



USING THE GROWING DISCIPLES INVENTORY (GDI) TO ASSESS CHRISTIAN SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

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DISCIPLESHIP = CHRISTIAN SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

- ✘ *Discipleship is becoming like Jesus as we walk with him in the real world. Michael Wilkens*
- ✘ *Christian spiritual development is holistic growth toward maturity in beliefs, attitudes, and relational practices of Christian spirituality Cloud & Townsend 2001*
- ✘ Holistic lifelong learning as Christ-followers
 - + Integrated faith & learning & life
 - + Redemptive education
- ✘ Discipleship IS lifelong Christian spiritual development
- ✘ Thus a *growing disciple* is a Christian engaged in the process of lifelong *Christian spiritual development*, in turn mentoring or *discipling* other Christ-followers.



TOGETHER GROWING FRUITFUL DISCIPLES (TGFD) MODEL

Ministering

Participating in God's mission of revelation, reconciliation, & restoration.

Intentionally walking "alongside other disciples in order to encourage, equip, & challenge one another to grow toward maturity in Christ" (Ogden, 2003)

Equipping

Connecting

"Loving God completely, ourselves correctly, and others compassionately" (Boa, 2001)

Learning the truth of God's relationship with humanity through Jesus Christ, the Word.

Understanding

"All Christians are disciples and are called to participate in the discipleship process, both by receiving instruction and living out their faith for others to see and imitate" (Samra, 2003)

HOLISTIC CHRISTIAN SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

GD Model	Boa	Rice	Taylor	Trent	Domains
Connecting	Experience	Being	Heart	Love	Affective
Understanding	Doctrine	Believing	Head	Know	Cognitive
Ministering	Practice	Behaving	Hand	Serve	Behavioural

Equipping One Another to Connect, Understand & Minister





PERSONAL PROCESSES OF CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

The processes through which an individual Christian grows in spiritual maturity and fruit-bearing (John 15:5-8)

UNDERSTANDING

Learning the truth of God's relationship with humanity through Jesus Christ, the Word (Matthew 4:4; John 8:31; 14:23)

MINISTERING

Participating in God's mission of revelation, reconciliation, and restoration
(Matthew 25:40; 28:19,20; Galatians 5:22-23)

CONNECTING

"Loving God completely, ourselves correctly, and others compassionately"
(Boa, 2001) (Matthew 22:37-38; John 13:35)

"All Christians are disciples and are called to participate in the discipleship process,



Both by receiving instruction and living out their faith for others to see and imitate."
(Samra, 2003)

EQUIPPING

Intentionally walking "alongside other disciples in order to encourage, equip, and challenge one another in love to grow toward maturity in Christ" (Ogden, 2003)
(Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Thessalonians 5:11)

COMMUNITY PROCESS OF CHRISTIAN DISCIPLING

The discipleship living within the body of Christ (local church, Christian home, Christian friends, Christian teachers) that impacts others' attitude toward and engagement in the personal processes of maturing as a disciple.

ALIGNED ASSESSMENT

- The Together Growing Fruitful Disciples framework encompasses four cyclical processes of lifelong Christian spiritual development.
- Each process includes 5 or 6 commitments, listed to the right.
- More specific indicators flesh out a curriculum that represents the span (but are not exhaustive) of outcomes included in each commitment (shown on next 2 slides)
- While not the only model of Christian spiritual development, it simply and holistically provides a curriculum to align a holistic assessment of goals variously worded by Adventist schools globally.



FRAMEWORK

The Together Growing Fruitful Disciples Curriculum Framework was developed by a team of educators at Andrews University in collaboration with the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists: Dr. Larry Burton, Glynis Bradfield, and Monica Desir, School of Education; Dr. Kathleen Beagles and Dr. Jane Thayer, Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary.

Connecting

Growing in relationship with God, self, and others.

As a growing disciple, I am:

1. Developing a dynamic relationship with God.
2. Developing an identity that is complete in Christ.
3. Developing Christ-centered family relationships.
4. Developing Christ-centered relationships in the local and global church as a member of the body of Christ.
5. Developing positive relationships with those outside the church to fulfill the Gospel commission.

Understanding

Growing in knowledge of Jesus and His teachings.

As a growing disciple, I am:

1. Learning that Christ calls me to be His disciple.
2. Learning that God is the source of life.
3. Learning about the human fall from God's original plan, and its consequences.
4. Learning that God has provided everything that is needed for the redemption of human beings.
5. Learning that God has provided everything needed for the restoration of human beings into the image of God.

Ministering

Growing in participation in God's mission of revelation, reconciliation, and restoration.

As a growing disciple, I am:

1. Seeking opportunities in all daily activities to minister to others.
2. Investing myself in the discipleship of others.
3. Recognizing and responding to the needs of God's suffering children in the local community and around the world.
4. Supporting the ministries of the local and global church with personal resources.
5. Embracing the evangelistic mission of the church to tell the world the story of Jesus.

Equipping

Growing the Body of Christ by walking alongside other disciples in order to support, nurture, and strengthen in love.

As a growing discipler, I am:

1. Helping other disciples engage in a transformational devotional life.
2. Helping other disciples build Christ-like relationships.
3. Helping other disciples study and obey God's word.
4. Helping other disciples live a contagious, holistic Christian life.
5. Helping other disciples discern where God is working in His world and in their lives.
6. Helping other disciples use spiritual gifts in fulfilling a personal call to mission and ministry.

Connecting: Growing in relationship with God, self, and others

C1. To develop a dynamic, deepening, love relationship with God, I am:

- C1.1 communing with God regularly through His word, prayer and other Christian disciplines.
- C1.2 participating with other believers in worshipping God on Sabbath and at other times.
- C1.3 worshipping God daily as a living sacrifice by choosing His will over my own will.
- C1.4 paying attention to what God is doing and praising Him for His love and faithfulness.
- C1.5 participating with God in His mission of reconciliation and restoration.

C2. To develop an individual identity that is complete in Christ, I am:

- C2.1 surrendering my heart and my will to God
- C2.2 learning that God places infinite value on me.
- C2.3 recognizing my continual need of God's forgiving and empowering grace.
- C2.4 inviting the Holy Spirit to guide in my on-going self-reflection and actions.
- C2.5 embracing cultural expectations that are aligned with the Bible and replacing those that are not.

C3. To develop Christ-centered family relationships, I am:

- C3.1 recognizing that my commitment to Christ takes priority over every human relationship.
- C3.2 contributing, supporting and extending unconditional love to those within my family circle.
- C3.3 holding as sacred my family commitments and responsibilities to parents, spouse, and children.
- C3.4 passing on the Christian faith to my children through both teaching and living an authentic Christian life.
- C3.5 practicing hospitality, welcoming into my family or home those who God brings to my attention.
- C3.6 committing to live by biblical standards of sexual morality.

