

## **Presentation of Spiritual Development Inventory:**

- 1. Distribute Spiritual Development Inventory to group members and have them take it home to fill it out. Let them know that at your next meeting you would like to hear what areas of strengths and weaknesses they discovered by taking the inventory.**
- 2. At the next meeting make a list of the weak areas that your group in general discovered by taking the inventory. Prioritize them and start making a plan on how to help them grow in these areas.**
- 3. Refer to the discipleship resource catalog to find the various resources that may help you address your personal or your group's need.**

# Spiritual Development Inventory

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*Our mission is to develop a community of passionate, mature, reproducing disciples, to plant passionate mature, reproducing churches; and to transform the world by love and good deeds for the glory of God.*

*- Vineyard Church of Columbus Mission Statement*

This Spiritual Development Inventory is a tool designed to help individuals and groups determine their growth as disciples of Jesus Christ. We define a disciple as a life-long learner and follower of Christ whose goal is conformity to Him in heart, word and deed. Growth as a disciple is a process of change we refer to as “discipleship.” It involves both human effort (learning, training and discipline) and Divine activity (power of the Holy Spirit). The ideal context for discipleship to occur is in relationship with other believers in the church.

A disciple is someone who has placed Jesus at the very center of life, along with the bible (God’s Word) and fellowship with other Christians. As a disciple grows and matures in Christ, other areas of life will develop, such as holy living, compassion towards others, sensitivity to the Holy Spirit, etc. A helpful way to visualize this is illustrated in our “Discipleship Wheel” (see below).

Using this inventory tool will help you determine how well you are growing as a disciple in these different areas of the Christian life. An inventory is simply a list of current assets, or a list of traits, attitudes, interests, abilities or skills. Keep in mind that this is a *tool* to help measure your growth and not a *test* to pass or fail. It’s not intended to make a fundamental statement about your overall spirituality—it’s just meant to take stock of where you are at right now. Its purpose is to reveal your strengths and weakness, and to help you decide where you may want to focus more time and energy in the way of study, training and discipline. According to the bible, we never fully “arrive” in this life as disciples—there will always be room for growth and change.



The apostle Paul wrote, "Examine yourselves... test yourselves" (2 Cor.13: 5). Therefore, it's good for us as Christians to regularly take an inventory of how we are doing spiritually. Where are we strong and growing and where are we weak and underdeveloped? What should be our spiritual focus during this next year? Use this inventory tool as a way to examine yourself. Read through each statement and score it appropriately, using the scale below:

- #1 almost never true of me (or "Not yet true of me")
- #2 occasionally true of me
- #3 often true of me
- #4 Most of the time true of me
- #5 almost always true of me (or "Is true of me")

When you are done, add up your scores for each section and record the totals at the bottom of the page. These scores can then help you determine which areas of your Christian life are strong and which are underdeveloped. Note that these numbers are only relevant to *you* and your spiritual development at this point in time. Don't, for example, compare scores with others, since that is not the purpose of this inventory.

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# Christ

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*A disciple has received Christ as Lord and Savior and has yielded totally to Him. Jesus is now at the center of his or her life. His or her love for Him and desire to obey Him determines all that they do.*

I have accepted Christ as my Savior and Lord and believe that I have been born-again.	1	2	3	4	5
I am becoming increasingly devoted to Jesus and feel growing love for Him in response to the love He has shown me.	1	2	3	4	5
More and more, I look forward to church services and small group meetings where I will have opportunity to worship Christ.	1	2	3	4	5
I see my motivations are changing, from what will please me and make me happy, to how I can please Jesus and do what He wants in my life.	1	2	3	4	5
I actually see specific behaviors, habits, speech patterns, relationships, etc. changing because of the influence Jesus now has in my life.	1	2	3	4	5
I understand the cost of being a disciple and find myself more willing to pay that cost (e.g. personal rejection by friends or co-workers; giving of time, money and energy for those in need; placing limits on self-indulgence like purchases or use of leisure time).	1	2	3	4	5
I now identify myself first as a disciple of Jesus, and then as a student or wife or husband or mother or father, etc. My relationship with Jesus is now the most defining thing about me.	1	2	3	4	5

