes us
3=Often
2=To some extent
1=Hardly
0=Not at all

- When your leadership team have each added their totals average them to determine a score for each growth area.

Growth area 1: Connecting

1	Our church is an encouraging environment where people are built up	0	1	2	3	4	5
2	The church provides opportunities for the developing and deepening of relationships	0	1	2	3	4	5
3	Our church resolves conflict in a biblical manner	0	1	2	3	4	5
4	People in our church deal constructively with criticism	0	1	2	3	4	5
5	Our church members are equipped for leading healthy relationships especially marriage.	0	1	2	3	4	5
6	Members of our church regularly use their time and resources to care for the needs of others	0	1	2	3	4	5
7	In our church we can be honest with at least a small group about the feelings, beliefs, doubts, pains and hurts beneath the surface of life	0	1	2	3	4	5
8	Our church has a lot of groups who gather regularly for fellowship and accountability	0	1	2	3	4	5
9	The members of our church regularly pray with and for one another	0	1	2	3	4	5
10	Strategies have been developed for showing love to people who are not part of our congregation.	0	1	2	3	4	5

Relationships Total

Growth area 2: Growing

1	I think most people in our congregation have daily habits in place to help them grow spiritually.	0	1	2	3	4	5
2	The importance of Bible reading, prayer and other spiritual disciplines are regularly emphasised in our church.	0	1	2	3	4	5
3	I would think that most members of our congregation have people who hold them accountable for their spiritual growth	0	1	2	3	4	5
4	Opportunities are available in our church to share experiences with God	0	1	2	3	4	5
5	We have a process for helping new people engage in spiritual growth practices like bible reading and prayer.	0	1	2	3	4	5
6	I think most people in our congregation are honoring God with their finances, time and abilities.	0	1	2	3	4	5
7	Our church cares about each members spiritual growth	0	1	2	3	4	5
8	I believe our church moves people to experience God's love	0	1	2	3	4	5
9	In our groups, classes and sermons our church engages with Scripture in creative ways that connect with life	0	1	2	3	4	5
10	Most people in our church could easily explain how their faith relates to everyday life	0	1	2	3	4	5

Growing in God's word Total

Growth area 3: Worshipping

1	I think most people in our congregation believe they are living for God's glory.	0	1	2	3	4	5
2	Most people in our congregation would see worship as a lifestyle rather than only an event.	0	1	2	3	4	5
3	Most people in our congregation engage in the worship times of our church	0	1	2	3	4	5
4	I think most people in our congregation would engage in times of private worship and or family worship	0	1	2	3	4	5
5	I would say most people in our congregation have a deep desire to spend time in God's presence	0	1	2	3	4	5
6	I think most people in our congregation would see how they manage their finances, time and abilities as acts of worship	0	1	2	3	4	5
7	Prayer, time and thought is put into our worship service in an effort to engage our congregation in a time of honouring God	0	1	2	3	4	5
8	The worship service in our congregation is an inspiring experience	0	1	2	3	4	5
9	Our congregation is more about honouring God than it is about our own needs being met.	0	1	2	3	4	5
10	The way our congregation worships impacts the rest of the week	0	1	2	3	4	5

Worship Total

Growth area 4: Serving

1	Most people in our congregation are actively using their spiritual gifts for God's service	0	1	2	3	4	5
2	Our church is engaged in serving the community in a significant way	0	1	2	3	4	5
3	Most people in our congregation have identified their spiritual gifts and are serving in their area of giftedness	0	1	2	3	4	5
4	An attitude of servant-hood is promoted in our congregation	0	1	2	3	4	5
5	There are lots of opportunities for our congregation to get involved in serving	0	1	2	3	4	5
6	Our congregation is more outward than inward focused	0	1	2	3	4	5
7	Our leadership team is aware of the needs of our community	0	1	2	3	4	5
8	In our congregation all age groups are encouraged to serve	0	1	2	3	4	5
9	Our congregation is linked with global opportunities for serving	0	1	2	3	4	5
10	Our congregation serves each other with enthusiasm	0	1	2	3	4	5

Serving Total

Growth area 5: Sharing

1	Most people in our congregation look for opportunities to build genuine relationships with people who do not know God	0	1	2	3	4	5
2	People in our congregation are equipped to share their faith	0	1	2	3	4	5
3	We have a plan for how new people can be integrated into our congregation	0	1	2	3	4	5
4	Most people in our congregation can explain how knowing God changes their life	0	1	2	3	4	5
5	New people very quickly 'belong' in our church family	0	1	2	3	4	5
6	Our church offers ministries that our seeker friends can be linked into	0	1	2	3	4	5
7	Most people in our congregation would have close relationships with people who are not part of our church	0	1	2	3	4	5
8	Most people in our congregation would see evangelism as a lifestyle more than it is a programme.	0	1	2	3	4	5
9	The value of people is regularly communicated in our congregation	0	1	2	3	4	5
10	People in our congregation often invite their friends to church events.	0	1	2	3	4	5

Sharing Total

Enter your scores in the Table below for each of the five growth areas. Then average out the scores of your team.