C4. To develop Christ-centered relationships in the local and global church as a member of the body of Christ, I am:

- C4.1 being supported and nurtured by the community of believers.
- C4.2 praying with and for fellow believers, rejoicing with those that rejoice, and caring for those that are in need.
- C4.3 loving and serving the church's children, continuing to disciple them as they mature into adults.
- C4.4 treating others redemptively when they are disciplined or shunned by church or society.
- C4.5 keeping informed and responding to news and stories of the world church.

C5. To develop positive relationships with those outside the church, I am:

- C5.1 respecting and praying for non-believers because all are of infinite value to their Creator.
- C5.2 being a good neighbor, participating in community life, and helping those in need.
- C5.3 being ethical in all my business dealings and in my professional and personal life.
- C5.4 reflecting the character of Christ in all my interactions with others.

Understanding: Growing in knowledge of Jesus and His teachings

L1. To understand that Christ calls me to be His disciple, I am learning that:

- L1.1 by beholding Jesus and abiding in Him, I will continue to grow more Christ-like.
- L1.2 the love of Christ constrains me to a life of obedience and self-denial.
- L1.3 all biblical teachings illustrate the character and mission of Christ.
- L1.4 being a disciple involves all of my life – my worldview, my relationships, and my purpose and mission.
- L1.5 I will participate in the body of Christ and its work in the world.
- L1.6 I accept life – both now and eternally – as a gift from God to be shared with others.

L2. To understand that God is the source of life, I am learning that:

- L2.1 God is the creator and sustainer of the universe, including all people created in His image.
- L2.2 God is a triune God consisting of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- L2.3 God reveals Himself to us in many ways, but most clearly through His Son, the Incarnate Word.
- L2.4 God is love and he desires from me a response of love for himself and for others.
- L2.5 the God-given purpose of humanity is to glorify God through daily life, work, and relationships with others.

L3. To understand the consequences of the human fall from God's original plan, I am learning that:

- L3.1 the great controversy between God and Satan originated in heaven.
- L3.2 because of the disobedience of the first human beings, I have a will to sin and a sinful nature.
- L3.3 the ten-commandment law of God expresses the character of God and gives the standard for human conduct.
- L3.4 the natural world no longer reflects the perfection in which God created it.
- L3.5 the Bible is needed to interpret the natural world as an expression of the character of God.

L4. To understand that God has provided everything that is needed for my redemption, I am learning that:

- L4.1 salvation and eternal life are gifts to me through the grace of God.
- L4.2 Christ came to earth to reveal the character of God and to die in my place as atonement for my sin.
- L4.3 the love of God draws me to feel sorrow for my sin, to confess, and to repent.
- L4.4 God forgives sin and restores brokenness.

L5. To understand that God has provided everything needed for my restoration, I am learning that:

- L5.1 Jesus died to redeem me from sin and now lives to restore me to physical, mental, and spiritual wholeness.
- L5.2 through the power of the Holy Spirit, Christ will live in me and I will live in Him.
- L5.3 because every person is created in God's image, my relationships will be based on love, forgiveness and respect.
- L5.4 the Holy Spirit daily prompts me to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with my God.
- L5.5 God expects me to be a steward of all he created.
- L5.6 the great controversy ends when God brings an end to sin and restores Earth to its original perfection.

Ministering: *Growing in participation in God's mission of revelation, reconciliation, and restoration*

M1. To seek opportunities in all daily activities to minister to others, I am:

- M1.1 inviting God to change me to bear the fruits of the Spirit.
- M1.2 choosing Jesus as a daily companion and sharing Him joyfully.
- M1.3 investing myself in service wherever the Holy Spirit leads.
- M1.4 carrying out my occupation as a calling to ministry.
- M1.5 building networks for friendship, fellowship, and support.

M2. To invest myself in the discipleship of others, I am:

- M2.1 willing to be mentored by maturing Christians, accountable for my spiritual growth.
- M2.2 willing to be humble and honest when sharing my walk as a disciple.
- M2.3 committing time and effort to mentoring growing Christians.
- M2.4 working intentionally to train fellow believers to disciple others.

M3. To recognize and respond to the needs of God's suffering children locally and globally, I am:

- M3.1 looking for physical, mental, social and spiritual needs in the local community.
- M3.2 responding mercifully to the discovered needs, individually and/or as a church.
- M3.3 speaking out and acting to relieve suffering and injustice in society.
- M3.4 reducing human suffering by being a faithful steward of God's creation.
- M3.5 acting compassionately on behalf of people who are disadvantaged or at-risk.

M4. To support the ministries of the local and global church with personal resources, I am:

- M4.1 managing my resources with the understanding that all belong to God.
- M4.2 returning a faithful tithe and giving offerings systematically.
- M4.3 serving in one or more ministries of my local church.
- M4.4 participating personally, as possible, in global service projects or ministries.

M5. To embrace the evangelistic mission of the church, I am:

- M5.1 praying for the Holy Spirit to prepare me to reach others for Christ.
- M5.2 choosing to be aware of the spiritual climate locally and globally.
- M5.3 using my spiritual gifts to help tell the world the story of Jesus.
- M5.4 able to give a reason for my faith when asked.
- M5.5 sharing the story of my personal relationship with Jesus with community members, family, friends and co-workers.

Equipping: *Growing the Body of Christ by walking alongside one another in love*

E1. To help believers engage in a transformational devotional life, I am showing others how to:

- E1.1 study the Bible to know Christ and to develop a biblical worldview.
- E1.2 communicate with God through prayer and Christian meditation.
- E1.3 participate in other Christian disciplines to be open to the Holy Spirit.
- E1.4 set priorities to allow for regular, quality devotional time.
- E1.5 seek spiritual growth opportunities with other believers.

E2. To help believers build Christ-like relationships, I am showing others how to:

- E2.1 inventory themselves, acknowledge defects of character, and invite God to remove them.
- E2.2 work with God to care for themselves and live a balanced life.
- E2.3 cherish, respect and nurture family members as children of God.
- E2.4 be disciplined by other believers in the body of Christ.
- E2.5 resolve conflicts within the home, church, workplace and community.

E3. To help believers study and obey God's word, I am showing others how to:

- E3.1 understand the purpose of Scripture.
- E3.2 use study tools to more effectively interpret biblical meanings.
- E3.3 discover study methods that will help them engage in regular Bible study.
- E3.4 apply biblical principles to their lives thoughtfully and faithfully.
- E3.5 discern spiritual truth in a balanced manner.

E4. To help believers live a contagious, holistic Christian life, I am showing others how to:

- E4.1 understand the biblical teaching to love the Lord with our heart, soul, strength, and mind.
- E4.2 explain how Christ is the center of all biblical teachings.
- E4.3 express Christ's love by creatively using their talents and interests.
- E4.4 apply biblical principles to every aspect of their lives—mind, body, and spirit.
- E4.5 lead someone to accept and follow Christ.

