

THE JOURNEY



BECOMING
MORE LIKE
JESUS

An Interactive Journal

THE JOURNEY



BECOMING MORE LIKE JESUS



Gospel Publishing House

CONTRIBUTORS

Todd Clair
Renee Griffith Grantham
Evelyn Klingler
Elly Marroquin
Steve Pulis

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INTRODUCTION

This Is Your Journey

Welcome to the Discipleship Assessment Journey! This journey is for anyone desiring a closer relationship with God. This journey is for you, a disciple and follower of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word used in the New Testament for *disciple* means “learner or follower.” Jesus’ method of making disciples differed radically from other cultures of His time. Greek culture deposited information and expected people to change. But Jesus, true to the Hebrew method of the rabbis, lived life alongside His disciples and taught them by example. This is our model: living like Christ in community as He forms us by His Spirit into Spirit-led, lifelong learners and followers of Jesus.

The Holy Spirit is the Teacher. He forms the character of Christ in believers and helps them to lead others in that same character-transformation process. All Spirit-empowered followers of Christ are called to grow in certain dimensions of living that will deepen their relationship with Jesus and strengthen their effectiveness in making other disciples. The following essential dimensions will be examined on this assessment journey: Bible, Holy Spirit, Mission, Prayer, Worship, Service, and Generosity. As you grow in each of these, your spiritual life will be stronger and your walk with God will not only be sustainable, but victorious!

How to Use This Journal

On the following pages, you'll be invited to evaluate your interaction with each of the seven dimensions. Based on your responses to questions about living out each dimension as a disciple, you will choose which dimension you want to address first. Turn to the pages in this journal which cover that dimension and follow along to Identify, Reflect, and Act on that dimension. You may engage with the questions and journal your progress.

**HOW LONG DO
I SPEND ON
EACH DIMENSION?**

That's up to you. If you are going through this with a group, discuss it with your group leader. Remember that discipleship is about *being* more than *doing*. If you spend a week or a month on each dimension, allow the Holy Spirit to have His way. There is no recommended amount of time and no prize for covering all dimensions quickly. Your walk with Jesus is a lifelong process of continual reevaluation.

**DO I NEED
TO COVER
EACH DIMENSION?**

You can eventually cover all seven, but there's no rush. Proceed at your pace or at the pace agreed upon by your group if you're using this journal in a small group setting. Remember that the habits are not ends in themselves. This journey is about aligning your spirit with God's Spirit, so this is for the rest of your life.

OVERVIEW

An Overview of This Framework

A Spirit-empowered disciple is a lifelong follower who is committed to a journey of becoming like Jesus. The Holy Spirit is the One who discipled believers. He forms the character of Christ in them and helps disciples reproduce themselves by leading others in that same character formation process. Disciples don't progress by leaving one dimension behind to embrace another, but rather they engage with all dimensions, outcomes, and practices at every stage of life on a holistic journey of discipleship.

Dimensions

BIBLE

Disciples love and understand God's Big Story, and are able to interpret and apply God's Word well.

- Preschool children know the Bible is God's gift.
- Older children begin reading and memorizing the Bible.
- Young adults see the Big Story and know their place in God's plan.
- All adults are learning to interpret and apply God's Word wisely.

HOLY SPIRIT

Disciples are truly born again, experience the empowering, leading, and purifying work of the Spirit, and fervently seek the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

- Little ones learn to feel God's presence.
- Children are invited to respond to the Spirit and welcome Jesus as Lord.
- Children, youth, and adults are baptized in the Spirit, speak in tongues, and know they are in a process of sanctification and being empowered for mission.

MISSION

Disciples are on a mission with God in all areas of their life and can share the gospel and disciple new believers.

- The youngest followers begin learning that God has a plan.
- Older children learn the gospel and how to share their faith story.
- Youth and adults understand that their daily work lives are God's assignments and they look for divine appointments. They are able to lead someone to Christ and offer initial mentoring.

PRAYER

Disciples enjoy listening to and speaking with God, growing deeper in intimacy and intercession, fasting, and crying out for the glory of God.

- Preschoolers are learning that Jesus hears them when they pray.
- Older children learn the practice of daily prayer and begin understanding how God speaks to their spirit.
- Youth and adults delight in conversation and intercession, and understand that their prayers make a difference in the world.

