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Ministry Synergy Through a Framework

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Ministry Synergy Through a Framework
### PERSONAL PROCESSES OF CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP
The processes through which an individual Christian grows in spiritual maturity and fruit-bearing (John 15:5-8)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNDERSTANDING</th>
<th>MINISTERING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Learning the truth of God’s relationship with humanity through Jesus Christ, the Word (Matthew 4:4; John 8:31; 14:23)</td>
<td>Participating in God’s mission of revelation, reconciliation, and restoration (Matthew 25:40; 28:19,20; Galatians 5:22-23)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONNECTING</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“Loving God completely, ourselves correctly, and others compassionately” (Boa, 2001) (Matthew 22:37-38; John 13:35)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EQUIPPING</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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)</td>
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<tr>
<th>COMMUNITY PROCESS OF CHRISTIAN DISCIPLING</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Together Growing Fruitful Disciples Framework:
Disciples grow in relationship with God, self and others

C1. *With God*: deepening my relationship with God
C2. *With self*: discovering who I am in relationship to Christ
C3. *With family*: developing Christ-centred family relationships
C4. *With church*: developing Christ-like relationships with other Christians in my faith community
C5. *With others*: developing Christ-like relationships with those who are not part of my faith

Disciples grow by learning the truth of God’s relationship with humanity through the Word.
U1. *Spiritual growth*: learning that Christ calls me to be His disciple
U2. *The nature of God*: learning that God is the source of life
U3. *Sin & suffering*: learning about the human fall from God’s original plan and its consequences
U4. *Redemption*: learning that God has provided everything needed to save me from sin
U5. *Restoration*: learning that God has provided all that is needed to restore me to His image

Disciples grow by participating in God’s mission of revelation, reconciliation, & restoration.
M1. *Personal vocation*: sharing my faith through my daily activities
M2. *Discipling others*: helping others grow more like Jesus
M3. *Community service*: responding to the needs of God’s children and His world
M4. *Stewardship*: supporting my church’s ministries with personal resources
M5. *Evangelism*: helping my church tell the story of Jesus

Christians grow by supporting one another in connecting, understanding and ministering.
E1. *Devotional life*: helping one another deepen their relationship with God
E2. *Christ-like relationships*: helping one another build Christ-like relationships
E3. *Bible study*: helping one another study and obey God’s Word
E4. *Distinctive lifestyle*: helping one another live as committed Christians
E5. *Doing God’s will*: helping one another discover God’s working in their lives and His world
E6. *Using spiritual gifts*: helping one another discover and use spiritual gifts in God’s mission
Instruction bridges curriculum-assessment posts
# Balanced Christian Spiritual Development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GD Model</th>
<th>Boa</th>
<th>Rice</th>
<th>Taylor</th>
<th>Trent</th>
<th>Domains</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Connecting</td>
<td>Experience</td>
<td>Being</td>
<td>Heart</td>
<td>Love</td>
<td>Affective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understanding</td>
<td>Doctrine</td>
<td>Believing</td>
<td>Head</td>
<td>Know</td>
<td>Cognitive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministering</td>
<td>Practice</td>
<td>Behaving</td>
<td>Hand</td>
<td>Serve</td>
<td>Behavioural</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Equipping One Another** to Connect, Understand & Minister
The Growing Disciples in Community Structural Model
Welcome

Discipleship is a lifelong process of transformation and ever-deepening maturity through the work of the Holy Spirit that aims for the likeness of Jesus Christ to be reproduced in the life of the disciple.

Discipling occurs in relationship; it is not something we do alone. It is an intentional relationship in which we walk alongside other disciples in order to support, nurture, and strengthen one another in love to grow toward maturity in Christ.

Even though discipleship can be described simply as “following Jesus,” it is a complex combination of our entire experience as Christians. The Growing Fruitful Disciples model is an effort to help us think more clearly and deeply about our growth as disciples.

Learn about the Growing Fruitful Disciples Framework
Find out what’s different about this approach to discipleship.

Resources for Pastors and Spiritual Leaders
Browse our archive of resources for tools relevant to pastors and church administrators.

Resources for Small Groups
Browse resources that will help guide your small group or bible study on the journey of discipleship.

Resources for Individuals and Families
Get your family or personal devotional life headed in a new direction guided by the principles of discipleship.
Equipping: Growing the Body of Christ by discipling one another

Section 4

Last section! Check ALL boxes that are true for you for questions 88-100.

88. Who is helping you to know and love God? Check all that are true for you.
- one or both parents
- one or more other family members
- one or more school teachers
- one or more adults in my church
- one or more friends
- others

89. Who is encouraging you to spend quiet time with God daily? Check all that are true for you.
- one or both parents
- one or more other family members
- one or more school teachers
- one or more adults in my church
- one or more friends
- others

90. Who talks with you about their faith or relationship with God?
- one or both parents
- one or more other family members
- one or more school teachers
- one or more adults in my church
- one or more friends
- others
Individual Plan

The Big Picture
Four Ways of Growing Spiritually

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. ___________________

My Spiritual Growth Plan, inventory.growingdisciples.info, 2009
Learn More. Plan to Grow.

Choosing to follow Jesus is the first step to being a disciple. Use this page to learn more about your Growing Disciples Inventory results, and ways to keep growing as a Christian.