Purpose	My Score	Team Average
Connecting		
Growing		
Worshipping		
Serving		
Sharing		

Then for **each area** use the following scale as a guide

Just Beginning 0-10	Needs more intentionality 11-20	On the way 21-30	Happening Well 31-40	Very Well Developed 41-50
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What Does it All Mean

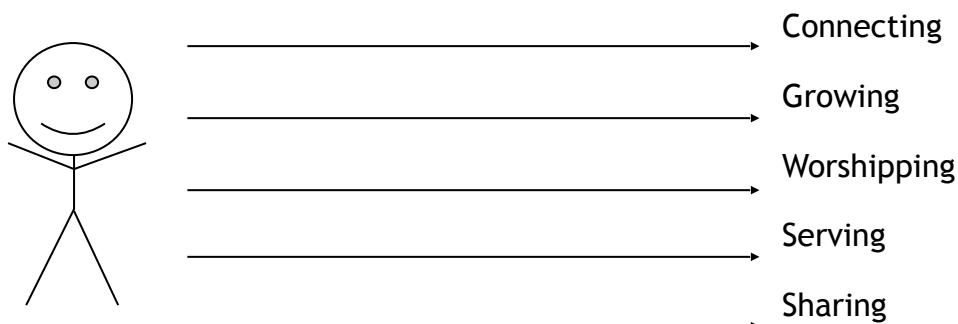
- If you scored high on the Growing in God's word factor then you have already made very significant progress. In this case you would be best served by working on the factor your church scored lowest in. If serving was one of the lower factors then perhaps this would be a great starting point as it can effectively engender relationships and an outward focus in terms of faith sharing.
- If Growing in God's word was amongst your lower scores then this would be the place to particularly focus energy as this factor is the most likely to engender a heart that responds in worship, serving, sharing and connecting in authentic relationships.
- If your church scored high on relationships but low on serving and sharing then put the emphasis on growing in God's word and serving.
- In reality you will need to work to some extent in all five areas at the same time however this assessment gives you a guide for where to put your initial energy.

Designing a plan for your church

Remember that the answer is not found in more programmes. More church activities can actually negate spiritual growth. We need to pray and think through what we already do and refocus what we have with discipleship in mind. In some cases we might need to add a programme however for the most part it's about putting in place ideas that encourage people in their connection with God.

Exercise:

On a large white board draw a stick man on the far left side. Then draw five lines going across the board labelled with the five growth areas.



Imagine this man become connected to your congregation for a year. What opportunities would he have to grow in the five areas and how would he link into them?

From the above exercise, where are the gaps?

Take a look at what you currently do as a church family. How can the time and energy you already spend be redirected into the growth area/s that you are particularly focusing on?

Ideas:

How can you go about having the leaders of your ministries work together in focusing on the growth areas? What opportunities for symbiosis exist between ministry areas?

For example your youth might serve the children in a way that enhances their connectedness with God, sense of community and opportunity to invite seeking friends. Your Pathfinder club might develop serving opportunities that whole church can help with along with providing another opportunity to get seeker friends involved. The opportunities are endless when you get ministries to talk through how they can help each other in the five areas.

Ideas:

What can your church family do to encourage heart building habits?

Maybe it will include:

- A sermon series on heart building habits
- Using a tool that encourages heart building habits in small groups/Sabbath school groups. Tools might include *An Ordinary Day With Jesus*, *Christian Life Profile* or the *monvee* resource.
- Putting in place a spiritual accountability system (see example)
- Resourcing and promoting a spiritual disciplines section of your church library

Dream - Explore - Discover what God wants to do in and through the congregation you serve.

Useful Books For Spiritual Growth

- Anderson Ray S, *Living The Spiritually Balanced Life*, Baker Books, 1998
- Blake Chris, *Searching For A God To Love*, Sycamore/Pacific Press, 1999
- Calhoun, Adelle, *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook*, InterVarsity Press, 2005
- Frazer Randy, *Making Room for Life*, Zondervan, 2004
- Haffner Karl, *The Cure For Soul Fatigue*, Pacific Press, 2000
- Hybels Bill, *Too Busy Not To Pray*, Inter-Varsity Press, 1998
- Malphurs, Aubrey, *Strategic Disciple Making*, Baker, 2009
- Martin Allan ed, *GodEncounters*, Review and Herald, 2009
- Maxen, Ben, Growing in Discipleship (plus anything else he does or writes (GC Stewardship Department))
- Maxwell Randy, *If My People Pray*, Pacific Press, 1995
- Mulholland M. Robert, *Invitation to a Journey* IVP, 1993
- Ogen, Greg. *Transforming Discipleship*, IVP, 2003.
- Ortberg John & Barton Ruth, *An Ordinary Day With Jesus*, Zondervan, 2002
- Ortberg John, *The Life You've Always Wanted*, Zondervan, 1997
- Ortberg John, *monvee resource kit*, Zondervan 2010
- Smith James Bryan, *The Good and Beautiful God*, InterVarsity Press, 2009
- Thomas Gary, *Spiritual Pathways*, Zondervan, 2004
- White Ellen, *Steps To Christ*, Pacific Press
- White Ellen, *Christ's Object Lessons*, Pacific Press
- White Ellen, *The Desire of Ages*, Pacific Press
- Whitney Donald, *Spiritual Disciplines For The Christian Life*, Navpress, 1984
- Willard Dallas, *The Spirit of the Disciplines*, Harper Collins, 1988
- Willard Dallas, *Hearing God*, Fount, 1999
- Willard Dallas, *Renovation of the Heart*, Inter-Varsity, 2002
- Willard, Dallas, *The Divine Omission*, Monarch, 2006
- Willard Dallas & Johnson Jan, *Renovation of the Heart in Daily Practice*, Navpress, 2006,
- Willard Dallas & Simpson Don, *Revolution of Character*, Inter-Varsity, 2006