WORSHIP

Disciples delight in God and offer all their life as worship to Him. Both personal intimacy with God and corporate worship are important for growth.

- Little ones enjoy praising God.
- Older children enjoy singing and offer their chores and schoolwork to God as worship.
- Youth and adults understand worship and work are woven together (Romans 12:1-2; Colossians 3:17-23).

SERVICE

Disciples see all of life as a thank-you for God's grace and aim for a humble life of service to God and for others.

- Young children learn the joy of helping and how their tasks please God.
- Children learn that all good work is service and begin helping in the church and community.
- Youth and adults offer all their daily work as service and willingly volunteer as part of their local church.

GENEROSITY

Disciples respond to God's lavish grace by submitting all their resources to God and responding to the Holy Spirit's leading in giving and stewardship.

- Preschoolers begin learning that their giving matters and connect it with God's mission.
- Older children start learning about tithing and giving, which includes giving their time to serve.
- Youth and adults are maturing not only in financial generosity (tithing and giving), but also display generosity in the use of their time and talent.

With this overview in mind, download a copy of *The Seven Dimensions of a Spirit-Filled Disciple* (<https://discipleship.ag.org/7-Dimensions>) and use it as a reference. You will find video webinars that correspond with each dimension along with leader's notes.

CHOOSING A DIMENSION

For the statements under each dimension, circle the answer that best reflects your current faith journey.

BIBLE

At this point in my faith journey . . .

I reflect on Bible passages when making difficult decisions.	YES	NO	SOMEWHAT
I regularly engage with the Bible outside of church services.	YES	NO	SOMEWHAT
I have friends, family, or coworkers with whom I can share my questions and findings about the Bible.	YES	NO	SOMEWHAT

HOLY SPIRIT

At this point in my faith journey . . .

I am growing in my knowledge of who the Holy Spirit is. I know when the Holy Spirit is influencing me.	YES	NO	SOMEWHAT
--	-----	----	----------

I demonstrate characteristics of the Holy Spirit such as love, joy, peace, and patience.	YES	NO	SOMEWHAT
--	-----	----	----------

I have received the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other languages (Acts 2:4) or am actively praying to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit.	YES	NO	SOMEWHAT
--	-----	----	----------

MISSION

At this point in my faith journey . . .

I understand that God's purpose for my life is found within His plan for humanity.	YES	NO	SOMEWHAT
--	-----	----	----------

I view my home, school, and work as places to live out Jesus' love and compassion.	YES	NO	SOMEWHAT
--	-----	----	----------

I have identified needs that I can address in my own community.	YES	NO	SOMEWHAT
---	-----	----	----------

PRAYER

At this point in my faith journey ...

I regularly talk to and listen to God.	YES	NO	SOMEWHAT
--	-----	----	----------

I pray by myself and with other believers.	YES	NO	SOMEWHAT
--	-----	----	----------

I pray for the needs of others.	YES	NO	SOMEWHAT
---------------------------------	-----	----	----------

WORSHIP

At this point in my faith journey ...

My lifestyle reflects that God is my highest priority.	YES	NO	SOMEWHAT
--	-----	----	----------

My life demonstrates obedience to God and His Word.	YES	NO	SOMEWHAT
---	-----	----	----------

I am the same person in public that I am in private.	YES	NO	SOMEWHAT
--	-----	----	----------

SERVICE

At this point in my faith journey . . .

I know what my gifts and talents are and how to use them.	YES	NO	SOMEWHAT
---	-----	----	----------

I volunteer at my church and in the community.	YES	NO	SOMEWHAT
--	-----	----	----------

I serve where needed instead of only when and where I want.	YES	NO	SOMEWHAT
---	-----	----	----------

GENEROSITY

At this point in my faith journey . . .

