

Spiritual Formation Scale Introduction

At the time I am writing this, I have had the joy of serving as the Senior Pastor of Grace Community Church in Boone, Iowa, for 21 years. While there have been plenty of challenges along the way, it has been my delight to see so many come to faith in Christ, and grow in relationship to Christ. Many have told me how, since they came to Grace Church they have, through our ministry, grown significantly in their faith.

For example, I recently preached a textual-topical sermon series on Christian character. At the conclusion of the series, one of our members posted these encouraging words on Facebook: "I have so enjoyed the Character Counts sermon series at our church. It has inspired me to live a more Christ focused life: our marriage is better, the relationships with my children are better, and life is more peaceful. I am forever grateful to my church family for the encouragement and support they have blessed our lives with."

Wow! Pastors lay in bed at night dreaming they would hear such things. Praise God! Our goal has been to make disciples, and we have witnessed many evidences that our members have been growing in faith and conformity to Christ.

But I have recently been convicted of a reality that leaves me a little embarrassed. Yes, by God's grace, we have made disciples, but we haven't made disciples that make disciples. Our ministry has been one of addition, not multiplication.

I'm not sure how I missed it, since I was well trained as a disciplemaker early in my Christian life (bless you John Grunditz!). I have tried to practice making disciples, I have taught overseas on discipleship, and I always believed at the heart and soul of our calling is to "Go and make disciples." And yet at our church, while making disciples, we have not intentionally made disciples who make disciples.

It was Will Mancini who recently convicted me of this reality. In preparation for a Grace Church leadership retreat, I was reading *Future Church*, and was challenged by these words: "When a person develops a disciple, the disciple grows into a person who develops disciples. But when a program develops a disciple, the disciple grows into a person who services programs...Jesus' method is not to add people one at a time at a steady rate. It is to impart His own life into multiple people who each would impart it to multiple others" (*Future Church*, pgs. 157-158). I realized programs developed disciples in our church, who serviced programs. There was, with notable exceptions, little multiplication.

Mancini refers to Jesus's model, which was also Paul's model. I was recently struck by Acts 20:4. Paul was about to leave Greece and set sail for Syria, first passing through the churches he had planted in Macedonia. We read, "Sopater the Berean, son of Pyrrhus, accompanied him; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy; and the Asians, Tychicus and Trophimus." Everywhere Paul went he made disciples. And each place, he identified certain individuals who would be "with him" like Jesus (Mark 3:14), continuing their training, and growing in their own ability to make disciples.

David and Paul Watson tell us how we know we are a multiplying church: “Success is easy to spot. There will be four generations present. I will be present. The ones I am training will be present. The ones my trainees are training will be present. And the ones the trainees’ trainees are training will be present. We want to see four or more generations of leaders present, or we have failed. So, we say to leaders we work with, “Tell me about the people you are mentoring, and tell me about the people your mentees are mentoring.” (Contagious Disciple Making, pg. 36).

The reference to four generations is not arbitrary, but exactly what we have in Paul’s instruction to Timothy in II Timothy 2:2: “What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.”

Being burdened to call our congregation to make disciples, I preached a series on discipleship. I wanted to distinguish between disciples (who they certainly were, commendably), and disciplers, who I had not challenged them to be. I defined the terms this way:

- **Disciple:** One who follows Christ unreservedly, whatever the cost, ever growing in conformity to Him and joyfully walking in obedience to His commands
- **Discipler:** One who calls others to follow Christ, modeling and instructing them in Christlikeness, that they may become and grow into mature disciples of Christ who bring others to maturity in Christ.

In the definition of a “discipler” we see that the discipling process includes “modeling” and “instructing.” In other words, there is a formal and informal aspect to discipleship. The informal aspect is modeling. The discipler lives in relationship with the disciple, because conformity to Christ is as much caught as taught. Paul regularly calls his disciples to follow his example (Phil. 3:17, I Cor. 4:16, I Thess. 1:5-7, Phil. 4:9), and disciplers should not be ashamed to say the same. But this requires life-on-life. It is an investment of time, as a discipler pours their life into another person.