- Click on any of the commitments below for ideas on next steps to take.
- 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.
- Review your plan with a Christian friend or teacher.
- Ask them to support you in the process of growing as a disciple.

Connecting: Disciples grow in relationship with God, self and others.

1. **With God:** I am deepening my relationship with God.
   - Share your day with God. Pray while chewing, brushing, crying, driving, walking - God is everywhere.
   - Give yourself to God every morning. Then stay tuned to His leading throughout the day.
   - Worship God together with other Christians eg. at church on Sabbaths; at small group or youth meetings; while camping etc.
   - Reflect quietly on what God is doing in your life and around you at the end of each day. Then praise Him for His love and faithfulness.
   - Learn more about God, yourself and others through volunteer service. Look for evidence of God working through your life and others while serving.

2. **With Self:** I am discovering who I am in relationship to Jesus Christ.
3. **With Family:** I am developing Christ-centered family relationships.
4. **With Church:** I am developing Christ-like relationships with other Christians in my church.
5. **With Others:** I am developing Christ-like relationships with those who are not part of my church or family.
About the Inventory

The Growing Disciples Inventory (GDI) is a curriculum-aligned self-assessment designed to facilitate Christian spiritual growth through Christian education in home, church, and school settings.

The Growing Disciples Inventory is aligned to the Growing Fruitful Disciples Framework, developed as a collaborative initiative by the Ministries Committee of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, the Discipleship and Religious Education Department in the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, and the Department of Teaching, Learning & Curriculum in the School of Education at Andrews University. Kathleen Beagles, Glymis Bradfield, Larry Burton, Monica Desir, and Jane Thayer served as the curriculum development team.

For ideas on how to use reports or for more information about the educational design research validating this self-assessment in a three-continent study of adolescents attending Seventh-day Adventist secondary schools, contact Glymis Bradfield, PhD, Director of Student Services, Griggs / Andrews University School of Distance Education and CIRCLE Director. Alternate and translated versions for various ages are planned, and will be announced through this website when available.

To learn more about all other Growing Fruitful Disciples resources, contact Bonita Shields, MA, Growing Fruitful Disciples Coordinator, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

The Helps page includes answers to questions such as: Who is this Inventory for? Why do I need to set up an account? How do group accounts work? Questions about personal information collected are answered in the Privacy Statement.
# Growing Fruitful Disciples

**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 Barton, Glynis Braithfield, and Monica Davis, 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 disciple, 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.
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 communicating with God regularly through His word, prayer and other Christian disciplines.
   C1.2 participating with other believers in worshiping God on Sabbath and at other times.
   C1.3 worshipping God daily as a living sacrifice by choosing He will ever 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 me in my on-going self-reflection and action.
   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 all 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 crying 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

I.1. To understand that Christ calls me to be His disciple, I am learning that:
   I.1.1 by beholding Jesus and abiding in Him, I will continue to grow more Christ-like.
   I.1.2 the love of Christ constrains me to a life of obedience and self-denial.
   I.1.3 all biblical teachings illustrate the character and mission of Christ.
   I.1.4 being a disciple involves all of my life – my worldview, my relationships, and my purpose and mission.
   I.1.5 I will participate in the body of Christ and its work in the world.
   I.1.6 I accept life – both now and eternally – as a gift from God to be shared with others.

I.2. To understand that God is the source of life, I am learning that:
   I.2.1 God is the creator and sustainer of the universe, including all people created in His image.
   I.2.2 God is a triune God consisting of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
   I.2.3 God reveals Himself to us in many ways, but most clearly through His Son, the Incarnate Word.
   I.2.4 God is love and He desires from me a response of love for Himself and for others.
   I.2.5 the God-given purpose of humanity is to glorify God through daily life, work, and relationships with others.

I.3. To understand the consequences of the human fall from God's original plan, I am learning that:
   I.3.1 the great controversy between God and Satan originated in heaven.
   I.3.2 because of the disobedience of the first human beings, I have a will to sin and a sinful nature.
   I.3.3 the ten-commandment law of God expresses the character of God and gives the standard for human conduct.
   I.3.4 the natural world no longer reflects the perfection in which God created it.
   I.3.5 the Bible is needed to interpret the natural world as an expression of the character of God.

I.4. To understand that God has provided everything that is needed for my redemption, I am learning that:
   I.4.1 salvation and eternal life are gifts to me through the grace of God.
   I.4.2 Christ came to earth to reveal the character of God and to die in my place as atonement for my sin.
   I.4.3 the love of God draws me to feel sorry for my sin, to confess, and to repent.
   I.4.4 God forgives sin and restores brokenness.

I.5. To understand that God has provided everything needed for my restoration, I am learning that:
   I.5.1 Jesus died to redeem me from sin and now lives to restore me to physical, mental, and spiritual wholeness.
   I.5.2 through the power of the Holy Spirit, Christ will live in me and I will live in Him.
   I.5.3 because every person is created in God's image, my relationships will be based on love, forgiveness, and respect.
   I.5.4 the Holy Spirit daily prompts me to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with my God.
   I.5.5 God expects me to be a steward of all he created.
   I.5.6 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 receptively 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 discipled 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 Gods 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 assess the needs of those God has called them to serve.
   E5.4 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.
Four Cyclical Processes of Spiritual Growth

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

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

Connecting
“Loving God completely, ourselves correctly, and others compassionately” (Boa, 2001)

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

“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)