I am grateful for what God provides for me.	YES	NO	SOMEWHAT
---	-----	----	----------

I am a good steward/ administrator of the things God gives me.	YES	NO	SOMEWHAT
---	-----	----	----------

I ask God what to do with the resources He gives me.	YES	NO	SOMEWHAT
--	-----	----	----------

*Circle the
dimension(s) you
answered mostly
Yes.*

BIBLE
HOLY SPIRIT
MISSION
PRAYER
WORSHIP
SERVICE
GENEROSITY

*Circle the
dimension(s) you
answered mostly
No.*

BIBLE
HOLY SPIRIT
MISSION
PRAYER
WORSHIP
SERVICE
GENEROSITY

*Circle the
dimension(s) you
answered mostly
Somewhat.*

BIBLE
HOLY SPIRIT
MISSION
PRAYER
WORSHIP
SERVICE
GENEROSITY

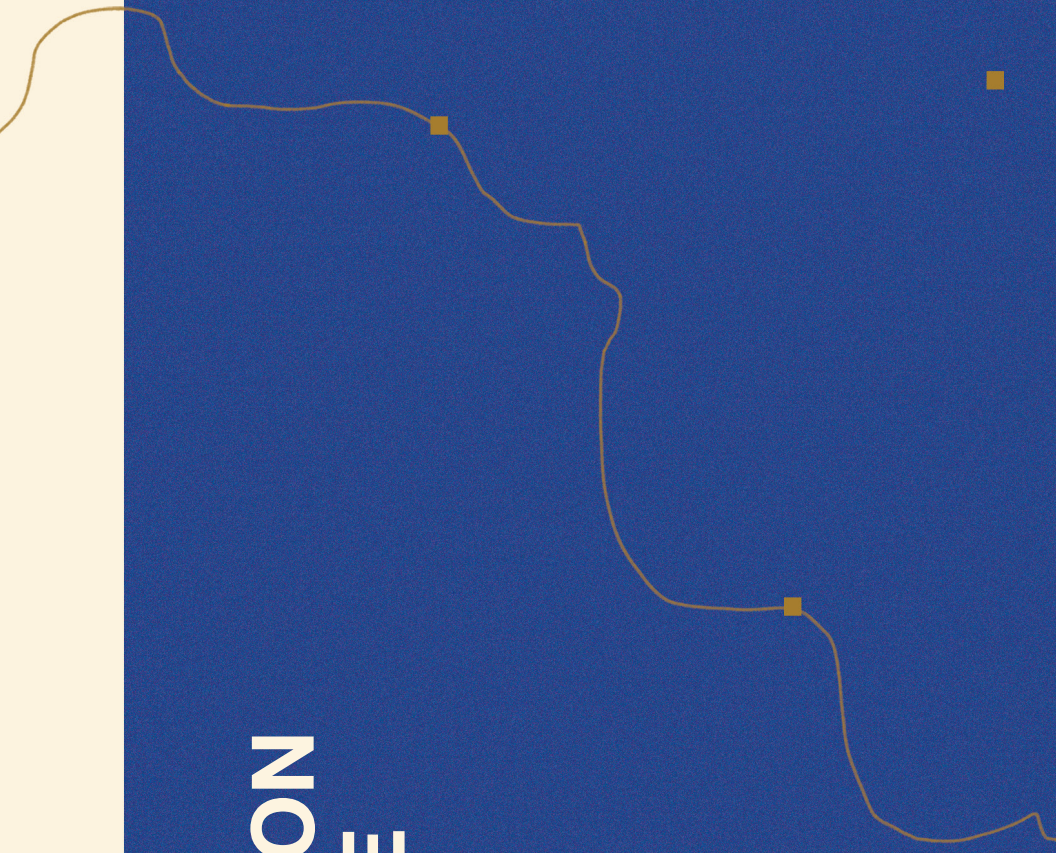
**BASED ON YOUR ANSWERS, WHICH
DIMENSION WOULD YOU LIKE TO
BEGIN ADDRESSING?**

STARTING DATE

Turn to that dimension’s section and dive in.

THE JOURNEY

DIMENSION ONE





BIBLE

Disciples love and understand
God's Big Story and
are able to interpret
and apply God's Word well.

Introduction

There's just no other resource as important as the Bible! That's because no book in history compares with the impact the Bible can make in a person's life. Unlike anything else written or recorded, the Bible carries the power of transformation. It is God's Word, so it is God-breathed. God's Spirit uses it as the primary tool of revelation for humankind and as a defensive spiritual weapon against the schemes of the devil. Different from a person's insight or advice, God's Word reveals who He is, what He wants, and teaches us how to grow closer in our relationship to God the Father, Son, and Spirit.