This means discipling takes place as the disciple and discipler worship together, play together, pray together, work together, and share meals and special occasions together. It takes place in the classroom or living room, kitchen or workshop, car or coffeeshop, hallway or highway.

But discipleship also includes instructing. And to that end, I did not want to lay this burden upon the congregation without giving them a practical, measurable, intentional tool to guide and assist them in the discipling process. Combining what I had learned years ago from James Engle in Contemporary Christian Communication, and what I read more recently in Putman & Harrington’s Discipleshift, I developed the following scale:

Spiritual Formation Scale		
Scale	State	Individual
0	Level I	Conversion!
1		Understand the New Nature
2		Practice Regular Worship
3		Write Your Personal Testimony
4		Make a Small Group Connection
5		Share Your Personal Testimony
6		Know Your Identity in Christ and How to Walk in Victory
7	Level II	Practice Spiritual Disciplines
8		Discover Your Spiritual Gifts
9		Find Your Place of Service
10		Develop Godly Character
11		Be Equipped for Evangelism
12	Level III	Lay a Theological Foundation
13		Accept the Cost of Discipleship
14		Practice Financial Stewardship
15		Understand Missional Living: Love Your Neighbor as Yourself
16		Understand Basic Discipling Essentials
17	Level IV	Begin Discipling
18		Recognize Various Worldviews, and Form a Christian Mind
19		Embrace God's Design for Marriage, Family, and Human Sexuality
20		Recognize the Importance of Bringing Gospel to the Nations
21		Identify Your Life Purpose, and Possible Leadership Role
22	Level V	Mentor Other Leaders

The “levels” are simply an acknowledgment that there are various stages in the Christian maturity process. Levels I-IV are similar to the four stages Putman & Harrington identify: Infant, Children, Young Adult, and Parent. Since some could come to faith in Christ later in life, but are still “newborn babes” as Peter calls them, the “Infant” designation may be correct, but potentially demeaning. So I simply acknowledged there are “levels” to our growth process. We stand before we walk, walk before we run.

Level V, the Mentor level, was added by me in recognition at some point we may not need to be “discipled,” as in taught by someone else who helps us take the next steps in our spiritual growth. But at that point we still need relationships. Proverbs 27:17 tells us “As iron sharpens iron, one man sharpens another.” We all need someone in our life to encourage us and hold us accountable. And at this stage, it may be desirable in a church setting for the Mentor to focus on discipling those whom God may be raising up as future leaders in the church, rather than new converts, so that there is an intentional pipeline of new leaders being developed.

The individual 21 steps before the Mentor level are intended to be sequential. You may or may not agree with the sequence, or the 21 steps. You are welcome to adapt the steps as you desire, adding, deleting, or moving them up or down the spiritual formation scale.

As you will see on the attached larger, more complete Spiritual Formation Scale, at each step I have identified the practical step to be taken by the “disciple,” and the accompanying encouragement and support to be provided by the “discipler.”

For example, in step one, "Understand the New Nature," here are the two tasks:

- **Disciple's Personal Action Step:** Be able to articulate what it means to be "born again," and the implications for life now and eternal life
- **Discipler Role:** Tell them how the Gospel has changed you, and about your confidence and hope of eternal life after death.

My goal was to be as specific, measurable and practical as possible, in order that the discipling process may be intentional and transferrable, as both the disciple and the discipler understand their role.

At each step I have also suggested a variety of resources. For step one the resources include John Bunyan, [Pilgrim's Progress](#); Tim Keller, [The Prodigal God](#); Elyse Fitzpatrick, [Found in Him](#); and John Piper, [Finally Alive](#).

There are various ways a discipler may make use of the resources. In many cases, it could be that you will pick a book listed, like in this case Fitzpatrick's book, and read and discuss a chapter each week with the disciple. Or you may want to select chapters from a book, or from several books, and read and discuss them together. Or simply pass on to the disciple highlights of what you read, along with your own experience. In some cases the resources may be a website, like step three, which refers you to a practical guide to writing a personal testimony. Or it may be a Bible app (step 7), or a test you can take to help you discover your spiritual gifts or your place of service (steps 8 & 9). In most cases it is not intended for you to make use of all the resources. You are free to choose, or find others of your choosing.