E5. To help believers discern where God is working, I am showing others how to:

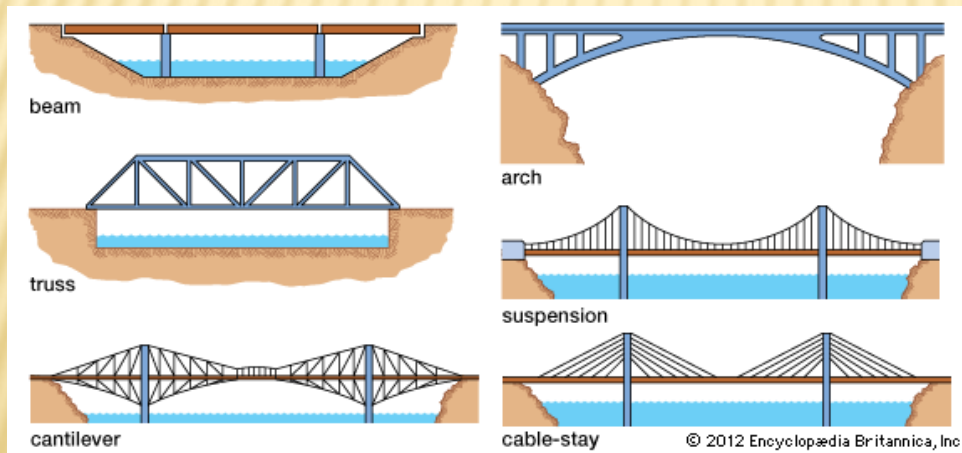
- E5.1 pray for a clear understanding of what God wants to accomplish through them.
- E5.2 recognize the work of the Holy Spirit within and around them.
- E5.3 detect where God is calling them to serve.
- E5.4 assess the needs of those God has called them to serve.
- E5.5 evaluate the culture they are called to serve in, in order to find and reach others.

E6. To help believers use spiritual gifts to fulfill a personal call to mission and ministry, I am showing others how to:

- E6.1 confer with fellow believers to confirm and refine their areas of spiritual giftedness.
- E6.2 be prepared for mission and ministry by participating in training programs.
- E6.3 disciple other believers in the body of Christ.
- E6.4 choose and participate in ministries that use their gifts and talents.
- E6.5 find ways to support Adventist mission and evangelism, ministries and education.

ASSESS THEN TEACH? TEACH THEN ASSESS?

- ✗ Clear objectives (curriculum) and ways to measure them (assessment) are like the bridge ends to which various teaching methods (instruction) can be anchored, appropriate to the setting or context. Assessment planning should precede instruction preparation.
- ✗ Assessing prior learning can effectively guide the teaching-learning experience; reflecting on assessment after learning will extend learning.
- ✗ The GDI can be used as a tool for both pre- and post-learning assessments, for formative and summative purposes.



GDI YOUTH VERSION 1

1) Section 1

PAGE 1 OF 9

How often is this statement true about you?

1. I know God has a special purpose for my life.



2. One way I love to learn about God is by studying the Bible.



3. I feel closer to God when I'm out in nature or studying His creation.



4. I show my love for my family by helping at home without being asked.



5. I enjoy worshipping with others in my church.



6. The Holy Spirit prompts me to confess my sins and to make things right.



7. By God's grace, I am able to forgive others who hurt me.



8. I enjoy hearing reports about God's work or mission projects around the world.



9. I am sure that whatever God asks me to do can be accomplished through His strength.



10. My best friends love God as much or more than I do.



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2) Section 1 Continued

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How often is this statement true about you?

11. I am kind to neighbours regardless of their age, culture, or religion.



12. Spending time with Jesus helps me understand who I am and why I'm here.



13. I enjoy talking with one or more of my friends about spiritual things.



14. What I do while shopping or working shows others that honesty is important to me.



15. I am using my spiritual gifts to help tell others the story of Jesus.

16. I pray for people who don't know God yet.

17. I have helped one or more of my friends understand what God is like.

18. When I discover how God is working somewhere, I enjoy telling my friends about it.

19. I am reminded of what Jesus did to save me when I humbly take part in the communion service.

20. After I ask the Holy Spirit to lead me, I wait to hear or see what God wants me to do.

3) Section 1 Continued

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How often is this statement true about you?

21. I help my friends with their religious questions or struggles.



22. I volunteer to help with service projects in my community.



23. I willingly share what God gives me with others.



24. I pray for the Holy Spirit to prepare me to share the good news about God with others.



25. I have helped one or more people to grow stronger in their faith in God.



26. I encourage my friends to join me in doing what the Bible teaches, wherever we are.



27. When I notice God leading in a friend's life, I share what I observe to strengthen their faith.



28. I enjoy humbly doing my best for God in ordinary daily activities.



29. I pray for those I love, asking God to help them grow spiritually.



4) Section 1 Continued

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How often is this statement true about you?	Never true	Seldom true	Sometimes true	Usually true	Almost always true	Always true
30. I choose to show respect for God's creation by recycling or reusing paper, plastics or other disposable items.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
31. I support God's work by paying tithes on what I earn or am given.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
32. I encourage friends to humbly honour God when praised or thanked.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
33. What I watch and listen to shows others that God is important to me.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

5) Section 1 Continued

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34. I invite friends to attend church or school religious activities with me.
35. I participate in activities that promote social justice or respectful care of people who are not like me.
36. I enjoy giving my time to help people through my church's ministries.
37. I try to help people who are unable to care for themselves, regardless of their age, culture or ethnicity.
38. I stand up for what is right even when my friends do not.

How often is this statement true about you?	Never true	Seldom true	Sometimes true	Usually true	Almost always true	Always true
39. I am willing to talk with people outside of my church family about my faith.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
40. I prayerfully obey what I learn through Bible study even when it is difficult.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
41. I encourage my friends to use their spiritual gifts to serve God.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
42. The more I learn about Christ's character and mission, the more I want to be a part of God's family and work.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
43. God has provided everything needed to restore people to His image when Jesus comes again.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
44. I am comfortable explaining what I believe about God if/when asked.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
45. My faith in God shapes what is important to me.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
46. Even if I don't choose to follow Jesus, God still loves me and does everything possible to save me.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
47. The things I do reflect my daily commitment to live for Jesus.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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Which ONE option best describes what you personally believe about each statement today?

48. God designed marriage and families to help me understand His love.

49. God reveals Himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three eternal Persons.

50. There is a great controversy taking place between God and Satan. It began in heaven with the rebellion of Lucifer and will continue until the end of time.

51. Before God created this earth, He made a plan to rescue people if they chose to sin.

52. The church is God's family on earth, a community of faith in which many members, all equal in Jesus, join for worship, instruction and service.