Every time you read the Bible, you can hear from God in a new way. So letting God speak to you through His Word daily helps you to become strong and grow spiritually. A committed disciple pursues this.

How to Proceed

In the Identify section below are the same statements you'll find in the Choosing a Dimension section. Read through each of them to refresh your memory and then move on to the Reflect section, which will help unpack each statement for you. Journal your thoughts in the space provided. Then in the Act section, commit to one of the action steps.

Identify

At this point in my faith journey . . .

- I reflect on Bible passages when making difficult decisions.
- I regularly engage with the Bible outside of church services.
- I have friends, family, or coworkers with whom I can share my questions and findings about the Bible.

Reflect

The goal is not to answer all questions at once. Instead, consider which ones the Holy Spirit may be drawing your attention to right now. When you have chosen one or more, move on to the Act section. You may come back to the other questions later when you revisit this dimension or stay to complete each one if you feel led to.

QUESTION ONE

How can I make sure the Bible is a daily priority for me?

[illegible]

QUESTION TWO

How has engaging with Scripture impacted my own life experiences?

[illegible]

QUESTION THREE

Describe a situation in which I need to seek wisdom and direction from the Word of God.

[illegible]

QUESTION FOUR

How can I connect with other believers so we can encourage each other to read and apply the Bible to our lives?

[illegible]

QUESTION FIVE

What are some difficult cultural issues for which the Bible gives wisdom?

[illegible]

QUESTION SIX

Write any additional thoughts or questions you have about this dimension. (Share with your pastor, mentor, or small group.)

[illegible]

Act

The Word of God is the starting point for taking action on every dimension of discipleship. Here are some practical guidelines to help you grow in your relationship with God and the Bible.

Start each day with a portion of Scripture (a verse or several verses). Write it somewhere you will see throughout the day, even on your phone, and consider what God is saying to you. If you are a new believer, start with either the Gospel of Mark or John, the letter to the Romans, or use our free Bible Engagement Project app to read daily.

Consider writing out the pressing questions you face in life, as well as your questions about the Bible. Start to journal, if you don't already do so. Then engage with the Bible: Where does it speak to these situations? Ask a pastor, mentor, or other Christian leader to help you find biblical principles that speak to your situations or refer to the Bible Engagement Project app.

Implement the SOAP process into the time you spend in the Bible

- S Scripture** Read the passage in your head, aloud, or both.
- O Observation** What details do you notice?
What is going on in this passage?
- A Application** How does this passage apply to your life today?
- P Prayer** Ask the Holy Spirit to help you live out the truth of this passage.

Identify people in one or more of the following areas—family, church, friends, or coworkers—with whom you can share questions and findings about the Bible. Start or join a Bible study or make biblical topics more normal in everyday conversation. Reach out to at least one of these people this month to get the conversation started.

Additional Verses To continue growing, read the following Scriptures and note what each reveals about God’s Word:

DEUTERONOMY 6:1–9	PSALM 1:1–6
PSALM 19:1–14	PSALM 119:1–176
ISAIAH 40:6–8	ISAIAH 55:10–11

MATTHEW 7:24-27	JOHN 1:1
ACTS 2:42	1 THESSALONIANS 2:13
2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17	REVELATION 22:18-19

JOURNAL

What is one thing about my time in and with God's Word that I need to take away from this section? How am I going to apply this in my life?

Progress
Log

Remember, becoming like Jesus is a lifelong journey. You will grow deeper the next time you work on this dimension.

DATE	PROGRESS	ACTION STEP

The journey to becoming Christlike is full of twist and turns, which means that sometimes it is difficult to figure out where you are.

This book provides a map so you and your discipleship circle can track your spiritual growth. It will help you gain new heights of spiritual maturity and discover the depths of your relationship with God. This resource is intended for a group setting, so call up your friends, family, coworkers, whoever! We hope this process of self-evaluation becomes part of your rhythm as you pursue knowing, doing, and being like Christ.

“This resource added a layer of accountability that I was missing in my spiritual journey. Also, I have now started to view the world regarding what God’s Word has to say. This is changing the way I live.”

“This resource served to remind me that in the busyness of parenting and a new career, I had neglected time for prayer. After just a few weeks, I can see how God continues to give me more of His peace as I seek to create moments of prayer during my commute to work.”

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