Or there is another possibility. One of the simplest ways to accomplish the discipleship process would be to study together the Scriptures also given as a resource for each step. For step one you could choose some or all of the Scriptures listed, and you and the disciple could read and study the passages together. The texts in bold are the ones I would personally use as the "primary" text to study each time I met with a disciple. If you studied one emboldened text each week together, you would work your way through the Spiritual Formation Scale in less than a year.

I have also attached to this document a ten question "Scripture Study Questions" worksheet, which we have used at our church. You may want to simply ask the 10 questions of the passage you are studying together each week, or the other possible study questions suggested. If so, be sure to get practical in the application section, and ask the disciple at your next meeting about an occasion where they applied what they had learned. Once you have finished the Spiritual Formation Scale texts, you could use the worksheet to study your way through books of the Bible.

I am always ready to make additions or changes to improve the Spiritual Formation Scale. Feel free to email your thoughts or suggestions to timtrudeau58@gmail.com, or contact me with questions you may have.

Of course there are other discipleship training materials available, such as the Navigators "Design for Discipleship" or "2:7" series. But regardless of your approach, may God build His church through the multiplication of disciples, and may the gates of hell not prevail against it!

Scripture Study Questions

Text:

Date:

1. What is the theme of this passage, the “Big Idea” the author wants to convey?
2. How does the historical, cultural or broader textual context help in your understanding of this passage?
3. What literary type (genre) is this passage? What are the implications of this for your understanding of the passage?

4. What is the key/main verse?

5. What are the key terms? How would you define them?

Genre:

Exposition/Didactic
Narrative
Parable/Allegory
Poetry
Proverb
Prophecy
Typology
Apocalyptic

6. What are key conjunctions in the passage? What do they tell you about the relationship of the phrase in which they are found to the phrase preceding or following?

Conjunctions:

Comparison- “as....so,” “also”
Contrast- “but,” “on the other hand”
Continuity- “and”
Cause/Effect- “therefore,” “so that”
Progression- “and”
Ground/Rational- “for,” “because”
Condition- “if...then”
Purpose/Goal- “so that” “in order that”
Time- “when,” “after,” “while” “now”
Place- “where,” “in,” “wherever”
Source- “from”

7. What are relevant cross-references that shed light on this passage?

8. How does this passage fit into the “drama” of redemption, the storyline of God’s grand plan of salvation running through all the Scriptures? How can you connect this passage with the Gospel, the Good News of deliverance from sin and power to live in a new way through our union with Christ in His death and resurrection?

9. What are the implications of this passage in our contemporary culture?

10. What personal application(s) can you make from this passage? Is there:

- an example to follow?
- a sin to avoid?
- a promise to claim?
- a command to obey?
- a condition to meet?
- a challenge to face?

One specific step of obedience God is calling me to take in application of this text:

Another option would be to ask these seven simpler questions of the text:

1. What kind of writing is this? Choose one: Story, poetry, letter
2. Write the topic of the passage in 1-5 words. What is the author talking about?
3. What are the important words or phrases in the passage? What do each of them mean? If you don't know, look them up.
4. What is the Big Idea of the passage? What is the author saying about the topic from (2.) Try to write it in one sentence or less.
5. Does this passage make you think of any other passages? Do those other passages help you understand this one better?
6. What does this passage have to do with Jesus? Think of his birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension to heaven.
7. How should this passage change the way you live today. Think of your relationship with Jesus, your relationships with other people, and the way you spend your time. What opportunities is God giving you follow Jesus by loving him and loving others?

Or these seven questions:

1. What is the central theme of this passage?
2. What did this passage mean to the original audience in its original context?
3. What are the key words found here, and how would you define them?
4. What are the key conjunctions in this passage, and how do they help you unlock the meaning of the text?
5. How does this passage connect with the Gospel, the Good news of our deliverance from sin (the cross), and our power to live in a new way (the empty tomb)?
6. What does the text mean in our current cultural context?
7. How will you apply this passage to your life this week?