53. God, our Heavenly Father, still cares for all He created on this earth and throughout the universe.

54. The first man and woman, created as free beings in the image of God, chose to rebel against God. I have inherited their fallen nature along with all its consequences.

55. God the Son, Jesus, became truly human so He could save me from my sins.

56. God gave Ellen White prophetic messages to help the Adventist church share the truth about God.

57. God is the all-powerful source of life: He still works miracles today.

I THINK it
is false

I DON'T
KNOW IF IT
IS TRUE

I THINK it
is true

I am SURE
it is true.

7) Section 2 Continued

Which ONE option best describes what you personally believe about each statement today?

It IS false!

58. The Ten Commandments reveal God's character and design for my health and happiness.

59. Jesus' death defeated Satan; He gives me victory over sin.

60. Learning about the earthly sanctuary helps me understand why Jesus died for me and what He's doing in the heavenly sanctuary now.

61. God created the weekly seventh-day Sabbath as a time to reconnect with Him.

62. Sin damaged God's perfect creation of this earth: all of nature was affected.

63. When people die, they remain in the grave until the resurrection.

64. Those who reject God's grace will not burn forever but will be totally destroyed.

65. The end-time millennium begins with Jesus' second coming when those who accept God's grace are taken to heaven, and ends with the final destruction of those who reject God's grace.

66. Being baptized shows others that I personally accept Jesus as my Saviour and choose to follow Him daily.

67. After the millennium, God will recreate the earth as a perfect, eternal home for the saved. Sin will never exist again.

Which option best fits your life experience?

68. How often have you experienced God's presence or help in your life?

Never	Rarely	Not often	Regularly	Very often	Always or daily
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<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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69. How often have you invited friends to reflect on Christ's life and teachings?

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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70. How often have you experienced answers to prayer?

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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71. How often have family relationships helped you follow Jesus?

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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72. How often do you willingly read the Bible or pray for family worship?

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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73. How often have you encouraged younger Christians you know to live for God?

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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74. How often have you given personal money for missions or other projects that share

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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75. How often have you organized or led a Bible study or discussion group?

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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9) Section 4

Several options may be true for you. Check ALL that apply for each item.

76. Who has encouraged you to spend time alone with God daily?

One or both parents	Other family members	One or more teachers	Adults in my church	One or more friends
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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77. Who has talked with you about their faith or relationship with God?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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78. Who has helped you understand how God's Word applies today?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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79. Who has helped you learn how to study your Bible and pray?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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80. Who has helped you learn how to resolve conflicts in a Christ-like way?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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81. Who has encouraged you to tell others about Jesus and His second advent?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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82. Who is helping you to understand that Jesus is the centre of all Bible truths?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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83. Who is helping you to identify your spiritual gifts?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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84. Where are you learning about God's work around the world? Check ALL that apply.

At home <input type="checkbox"/>	At school <input type="checkbox"/>	At church <input type="checkbox"/>	Magazines <input type="checkbox"/>	Videos <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>
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My Report : nad teacher

Growing Disciples Inventory completed: Tuesday, August 7, 2012



Learn More

Each graph label is a short title for one aspect of growing as a Christian. Being a Christian means following Christ. While we can't follow him around physically like his first disciples did, we can grow like Jesus through knowing, loving and serving him in many ways each day. We grow spiritually in the four processes of connecting, understanding, ministering, and equipping. Each process includes five or six areas called commitments - as we can ask God to help us discover, experience and strengthen them.

Plan to Grow

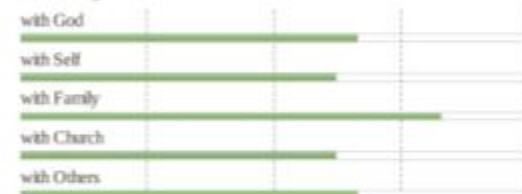
Review your report. Print a copy to see your circle and bar graphs on one page. In which ways have you been growing most? In each process, which 2 commitments are you strongest in? Weakest in?

Plan to reflect Jesus' love using your strengths. Commit to growing in your weakest areas. The one page Christian Spiritual Growth Plan may be a helpful tool. Then click on commitments that match the graph title for your strengths and weaknesses on inventory.growingdisciples.info/youth for more ideas.

Take Action

1. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide as you plan, and then act on your plan.
2. Review your plan with a Christian friend or teacher. Ask them to help in specific ways.
3. Commit to following your plan. Be accountable to your Christian friend or teacher.

