

The Growth Circles

Evaluating your Disciples

In discipleship, it is important to have a plan regarding where you want to take your disciple and what areas you want to help them grow and develop in. Some of these areas are vital truths that all Christians should be grounded in, like assurance of salvation, community, eternal perspective, and prayer. Others will be specific struggles that people have, like temptation, pride, trials or worry. As a discipler, you need to identify what specific developmental needs your disciples have and prayerfully formulate a plan to meet those needs, trusting that God will use you to help them grow. The growth circles is one way to help do just that.

Here is how to use this exercise:

Sit down with your disciple and take out the blank growth circles sheet, found on the next page. Tell them that this exercise will help both of you identify some areas that they can grow in spiritually.

You can either use the provided list of topics or create your own. If you feel there are several topics that you know are areas that your disciple needs to grow in, you can limit the list as appropriate.

After you have given them the list and the circles, have them fill out the circles with all the items on the list according to how they think they are doing in each area. The better they are doing in a particular area instruct them to write that closer to the middle of the circles; the areas they need growth in should be farther outside relative to how much they feel they need to grow. So the areas they are doing best in will be in the middle and areas they need the most work towards the outside. Think of it as shooting at a target: the closer to the bullseye, the better. Note: putting a topic in the center doesn't mean they are perfect in a certain area it just means that is the area they need the least guidance in.

Your goal as a discipler should be to work with them on the areas outside of the center circle and pull them into the center, helping him become stronger in those areas. After you've done this exercise, hopefully you will have a good idea of some of the areas you can work on in discipleship with the person you're discipling. Ask God to use you to help your disciple grow in those areas that he or she needs development in, and prayerfully look down the road and plan out what to teach and work on in the weeks and months ahead.

You can finish the time praying for God to help you both grow and for your disciple to specifically grow in the areas that needs attention. Also be sure to set up a time to meet next to start studying these topics.

If you would like you can even come up with a semester discipleship plan based on the areas that they need to grow in. You probably won't show this to your disciple; rather it can be used as a guide to keep you on track throughout the semester.

Growth Circle Topics

- Assurance of Salvation
- Church Involvement
- Community
- Confession/Repentance
- Conflict Resolution
- Daily Time with the Lord
- Discerning God's Will
- Discipling Others
- Eternal Perspective
- Ethnicity & Culture
- Evangelism
- Fasting
- Friendship
- Global Missions
- Gospel Depth/Breadth
- Growth/Sanctification
- Holy Spirit
- Identity
- Idolatry & the Heart
- Intimacy w/ Jesus
- Money
- Obedience/Stewardship
- Parents
- Prayer
- Pride/Humility
- Rest/Sabbath
- Scripture
- Sexual Purity
- Temptation
- Theology
- Time Management
- Trials
- Worry