Here is another practical model. Simply take a passage each week, and follow this pattern for each weekly meeting together:

- Ask: "What is one practical way you applied last week's Scripture passage?", and share how you applied it.
- Read today's passage
- Pray for the Spirit to guide you in understanding: "Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in Your law" (Psalm 119:18)
- Ask: "What did today's passage mean to the original hearers in their culture?"
- Ask: "What does the passage mean to us in our culture?"
- Ask: "What is the Holy Spirit telling you? How are you going to apply it?"
- Ask: "How can I pray for you today?", and share your own needs.

Remember: However you disciple another person, the model you set must be easy and transferrable. The goal is not to simply disciple one person, but to do so in such a way that the disciple embraces the discipleship model, and has been trained in a reproducible manner, that they can use in discipling others. If your model is not personal, not simple, and not contagious, you may make a disciple, but you will not make disciples who make disciples. There will be no II Timothy 2:2 four generations of disciples to celebrate.

Spiritual Formation Scale- "That we may present everyone mature in Christ," Colossians 1:28

Scale	State	Individual	Disciple's Personal Action Steps	Discipler Role	Key Resources	Scripture
0	Level I	Conversion!	Receive Christ, believing in His name, that you may be adopted into the family of God- John 1:12	Celebrate!		
1		Understand the New Nature	Be able to articulate what it means to be "born again," and the implications for life now and eternal life	Tell them how the Gospel has changed you, and about your confidence and hope of eternal life after death	Bunyan, <u>Pilgrim's Progress</u> ; Keller, <u>The Prodigal God</u> ; Fitzpatrick, <u>Found in Him</u> ; Piper, <u>Finally Alive</u>	II Corinthians 5:17-21; John 3:1-6 ; Romans 6:1-14; Ephesians 2:1-10 ; I John 3:1-10; I Peter 1:3-25
2		Practice Regular Worship	Understand the nature of the church, the community in Christ, and begin attending church regularly	Invite them to church, sit with them, introduce them to others. Discuss what it means to "worship" God, and the implications of being part of the community in Christ.	Dever, <u>The Church</u> ; Rainer, <u>I Am a Church Member</u> ; Whitney, <u>Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life</u> , ch. 5	I Peter 2:1-10 ; Acts 2:37-47 ; Ephesians 2:18-22, 4:1-16; John 4:1-25; Colossians 3:12-17
3		Write Your Personal Testimony	Write your story	Tell your story, assist in the writing of their story	https://www.navigator.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/navigators-stories-of-redemption.pdf	John 9:1-41
4		Make a Small Group Connection	Look for opportunities to meet regularly with other Christians, and commit yourself to a small group	Help them understand the importance of a small group connection, and show them opportunities to become involved.	Bridges, <u>True Community</u> ; Bonhoeffer, <u>Life Together</u> ; Stedman, <u>Body Life</u> ; Crabb, <u>Soul Talk</u>	Hebrews 10:19-39 ; Romans 12:9-18
5		Share Your Personal Testimony	Take the step of telling someone outside your inner circle about your conversion, and consider being baptized, telling your story there as well.	Tell them about an opportunity you have had to share your faith, and how you overcame your fear. Discuss the importance of baptism.		Romans 10:5-13 ; Acts 2:22-41
6		Know Your Identity in Christ and How to Walk in Victory	Be able to answer the question, "Who am I? Now that I am a new creation in Christ, how do I view myself, and what difference does it make? How do I walk in victory over sin and temptation?"	Help them understand the new lens through which they look at themselves, and frees them from the tyranny of seeing themselves through the eyes of others rather than Christ. Also show them how to walk in victory over sin and temptation.	Geiger, <u>Identity</u> ; Bridges, <u>Who Am I?</u> ; Kruger, <u>Identity Theft</u> ; Sampson, <u>Known</u> ; Neil Anderson chart, "Who I Am in Christ"; Gurnall, <u>The Christian in Complete Armor</u> ; Evans, <u>Victory in Spiritual Warfare</u>	<i>Identity</i> : Zephaniah 3:17; Isaiah 43:1-7; Romans 8:1-39 ; Ephesians 1:1-23; <i>Warfare</i> : Ephesians 6:10-20 ; Colossians 2:6-15; Hebrews 2:5-18