Connecting



Understanding



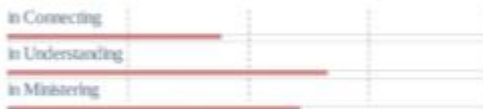
Equipping



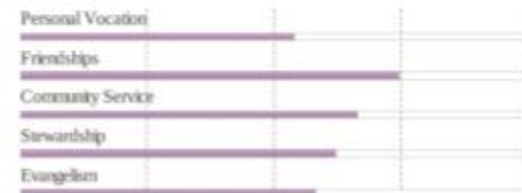
Being Discipled



Discipling Others



Ministering

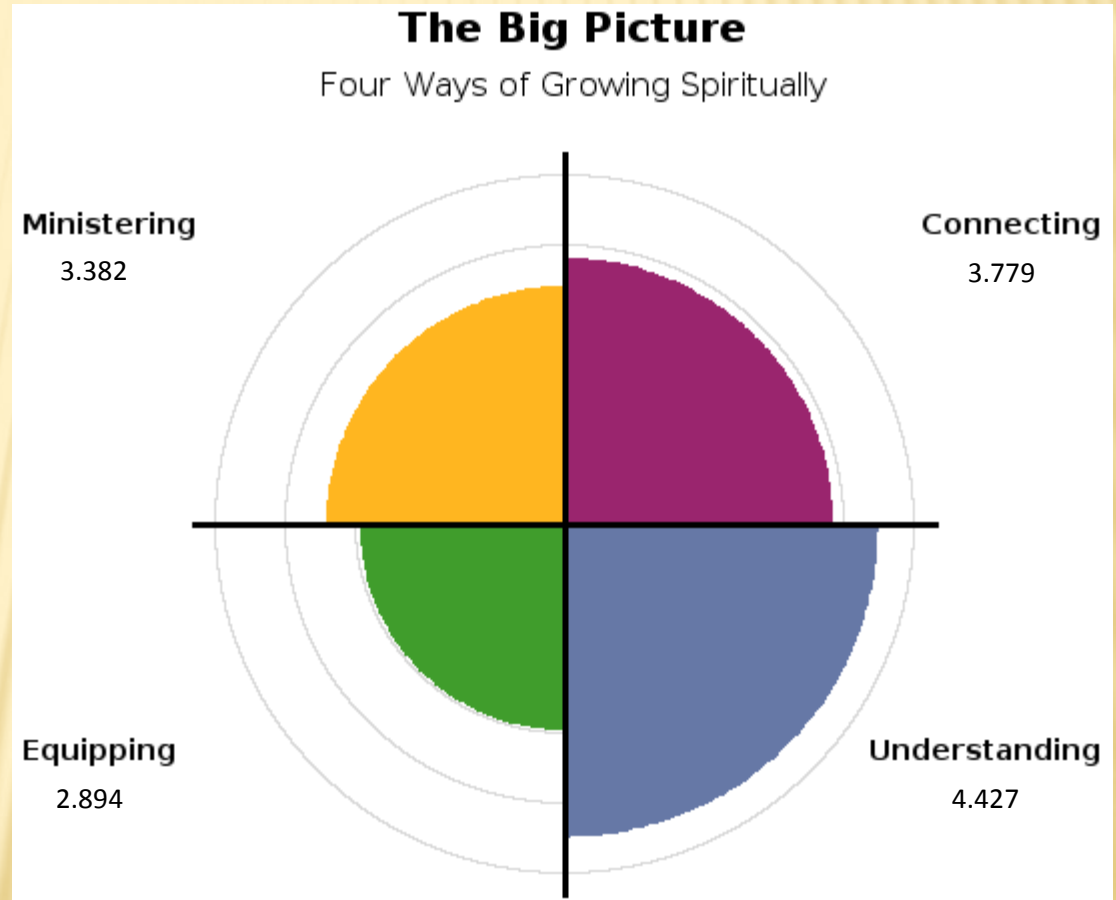


CURRENT INDIVIDUAL REPORT

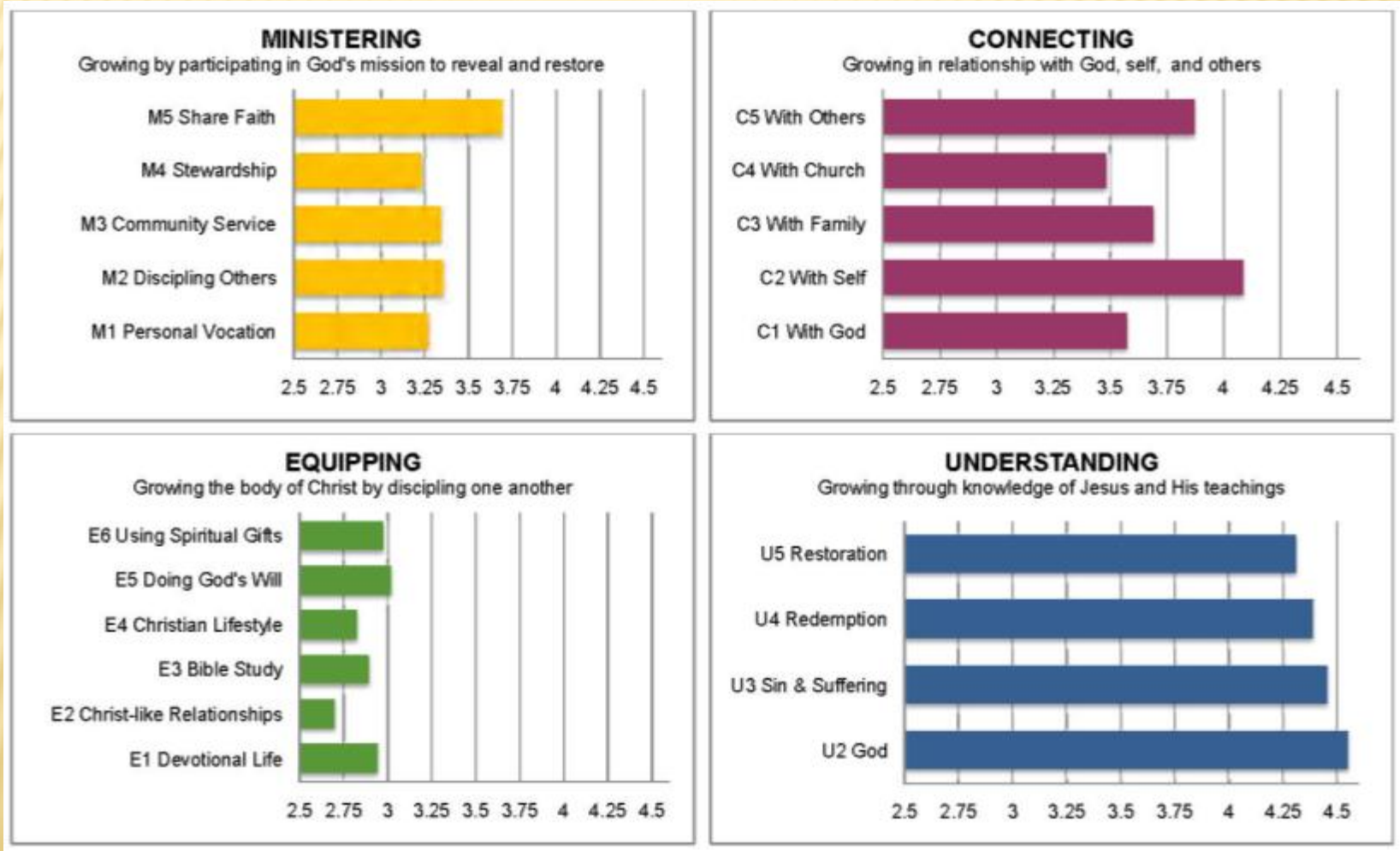
- A personal report can be printed as a single page
- The Equipping section has since been simplified, removing the first summary bar graph.
- Links on the left provide an individual independently completing the GDI with prompts as to how to use the information.
- See suggested uses for teachers in the next slides

GDI INDIVIDUAL REPORT MEANING

- Means of 595 Grade 7-12 student responses are included in the following circle and bar graphs,
- Individual student reports, in this format, exclude all numbers, to focus on comparing personal strengths and growth points (rather than weaknesses).
- Reports inform and prompt personal reflection and Christian spiritual growth planning.



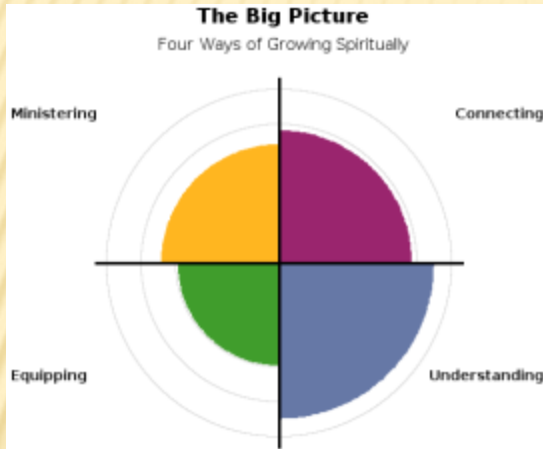
- Each bar represents one commitment (or objective) in the *Growing Fruitful Disciples Curriculum*, organized within the 4 processes (or goals). GDI items drew from more specific indicators so that each bar graph is a reliable measure based on 3-5 GDI items.
- The 4 processes are reported in the order corresponding to the 4MAT instructional cycle. Considering each component of holistic Christian spiritual development will assist individuals and teachers in home, church and school settings planning individual spiritual growth.