**total score:** \_\_\_\_\_

# Bible

*A disciple views the bible as God's Word and the final authority for how they live and what they believe.*

I spend time every day reading the bible or listening to the bible on tape or CD.	1	2	3	4	5
I follow a bible - reading plan and have (or will have by the end of the year) read through the entire bible.	1	2	3	4	5
I have attended a bible class and/or a bible study group so that I can learn more about what the bible teaches.	1	2	3	4	5
I have books (reference books, study guides, etc.) to help me better understand the bible.	1	2	3	4	5
I have prepared and taught a small group bible study or bible class.	1	2	3	4	5
I go to the bible for answers to the problems in my life and for guidance before making a decision. What the bible says now determines many of my values and idea, and shapes much of my behavior.	1	2	3	4	5
I feel God personally speaks to me through the bible. After spending time reading the bible, I feel closer to God.	1	2	3	4	5

**total score:** \_\_\_\_\_

# Community

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*A disciple is actively involved in close relationship with other Christian believers through fellowship, ministry and service opportunities.*

I attend church regularly.	1	2	3	4	5
I am part of a small group and participate regularly.	1	2	3	4	5
I spend time outside of church services and meetings involved with other believers. I find my time with other believers to be mutually encouraging. We often pray for each other and help each other in practical ways.	1	2	3	4	5
I am involved in some form of service either at the church (e.g., greeter, usher, Sunday School teacher) or out in the community with other believers.	1	2	3	4	5
I have a Christian friend with whom I can be open and honest about what's really going on in my life.	1	2	3	4	5
I have taken on leadership responsibilities in a particular area of Christian ministry in the church or out in the community.	1	2	3	4	5
I understand the value of Christian community and encourage other Christians to get connected and involved in fellowship.	1	2	3	4	5

**total score:** \_\_\_\_\_

# The Integrated Life

*A disciple's entire life is impacted and directed by his or her relationship with Jesus Christ.*

I consult the bible, the Lord in prayer and other mature believers when making important life decisions such as dating, marriage, child rising, career and finances.	1	2	3	4	5
I view "my" money as belonging to the Lord. I consult Him on how much I should give away and how much I should keep for myself.	1	2	3	4	5
Being a Christian has changed my spending habits. I no longer spend money on _____. I also find that I give money more to God's work and to others in need.	1	2	3	4	5
Being a Christian has affected how I use my time: I now use some of my "free time" not just for leisure activities but also as opportunities to help to others.	1	2	3	4	5
I seek the Lord for guidance about where I should live, where I should work, what I should study in school, etc.	1	2	3	4	5
Being a follower of Christ has affected how I behave at work, school, in my family and in my neighborhood. Jesus has changed my work ethic, the quality of my personal relationships with others, what I will and will not talk about, my honesty, etc.	1	2	3	4	5
People at my job, at my school, in my extended family and in my neighborhood would not be surprised to find out I'm a Christian: I try to be the same person in these contexts as I am at church.	1	2	3	4	5

**total score: \_\_\_\_\_**

# The Evangelistic Life

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*A disciple is committed to sharing the gospel message with others and using all means possible to win people over to Jesus.*

I realize that I should personally play a key role in seeing my friends, co-workers, relatives and neighbors come to Jesus. I believe my contacts with others are potential opportunities God has provided for sharing the gospel.	1	2	3	4	5
I regularly invite others to church.	1	2	3	4	5
I regularly share about Jesus with those around me and am prepared to share my personal testimony with someone if they should ask me to “give an account for the hope that is in me.”	1	2	3	4	5
I understand the gospel message and can clearly explain to someone how they can be saved.	1	2	3	4	5
In the past year, I have seen others come to Christ through my “witness” (my sharing the gospel with them).	1	2	3	4	5
I regularly pray for others to come to know Jesus.	1	2	3	4	5
I have received training for evangelism so I can become more effective in sharing my faith with others.	1	2	3	4	5

**total score: \_\_\_\_\_**

# The Holy Life

*A disciple is committed to a life of personal purity and obedience to God  
in word, action, mind and heart.*