7	Level II	Practice Spiritual Disciplines	Understand and begin to practice the basic means of grace on your life: the spiritual disciplines. Identify specific ways you will consistently practice the disciplines.	Tell of your own experience with the disciplines, and help them establish specific, measurable, achievable goals to accomplish in the practice of the disciplines. Encourage them and hold them accountable to these goals.	Whitney, <u>Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life</u> ; Orberg, <u>Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People</u> ; ESV Study Bible; Youversion Bible App; "Scripture Study Questions" worksheet	<i>Disciplines</i> : I Timothy 4:7; <i>Scripture</i> : Psalm 1, 19, 119, Mark 4:1-20 , II Timothy 3:1-17, I Peter 1:22-23; Ezra 7:10 ; <i>Prayer</i> : Matthew 6:5-15 , John 15:1-11; <i>Fasting</i> : Matthew 6:16-18
8		Discover Your Spiritual Gifts	Become aware of the spiritual gifts and the Spirit's role in your life, and take a spiritual gifts assessment test	Provide resources to study the gifts, tell of your own experience in discovering your gifts, and provide and help them process a spiritual gifts assessment test.	Wagner, <u>Discover Your Spiritual Gifts</u> ; Schreiner, <u>Spiritual Gifts</u> ; Schwarz, <u>The Three Colors of Ministry</u> ; "Uniquely You" (Below)	I Corinthians 12:1-31 ; Romans 12:3-8; I Peter 4:7-11
9		Find Your Place of Service	Based upon your spiritual gifts, experiences, training, and the need, find a place of joyful service in the church.	Help with their self-assessment of their gifts, abilities, training, and experience, and identifying areas of service in keeping with how God has designed and equipped them.	https://uniquelyyou.org/catalog/online-profiles/combined-profiles ; Whitney, <u>Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life</u> , ch. 7	Mark 10:35-45 ; Galatians 5:13; Philippians 2:1-11
10		Develop Godly Character	Identify the fruit of the Spirit and other essential character qualities that lead to personal flourishing and an effective witness, and develop a plan for continued growth in godly character.	Help them identify the qualities associated with godly character, understand the importance of character for their own lives as well as their witness, and encourage and challenge them as they seek to grow in specific, self-identified areas.	Sanders, <u>Cultivation of Christian Character</u> ; Merrit, <u>Character Still Counts</u> ; Bridges, <u>The Fruitful Life</u> ; MacArthur, <u>The Pillars of Christian Character</u> ; Wilkin, <u>In His Image</u>	II Peter 1:3-15 ; Colossians 1:1-17
11		Be Equipped for Evangelism	Identify a practical plan for sharing the Gospel with others. Memorize key aspects of the plan, and practice sharing the Good News.	Share your basic Gospel plan of salvation, help them develop theirs, and listen as they share their plan with you and give feedback.	Fay, <u>Share Jesus Without Fear</u> ; Metzger, <u>Tell the Truth</u> ; Laurie, <u>Tell Someone</u> ; Whitney, <u>Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life</u> , ch. 6	I Peter 3:15; Matthew 5:13-16, 28:18-20; II Corinthians 5:17-21 ; Acts 1:1-8; Mark 1:20
12	Level III	Lay a Theological Foundation	Identify and develop a basic understanding of the essential doctrines of the faith. Learn the importance of doctrine, as it serves as a foundation for life.	Show them doctrine is not simply for head knowledge, but necessary for living out the Gospel to their own good and God's glory. Guide them in the study of doctrinal essentials, and clarify areas of confusion, ignorance or misunderstanding on doctrinal issues.	Grudem, <u>Christian Beliefs</u> ; Packer, <u>Concise Theology</u> ; Grudem, <u>Bible Doctrine</u>	<i>God</i> : Isaiah 40:1-31; <i>Christ</i> : Phil. 2:1-11; <i>Holy Spirit</i> : John 14:15-31, 16:4-15; <i>Sin</i> : Romans 3:1-20 ; <i>Salvation</i> : Romans 3:21-4:8 ; <i>Sanctification</i> : Romans 6:1-23 ; <i>Death</i> : I Cor. 15:1-58 ; <i>Christ's Return</i> : Matt. 24:1-51 ; <i>Heaven</i> : Rev. 21:1-22:21