3 WAYS TO USE THE GDI IN YOUR SCHOOL

- ✖ A self-awareness activity encouraged in individual student discipling relationships
- ✖ A class activity in a Bible course
- ✖ A key component of a school-wide spiritual master plan

INDIVIDUAL PLAN



Action! Plan to Grow Spiritually

Choosing to follow Jesus is the first step to being a disciple. Each of us follows a unique path as God leads. Think about your Growing Disciples Inventory results. Then consider action steps to keep growing closer to Jesus.

- Plan to reflect Jesus' love using your three greatest strengths.
- Commit to growing in your three weakest areas.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you in deciding what to do and acting on your plan.
- Read the suggestions under each commitment below for ideas to get started.
- Decide on actions to take, with God's help, and fill these in below.
- Review your plan with a Christian parent, teacher, pastor or mature friend.
- Commit to following your plan; be accountable to your Christian mentor/friend.

My Spiritual Growth Plan

Name: _____ Date: _____

A. I am stronger in these 2 processes: Within this process, I am strongest in these 2 commitments:

1. _____ & _____
2. _____ & _____

B. I am weaker in these 2 processes: Within this process, I am weakest in these 2 commitments:

1. _____ & _____
2. _____ & _____

C. I commit to helping others grow spiritually using my 4 strengths (see A). Here are actions I can take:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

D. I commit to growing in my weakest areas (see B). Here are 4 actions I can take now:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

USING THE GDI IN CLASS

- ✗ Formative assessment
 - + teach discipleship
 - + students take GDI, facilitate reflective learning
 - + follow-up in instruction & individual spiritual plan
- ✗ Pre-assessment
 - + students take GDI before discipleship teaching
 - + teach discipleship guided by their questions
- ✗ Cumulative spiritual development reporting
 - + Students take GDI annually & write a reflection paper on their spiritual journey that year for cumulative high school portfolio, and for guidance counseling
 - + Students take GDI at school-determined times, to re-assess and update their personal spiritual growth plan

USING GROUP REPORTS

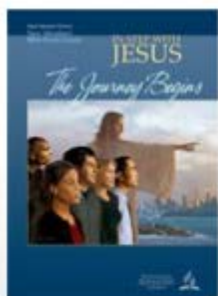
- ✖ When students take the GDI entering a group code, a group report could be used to:
 - + Adjust plans for topics covered in a course
 - + Adjust the length of time allotted to topics
 - + Influence choices about assignments & service project selection

USING THE GDI SCHOOL-WIDE

- ✘ Use school-wide group report to **gauge school spiritual climate**
 - + Include report in school evaluation
 - + Inform spiritual master planning for the year – week of prayer theme, chapel topics, ministry choices, focus of camp experiences & faculty training
- ✘ **Choose a specific class** in which students take the GDI and build a individual spiritual plan, mentored to build skills in discipling and being disciplined through the rest of their school experience. Build revisiting this plan into small group accountability or encourage advisors to monitor with advisees.
- ✘ **Evaluate the scope and sequence across all Bible courses.** Do they build on a discipleship model? Is there balanced experiential learning across the curriculum?
- ✘ **Equip students to disciple others.** Prepare students for discipleship, which encompasses evangelism. The In Step with Jesus study guides, Contagious Adventist, and Reflecting Jesus curriculum, may be helpful tools.
- ✘ **Encourage staff to reflect on their personal spiritual journey by taking the GDI**, and building a spiritual growth plan in a discipling relationship with a fellow teacher or other mature adult. *We get what we are.*

RESOURCE SUGGESTION 1

- ✕ In Step with Jesus New Member Study Guides instepwithjesus.org



Study Guide One: The Journey Begins



Study Guide Two: The Power of Love



Study Guide Three: The Power of the Word

RESOURCES AND COMMENTARY CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

Study Guide One: *The Journey Begins*

The cover illustration for the first quarter's series of studies, *The Journey Begins*, represents Jesus, standing in loving support of a group of new disciples and pointing the way into a glowing future—a radiant eternity. This image proclaims a rich hope in the world to come, but it also promises Jesus' closest care for His disciples as they grow daily ever closer to Him. All of which suggests this question: Now that we have accepted Jesus as a Master, Teacher, Friend, and Brother, what does this mean in our everyday lives. And this is where the studies of this quarter begin. The resources on this page are provided as enrichment to the study of the printed Bible study guide "In Step With Jesus: The Journey Begins."

1: Answering the Call of Jesus

2: The Journey Begins

3: Who Is Jesus?

4: His Own Testimony

5: My Upside-Down World

6: God's Priorities—and Mine

7: Life as a New Disciple

8: Jesus' Patience With His Disciples

9: The Bible as a Guide for Life

10: Authority of the Bible

11: How to Study the Bible (Part 1)

12: How to Study the Bible (Part 2)

13: Making Time for God

RESOURCE SUGGESTION 2

- ✖ Contagious Adventist pmchurch.tv/transaction.php?category=11

12 Products in category: The Contagious Adventist

The Contagious Adventist Set Product Number: CASET
11 DVD Set

Quantity:

Price: 154.95

Add to cart

A New Year of Contagion Product Number: 010502

What do you want Jesus to do for you? If He is willing to do it, what could be more important than asking, and trusting?

Free MP3 | No Study Guide

Quantity:

Price: 19.95

Add to cart

The Contagious Adventist Product Number: 011202

What does it mean to be contagious? What does it mean for God's trusting children, His friends, to be contagious? Are you contagious?