There have been obvious outward moral changes in my life since I came to Christ. (I have become more sexually moral, I have stopped using foul language, I no longer “party,” etc.)	1	2	3	4	5
I have broken off relationships with people who have a negative influence in my life with regards to sin.	1	2	3	4	5
I avoid places and/or activities (e.g. bars, parties, certain bookstores, lunch table at work) that present me with strong temptations to sin.	1	2	3	4	5
I resist the temptation to just go along with the crowd. I now stop and consider first what is the right thing to do and say in a situation rather just acting impulsively.	1	2	3	4	5
People around me (at work, school or family) have noticed a change in my outward words and behaviors. They now say I would never do or say “such and such” because they know I am a Christian.	1	2	3	4	5
I have grown increasingly sensitive to sin in my life—not just in my actions and words, but also in my thoughts and motivations. I regularly confess my sins to God, seeking forgiveness.	1	2	3	4	5
I am able to reach out to others caught in sin with the love of Jesus without myself becoming entangled as well. I have been able to maintain a moral lifestyle (outward words and actions) without condemning and judging others.	1	2	3	4	5

**total score: \_\_\_\_\_**

# The Disciplined Life

*A disciple is committed to the practice of the spiritual disciplines of prayer, bible reading, meditation and fasting in order to become more conformed to the image of Christ.*

I have a daily time of prayer and bible reading.	1	2	3	4	5
I keep a journal of my prayers and what I feel God is saying to me through the bible.	1	2	3	4	5
I regularly worship God when I am alone in order to draw near to Him.	1	2	3	4	5
I memorize scripture verses that are particularly meaningful to me.	1	2	3	4	5
I will fast from food (or TV or shopping, etc.) when I desire to draw close to God or to see a breakthrough in some area of my life.	1	2	3	4	5
I love to read biographies and autobiographies of well-known Christians whose lives have had great impact so that I can learn from their example.	1	2	3	4	5
I have removed from my life such activities as excessive TV watching, listening to the radio all day, shopping as a pastime, etc. so that I will have more time alone with God.	1	2	3	4	5

**total score:** \_\_\_\_\_

# The Compassionate Life

*A disciple desires to be like Jesus in His concern for and practical involvement with the poor and needy.*

My heart is moved when I see or hear of someone in need.	1	2	3	4	5
I regularly pray for God to work justice on behalf of those in need.	1	2	3	4	5
I regularly look for opportunities to help those who cannot in any way return the favor.	1	2	3	4	5
I give of my time and energy to practically make a difference for those in need (e.g. volunteer to help others in the community or at one of Vineyard's ministries to those in need: the food pantry, the homeless ministry, the prison ministry, the medical clinic or the ministry to AIDS and HIV patients).	1	2	3	4	5
I give money above and beyond my tithe to help the poor.	1	2	3	4	5
I have simplified my life so that I have more time and resources to give away to those in need.	1	2	3	4	5
I dream of creative, practical ways of helping people in need.	1	2	3	4	5

**total score: \_\_\_\_\_**

# The Empowered Life

*A disciple is filled with the Holy Spirit and in the power of the Holy Spirit,  
ministers to others like Jesus did.*

I have had one or more experiences in which I have tangibly felt the Holy Spirit (e.g. felt tingling, shook, cried, laughed, or fell down).	1	2	3	4	5
I have experienced and/or expressed one or more of the gifts of the Holy Spirit as listed in 1 Corinthians 12 or Romans 12.	1	2	3	4	5
I understand how to and do regularly pray for the sick.	1	2	3	4	5
I have prayed for someone and I know that they were healed.	1	2	3	4	5
I understand how to pray for the demonized and have cast demons out of people.	1	2	3	4	5
While praying for others, I sense the presence of the Holy Spirit and feel I know from God what their need is. Often I discover I am right.	1	2	3	4	5
I have taken Holy Spirit ministry “to the market place” (e.g. I have shared “words” with unbelievers that have been right, I have prayed with someone for healing at my job, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5

**total score: \_\_\_\_\_**