13		Accept the Cost of Discipleship	What does it mean to "take up the cross daily?" Learn why suffering is an expected reality in the Christian life, and how to be ready to suffer, and evaluate current suffering in light of the promises of God.	Teach them that suffering is an anticipated reality in the Christian life, particularly persecution, and help them prepare to pay the cost of their convictions.	Bonhoeffer, <u>The Cost of Discipleship</u> ; Keller, <u>Walking With God Through Pain and Suffering</u> ; Lawson, <u>The Cost</u> ; Tada, <u>When God Weeps</u>	<i>Cost of Discipleship</i> : Matthew 10:16-39; Mark 8:34-38 ; <i>Suffering</i> : Romans 5:1-5; James 1:2-4; I Peter 1:3-9; Romans 8:18-39 ; II Corinthians 4:1-18
14		Practice Financial Stewardship	Understand the principles of wise stewardship of all God has entrusted to you. Form a budget, learn to hold your possessions loosely, be generous, and tithe. Create a plan for meeting the needs of the poor, and advancing God's kingdom.	Help them understand God has entrusted to them resources which are to be maximized for kingdom-building purposes, and discuss the practical implications as related to their time, talents and treasure.	Ramsey, "Financial Peace" Seminar; <u>The Total Money Makeover</u> ; Alcorn, <u>Money, Possessions & Eternity</u> ; Evans, <u>Kingdom Stewardship</u> ; Whitney, <u>Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life</u> , ch. 8	I Timothy 6:1-19 ; II Corinthians 8:1-9:15 ; Matthew 6:1-4, 19-24; Luke 12:16-21, 16:19-31; Malachi 3:8-10
15		Understand Missional Living: Love Your Neighbor as Yourself	Realize God has brought the people around you into your life for a reason. Your words and actions demonstrate the transforming power of the Gospel. Identify ways you incarnate the presence of Christ in your everyday world, and form a specific strategy for loving the "neighbors" around you.	Explain what it means to live every day "on mission" for God, bringing the presence of Christ to bear upon their sphere of influence, including identifying practical ways they can love their "neighbor."	Finke, <u>Joining Jesus on His Mission</u> ; Ogden, <u>The Essential Commandment</u> ; Hammond/Cronshaw, <u>Six Postures of Missional Christians</u>	Mark 12:28-34 ; Luke 10:25-37; Mark 2:13-17; I John 4:7-21
16		Understand Basic Discipleship Essentials	Learn what it means to "disciple" someone, and begin to develop basic skills necessary to enter into the role of discipler.	Tell them about your own experience in discipling others, and help them understand the basics of discipleship.	Ogden, <u>Discipleship Essentials</u> ; Putman, et al., <u>Real-Life Discipleship Training Manual</u> ; Coleman, <u>The Master Plan of Evangelism</u>	Mark 1:16-20 ; 3:13-19 ; I Thessalonians 1:2-10
17	Level IV	Begin Discipling	Begin discipling someone, and see all of your relationships through the "formation scale" lens, as informally you can influence all in your sphere of influence to take one step further down the scale.	Encourage them to take initial steps to disciple someone.	Dever, <u>Discipling</u> ; Hull, <u>The Complete Book of Discipleship</u> ; Ogden, <u>Transforming Discipleship</u> ; Dodson, <u>Gospel-Centered Discipleship</u>	Matthew 28:1-20 ; II Timothy 2:2; Acts 18:24-28; I Corinthians 4:8-21; Philippians 3:17, 4:9
