

Discipleship Assessment

adapted from, *With Christ in the School of Discipleship* by Carl Wilson

Purpose: To show the progression of challenge and commitment in the discipleship process.

Objectives: By the end of this session the student will

1. Be able to enumerate the seven steps of discipleship.
2. Be able to evaluate where the majority of people in their ministry are and develop a plan of growth to move them to the next step.
3. Feel comfortable and confident in evaluating and preparing for growth.

Key Verse(s): Colossians 1:28-29

I. Introduction

Read Colossians 1:28-29; Ephesians 4:11-16

We are to labor to present every person complete in Christ, to bring them to maturity. In an earlier session (“Spiritual Stages of Growth”) we discovered that spiritual growth, like psycho-socio-physical growth in a child, follows a pattern. In 1 John 2:12-14 it says we grow from childhood through young manhood to fatherhood. This pattern forms the basis for this assessment. If we are going to be effective at discipleship, we need to understand how people grow spiritually. We need to understand what is common for each level. We need to know what they can and cannot do at each level. We need to know how to move them on to the next level. These are the kinds of things we will be discussing in this session.

Look at Wilson’s chart on the following pages. The column “**Trust**” explains the crisis that the disciple must successfully complete. “**Content**” notes general things Jesus taught the disciples during this stage. In the section called “**Scripture**,” particular passages are listed that can be used to teach these themes and doctrines. “**Development**” lists specialized tools that can be used to help an individual successfully navigate this stage. “**Prayer**” shows particular areas that need to be prayed for while a disciple is in this step. Finally, the section called “**Students**” is a place to record where one senses a disciple may be at this particular time.

Note to instructor: Share with the class how this has been helpful as you disciple others, or share how this has been helpful in your own personal growth – and the next steps of faith you need to take.

The Seven Steps of Discipleship

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Step	Trust	Content	Scripture	Development	Prayer	Students
<p style="text-align: center;">I</p> <p>Repentance (Coming to Christ)</p>	From past to new life in Christ.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grace and Love of God - Judgment-Separation - Forgiveness of Sin - Repentance - Eternal Life 	John 3:16; 10:10; 1:12 Romans 3:23; 5:8; 6:23; 10:9,10; Eph 2:8,9 Revelation 3:20 Acts 4:12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4-laws - Van Duesen Ltr - Evangelism meetings - Films, tapes, etc. - Way of Life Witnessing 	For open hearts and the Holy Spirit to draw men to God	
<p style="text-align: center;">II</p> <p>Enlightenment (Learning about Christ and beginning to walk by faith.)</p>	From self to Christ as leader -- a firm understanding and trust as to who Jesus Christ is.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assurance of Salvation - Abundant Life - Jesus = God/man - Deity of Christ - Virgin Birth - Reasons for Christ's death - Sinfulness of man - Eternal Life 	1 John 5:11-13 John 8:58, 10:30; 1:1 Luke 2 Matthew 1 1 Corinthians 15 Hebrews 1:3; 10 Philippians 2 Colossians 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Follow up material - Transferable Concepts (TC's) (1-3, 10) - Discovery Group - Navigator materials - 10 Steps (1, 2) - Holy Spirit - Church - Evangelistic Meetings 	Seeing answered prayer in His name. Come to understand who they are in Christ.	
<p style="text-align: center;">III</p> <p>Ministry (Evangelism) Doing the work of Christ. Walking by faith and beginning to communicate their faith.</p>	From self-pursuit to building up of the kingdom of God.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spirit-filled life - Justification by faith - Great commission and sense of urgency in winning friends to Christ - Full dedication to Christ - Second coming - Study and work to show yourself approved - How to pray 	Ephesians 5:18 Romans 5, 8, 12:1-2 Matthew 28:18-20; 4:19,20 Acts 1:8 John 14-16 2 Peter 3 1 Thessalonians 4,5 2 Timothy 2:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discovery group 2 - TC's (4-7) - Developing relationships with confidence - Bible Study - 10 Steps (3, 7) - Action Group - Spiritual disciplines - LTI/LTC 	That God will show His superior power and humble the disciple. The disciple will see God use him in ministry and gain a vision for God's continual use of him in ministry.	