Free MP3 | Study Guide

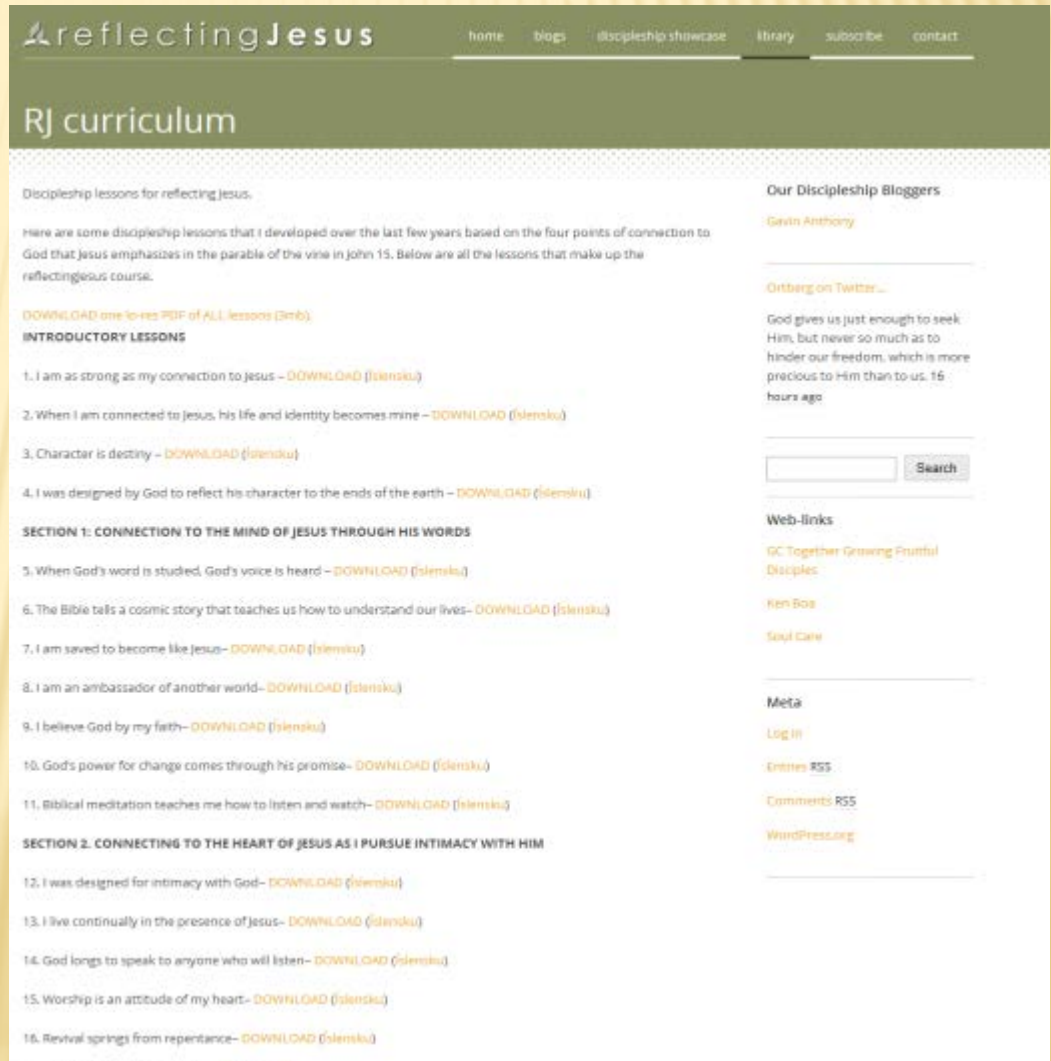
Quantity:

Price: 19.95

Add to cart

RESOURCE SUGGESTION 3

- ✕ Reflecting Jesus reflectingjesus.org/curriculum/rj-curriculum



The screenshot shows the 'reflecting Jesus' website with a green header. The main content area is titled 'RJ curriculum' and contains a list of 16 lessons. The lessons are organized into three sections: 'INTRODUCTORY LESSONS' (lessons 1-3), 'SECTION 1: CONNECTION TO THE MIND OF JESUS THROUGH HIS WORDS' (lessons 4-11), and 'SECTION 2. CONNECTING TO THE HEART OF JESUS AS I PURSUE INTIMACY WITH HIM' (lessons 12-16). Each lesson title is followed by a 'DOWNLOAD (Isienuku)' link. On the right side of the page, there is a sidebar with the title 'Our Discipleship Bloggers' and a list of bloggers: Gavin Anthony, Ortberg on Twitter..., God gives us just enough to seek Him, but never so much as to hinder our freedom, which is more precious to Him than to us, 16 hours ago, and a search bar. Below the search bar, there is a 'Web-links' section with links to 'GC Together Growing Fruitful Disciples', 'Ken Boz', 'Soul Care', 'Meta', 'Log in', 'Enter RSS', 'Comments RSS', and 'WordPress.org'.

reflecting Jesus

home blogs discipleship showcase library subscribe contact

RJ curriculum

Discipleship lessons for reflecting Jesus.

Here are some discipleship lessons that I developed over the last few years based on the four points of connection to God that Jesus emphasizes in the parable of the vine in John 15. Below are all the lessons that make up the reflectingjesus course.

[DOWNLOAD one-to-one PDF of ALL lessons \(3mb\)](#)

INTRODUCTORY LESSONS

1. I am as strong as my connection to Jesus – [DOWNLOAD \(Isienuku\)](#)
2. When I am connected to Jesus, his life and identity becomes mine – [DOWNLOAD \(Isienuku\)](#)
3. Character is destiny – [DOWNLOAD \(Isienuku\)](#)
4. I was designed by God to reflect his character to the ends of the earth – [DOWNLOAD \(Isienuku\)](#)

SECTION 1: CONNECTION TO THE MIND OF JESUS THROUGH HIS WORDS

5. When God's word is studied, God's voice is heard – [DOWNLOAD \(Isienuku\)](#)
6. The Bible tells a cosmic story that teaches us how to understand our lives – [DOWNLOAD \(Isienuku\)](#)
7. I am saved to become like Jesus – [DOWNLOAD \(Isienuku\)](#)
8. I am an ambassador of another world – [DOWNLOAD \(Isienuku\)](#)
9. I believe God by my faith – [DOWNLOAD \(Isienuku\)](#)
10. God's power for change comes through his promise – [DOWNLOAD \(Isienuku\)](#)
11. Biblical meditation teaches me how to listen and watch – [DOWNLOAD \(Isienuku\)](#)

SECTION 2. CONNECTING TO THE HEART OF JESUS AS I PURSUE INTIMACY WITH HIM

12. I was designed for intimacy with God – [DOWNLOAD \(Isienuku\)](#)
13. I live continually in the presence of Jesus – [DOWNLOAD \(Isienuku\)](#)
14. God longs to speak to anyone who will listen – [DOWNLOAD \(Isienuku\)](#)
15. Worship is an attitude of my heart – [DOWNLOAD \(Isienuku\)](#)
16. Revival springs from repentance – [DOWNLOAD \(Isienuku\)](#)

Our Discipleship Bloggers

Gavin Anthony

Ortberg on Twitter...