18		Recognize Various Worldviews, and Form a Christian Mind	Recognize there are competing worldviews in our culture, through which the world is viewed, opinions stated, and decisions made. Be able to articulate the worldviews, identify the elements of a Christian worldview, and determine how your perspective needs to change in light of it, and how you can effectively interact with those who hold other views.	Assist them in identifying the various worldviews held in our culture, recognizing the fallacy of worldviews other than a Christian perspective, and guide them in reshaping their perspective in light of a truth-based understanding.	Pearcey, <u>Saving Leonardo</u> ; Platt, <u>Counter Culture</u> ; Groeschel, <u>Winning the War in Your Mind</u> ; Sire, <u>Name the Elephant</u>	Romans 12:1-2; I John 4:1-6; John 1:1-18 ; II Timothy 3:1-4:5; Colossians 2:1-3:4
19		Embrace God's Design for Marriage, Family, and Human Sexuality	Recognize God's design for relationships in the home, and the implications of His design for human sexuality. Identify practical ways to implement His design in your home, and have a plan for defending His design in a culture confused.	Share how you seek to honor God in your relationships in the home, including challenges, failures, and practical steps. Help them formulate an understanding of God's design for human flourishing as it relates to human sexuality.	Keller, <u>The Meaning of Marriage</u> ; Wildman, <u>First Ask Why</u> ; Tripp, <u>Parenting</u> ; Allberry, <u>Why Does God Care Who I Sleep With?</u>	<i>Marriage</i> : Genesis 2:18-25 ; Ephesians 5:21-33; <i>Parenting</i> : Ephesians 6:1-4 ; Deut. 6:1-9; <i>Sexuality</i> : Genesis 1:26-31 ; Romans 13:13-14; Matthew 5:27-28, 19:3-9; Romans 1:18-32
20		Recognize the Importance of Bringing the Gospel to the Nations	Expand your vision of God's work in the world, and the role of each Christian and the church to bring the Gospel to the nations. Identify ways to actively support missions.	Expand their vision for God's work in the world, that they may catch a passion for and their role in bringing the Gospel to the nations.	Piper, <u>Let the Nations be Glad</u> ; Johnson, <u>Missions</u> ; Borthwick, <u>Great Commission, Great Compassion</u>	Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:1-8 ; Romans 10:5-17
21		Identify Your Life Purpose, and Possible Leadership Role	Ask what the next steps of obedience may be as you continue to grow in faith. Is God calling you to leadership, or some other way you can join Him in the work He is doing, to maximize your gifts, experience, talents and abilities for kingdom advancement?	Help them explore the possibility God is calling them to leadership in the local church, or to vocational ministry, or some other expansion of His kingdom-building ministry through them.	Terkeurst, <u>Far From Ordinary</u> ; Ward, <u>I Am a Leader</u> ; Guinness, <u>The Call</u> ; Costa, <u>Know Your Why</u> ; Platt, <u>Radical</u> ; APEST: https://sqcentral.com/product/apest-vocational-assessment/	Jeremiah 1:1-19 ; I Timothy 3:1-13 ; I Peter 5:1-11
22	Level V	Mentor Other Leaders	Find opportunities to mentor other leaders	Encourage and hold accountable one or more mentors in an ongoing peer-to-peer relationship for the sake of fellowship, accountability and continued growth.		Proverbs 27:1-17

Note: Based upon the "Engel" scale, developed by James Engel, and the "Five Stages of Discipleship" growth path developed by Jim Putman and Bobby Harrington

Ask: Where are you, and what intentional relationships can you develop with a discipler, small group or other relationship(s) in order to continue to grow?

Ask: Where are those with whom you are in relationship, and how can you be used of God to help them move to the next level, whether formally (a disciple/discipler relationship), or informally (through your influence) as you live in relationship with them?

Remember: These steps are simply intentional means to growing in conformity to the Christ we love. He is gentle and lowly of heart, and His yoke is easy. We do not pursue these actions to "measure up," but as those who live out the grace poured into them, that we may serve Christ and His kingdom building purposes to His glory and to the flourishing of our souls and of those around us.