Step	Trust	Content	Scripture	Development	Prayer	Students
<p>IV Leadership (Discipleship) Becoming an influence for Christ and beginning to multiply their faith</p>	<p>Public responsibility for ministry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spiritual warfare and the two kingdoms - Glorify God and extend His kingdom - Cost of discipleship - Vision of movement on campus--multiplication - Qualities of a leader 	<p>Ephesians 6 2 Corinthians 10:4,5 Matthew 5-7; 10:32-42 1 Corinthians 10:31 Luke 14:26-35 2 Timothy 2:2 2 Corinthians 5 1 Timothy 3 Titus 1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conferences - TC's 8-9 - Ten Steps 4-6 - Projects - Team Training - Mentoring - GCTC - Biblical training 	<p>Demonstration of Christ's power over Satan. Learn to serve. Learn humility. Not lose first love.</p>	
<p>V Re-evaluation (Choosing eternal values over temporal world system) Continuing to multiply</p>	<p>From world to eternal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - God put highest value on eternal things - Willing to suffer for the Kingdom of God - False religions and cults - The Church, the Body of Christ. 	<p>John 6:66; 7:14-10:21 Luke 14 Matthew 6:19-34 2 Corinthians 4:13-18 2 Peter 2 1 Corinthians 12-14 James Acts Romans 1, 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ten Steps (8-10) - Obedience - Disciplines of solitude & worship - Mentoring - Placement inventories - Church and fellowship 	<p>That God will show disciples the value of His eternal kingdom.</p>	
<p>VI Delegation (Producing other leaders to multiply their faith.)</p>	<p>From trust for self to trust in God's working through others.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Role of the church and its problems - Spiritual gifts - Christ and His kingdom must have top priority - Servant mentality - Delegate authority - Expect opposition 	<p>Epistles Acts 1 Corinthians 12,13 Ephesians 4 Romans 12 Matthew 6:33; 5:43; 19, 20 Luke 10:1-16 2 Peter 5:8-11</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry Responsibility - Management Training - Strategic Planning training 	<p>God's power in the face of opposition. Trust God to work through others & glory in other's success. Trust others.</p>	
<p>VII Exchanged Life (Ready to be an independent leader for Christ)</p>	<p>Rests in the sufficiency of Christ through the Holy Spirit, trusting in His power only and not in the flesh.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Faith and trust - Crisis and victory - Die to self - Authority of God's word - Sovereignty of God 	<p>Hebrews 11 Colossians 2:16 Philippians 2:3-7 Galatians 2:20 Philippians 3 2 Timothy 3:16 1 Corinthians 1:23-2:5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - according to the need of the person, based upon calling and giftedness 	<p>Holy Spirit's presence will be more real. Christ increase, he decrease. Glory in Christ, not performance.</p>	

II. Conclusion

As in any relationship, whether it be a marriage, friendship or discipleship, communication and intimacy take time. But they also take commitment to growth and action on that commitment.

Think of those that God has given you responsibility for. What stage are they in? What do they need to know and apply to grow successfully through the stage they are in and into the next stage? What can you do to nourish that growth and provide an environment for them to grow?

What are you doing to deepen your own fellowship with God? Look at the stage descriptions as listed above. Which stage are you in? What is God doing in your life right now to mature you in this stage? What new perspective, settled conclusion about God and the way He has created things, do you need to acquire to enter the next stage? This is His doing, it begins at the cognitive (knowing) level, but comes to a conclusion at the affective (valuing) level and only He can create that. But, if we know what He is about, we can certainly join one another in prayer for each other's growth. Come to class prepared to discuss these things.

Note to instructor: Have the students get into groups of 3 or 4 to discuss what they wrote in the "Conclusion" section. Then have them go over the Discussion Questions. When 10 or 15 minutes may be left for class, ask the students if this was helpful, how was it helpful, do they agree with Carl Wilson's 7 steps of discipleship – why or why not, etc.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are the seven steps of discipleship as described by Carl Wilson?
2. Do you agree with Carl Wilson's 7 steps of discipleship? Why or why not?