God gives us just enough to seek Him, but never so much as to hinder our freedom, which is more precious to Him than to us. 16 hours ago

Web-links

[GC Together Growing Fruitful Disciples](#)

[Ken Boz](#)

[Soul Care](#)

Meta

[Log in](#)

[Enter RSS](#)

[Comments RSS](#)

[WordPress.org](#)

RESOURCES

✖ GDI full versions

- + Online youth & adult versions growingfruitfuldisciples.com/gdi
- + Paper adult version - email glynisb@andrews.edu to pilot online Fall 2012

✖ GDI short versions

- + English growingfruitfuldisciples.com/gdishorte.pdf
- + Spanish growingfruitfuldisciples.com/inventario-es.pdf

✖ TGFD Resources

- + Frameworks growingfruitfuldisciples.com/resources-use
- + Action Plan Ideas growingfruitfuldisciples.com/action-plan
- + Plans & more growingfruitfuldisciples.com/elinks

✖ Publications

- + In Step with Jesus New Member Study Guides instepwithjesus.org
- + Reflecting Jesus reflectingjesus.org/curriculum/rj-curriculum
- + Contagious Adventist pmchurch.tv/transaction.php?category=11
- + Ifollow followdiscipleship.org/ & Kids in Discipleship kidsindiscipleship.org

CONTACTS

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 - + Assistant Professor, Dept of Discipleship & Religious Education, Adventist Theological Seminary, AU
 - + beaglesk@andrews.edu

APPENDIX

- ✖ The following slides provide an overview of the research base for the GDI
 - + Research summary
 - + Conceptual framework & literature review
 - + Methodology
 - + Key Results
 - + Recommendations
 - + Publications

RESEARCH SUMMARY

Finding no assessment of the holistic goals for Christian spiritual development in the context of private Protestant Christian schools, the online *Growing Disciples Inventory* (GDI) was developed and validated using a mixed methods approach to educational design research. To assess the 21 factors within the 4 *Growing Disciples* curriculum processes, the GDI was constructed through iterative cycles of expert review and usability testing to a final 100-item online format, with instantly generated individual two-level graph reports. Responses from 595 students in Grades 7-12 attending Seventh-day Adventist schools on 3 continents established high reliability and moderate construct validity, confirmatory factor analysis and structural equation modeling (SEM). Analysis of emerging themes in learner open-ended responses on the 10-item exit survey, along with teacher interviews after student participation, corroborated quantitative findings, triangulating evidence for learner engagement and the positive potential for the GDI's use to facilitate Christian spiritual development using emerging technologies.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

- Literature from the diverse fields of curriculum and assessment, youth development, and Christian education in faith-based schools, informed the framework developed for this study.
- Recent research on religiosity and spirituality, and Christian spiritual development in particular, honed the conceptual framework situated within Adventist Christian education.
- The *Growing Disciples* 4-process model and theological foundations for the curriculum framework structured item- and scale-construction
- Studies on online assessment, usability testing, and validation theory, guided iterative cycles of research and development, and the analysis of data for evidence of validity.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Growing Disciples Inventory

educational design research
mixed methods, e-assessment,
think-aloud protocol, validation theory,
psychometrics & structural equation modeling

Curriculum
Alignment

Assessment:
self- &
spiritual

Adolescent
Development

Christian
Education



	Research Questions	Educational Design Research: Mixed Methods
Phase 1: Development	1. Alignment To what extent are inventory items aligned to the Growing Disciples curriculum? i.e. Does content/curricular evidence support the GDI's validity?	5+14 expert reviews of how well items measure framework commitments & processes QUAN: agreement scale QUAL: email dialogue, suggested rewordings & new items
	2. Design To what extent: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• is the online format intuitive?• are items clearly worded?• is length appropriate?• is the report self explanatory?	9+7 pilot studies using think-aloud protocol to improve GDI items QUAN/QUAL: data from thought process comments & research observations during piloting with learners QUAN/QUAL: educator interview & learner exit survey data
Phase 2: Validation	3. Validity To what extent: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• does internal consistency evidence support reliability?• does construct-related evidence support the GDI's validity?	4 constructs with 5 scales each, minimum of 410 exceeded with 595 students & 9 educator participating in validation QUAN: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Item analysis: internal consistency• SEM: Confirmatory factor analysis QUAL: teacher exit interviews analysed
	4. Consequential evidence <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To what extent are results consistent across grades, gender, and country?• What are the value implications of GDI use, based on preliminary feedback?	Examine relationship by demographic characteristics: QUAN: SEM and COR analysis of USA vs. international student responses, differences by grade level and gender QUAL: educator and learner perceptions of utility analysed by country

KEY RESEARCH FINDINGS

- Cronbach's α 's of .857 (Connecting), .917 (Understanding), .855 (Ministering) and .943 (Equipping) provided strong evidence for reliability, considering the 4 GD model processes (latent variables or factors) including 5 (6 for Equipping) subconstructs with 3+ items each
- Moderate construct validity evident through SEM CFA model fit of $X^2(164, N=595) = 606.032, p = .000$; CFI = .952; RMSEA = .067 indicated adequate alignment of model and assessment.
- Rich qualitative student and teacher data organized by emerging themes, corroborated quantitative results, and provided preliminary positive value implications through the exit survey feedback from students and teachers observing students completing the GDI and reflecting on their instantly-generated, password-protected, online report.

RECOMMENDATIONS COMPLETED 2011

- Adjust wording on the understanding agreement scale, transform negative items to positive to reduce inconsistencies and shorten 100- to 84-item online youth version, based on internal consistency coefficients and SEM results.
- Increase number of items displayed per page, listing scale options as table columns, to reduce number of clicks and page loading time for slow internet connections
- Add individual and group account management tools for free access online

RECOMMENDATIONS IN PROCESS

- Develop and validate adult (online Sept 2012) and child online versions (2013)
- Work with translators and experts to test and launch other language versions
- Create a full 84-item paper version with self-scoring tools, and a guide for teachers
 - ready September 2012
 - email glynisb@andrews.edu if your school can help

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE

- Test with a larger international sample to confirm generalizability
- Investigate the Growing Disciples model components with data spanning adult years using structural equation models further, particularly in the *Equipping* and *Understanding* processes
- Add group report options including aggregated responses for each item, and a summary report of scales reflecting understanding of Adventist beliefs
- Longitudinal data analysis of Christian spiritual development using data from individuals taking the GDI multiple times
- **CAN YOUR SCHOOL OR CHURCH HELP? Email glynisb@andrews.edu if you would be willing to participate in further studies with your school, college or church.**

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- Bradfield, G. (2011). *The development and validation of the Growing Disciples Inventory (GDI) as a curriculum-aligned self-assessment for Christian education*. SUNScholar Research Repository, scholar.sun.ac.za/handle/10019.1/6838
- growingfruitfuldisciples.com/gdi launched Oct 2011 as part of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists' *Growing Fruitful Disciples* resource website
- Bradfield, G., Thayer, J.O. (Spring 2011). *Creating Discipleship Tools: Growing Disciples Inventory and New Believer Sabbath School Lessons*. SDATS Symposium, Andrews University
- Bradfield, G. (Feb 2012). *Developing and Validating the Growing Disciples Inventory: A Self-assessment for Christian Students*. Roundtable Session, Associates for Research on Private Education, AERA Annual Meeting, Vancouver, Canada.
- Bradfield, G. (Summer 2012). *Journal of Adventist Education*. *Using the Growing Disciples Inventory as a Tool for Christian Spiritual Development*.