# MULTIPLY

embrace a **life** of grace, community and mission

**TRIAD GUIDE**

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*MULTIPLY: embrace a life of grace, community and mission*
Triad Guide
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# INTRODUCTION

Welcome to your Triad journey! We commend you for making this investment in your own spiritual development and for seeing the value of intentionally investing in a few others, with the goal of eventual multiplication. This Triad guide is the companion tool to Stephen Kirk's book, *Multiply*. Before you continue reading this guide, please read the Introduction in *Multiply* (pp.13-23) as it explains the biblical and theological rationale for the unique design of this specific journey.

## THE TRIAD STRATEGY

### *Why a Triad?*

Hopefully by now you've read the Introduction to *Multiply*, which ends with these words:

> *"Jesus' strategy to reach the world with Gospel Grace is as follows: God's gift of pursuing grace launches our forever relationship with Him, which grows and flourishes in deep, authentic community, equipping and empowering us to live on mission at home, at work, and at play. Grace. Community. Mission. God Himself desires to live on mission through us. This is how He receives glory and intends to fill us with lasting joy"* (pg. 23).

This Triad journey provides the most helpful structure we know where you can best grow in grace, community, and mission, for His glory and for the lasting joy of people.

### *What is a Triad?*

A Triad is a group of three men or women who covenant together to help one another discover more deeply what it means to receive God's grace, love God, love each other, and love the world. In a Triad you *pray* for one another daily, *encourage* one another regularly, and *meet* together weekly for 48 guided sessions (which tends to take a little over a year). The stated goal at the outset is that upon completion of your journey together, each of you would "multiply" by forming your own Triads, by inviting two others into the journey with you. The first time through there will be one Triad. When you multiply, there will be three (Lord willing). The first time through there will be three people growing dynamically in their love for God, each other, and the world; the second time through there will be nine.

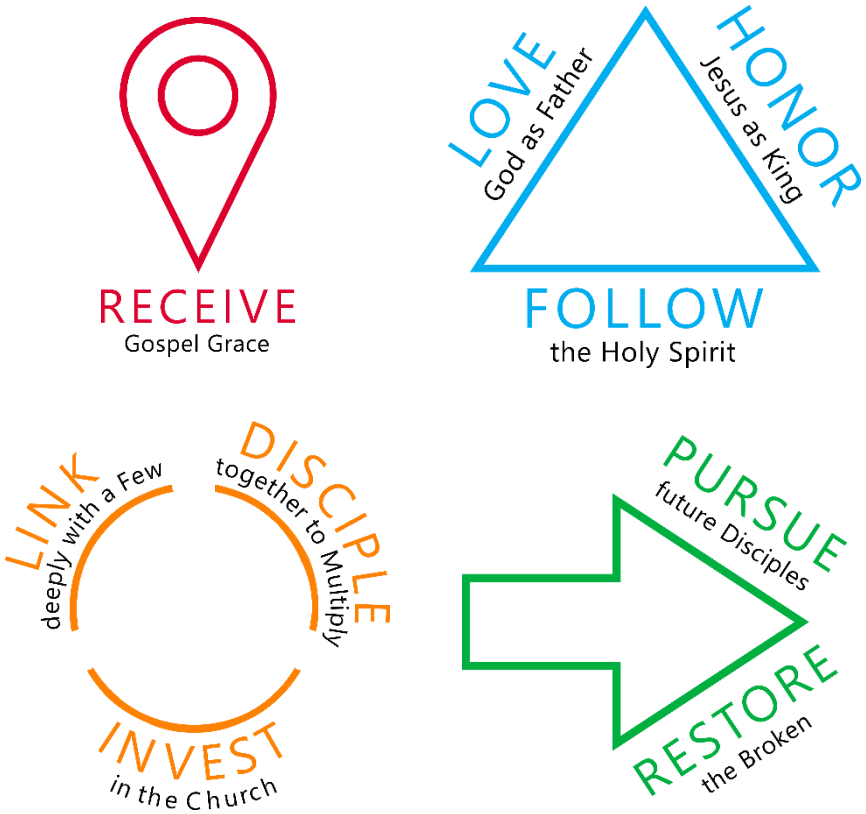
*That* is how the multiplication happens.

A key principle of the Triad journey is mutuality. We think of it as three women or three men covenanting to disciple together under Jesus' direction through the Holy Spirit. This is not "top down" discipleship where a more mature believer disciples less mature believers. Just like Peter, James, and John had Jesus at the center of their "Triad," this Triad journey is comprised of three disciples gathering around Jesus as well. (You could

call it a Quad then, but we've stuck with Triad!) Naturally, one member of the Triad may have followed Jesus longer than the others, but what we think you'll find is that because the Spirit of God has been at work in all three, all three will have things to learn from the others and all three will have things to contribute to the others.

*What are the Contents of a Triad?*

As is thoroughly explained in the Introduction to *Multiply*, your Triad journey is visually built around four shapes: the STARTING POINT, the STRONGER TRIANGLE, the CLOSER CIRCLE, and the FURTHER ARROW.




The first two shapes unpack Jesus' call to love God with everything we have, while the last two shapes unpack the unique familial love we are to have for one another in the Church and the missional love we are to have for those who are outside the faith but within our reach. These four shapes are intended to set the framework for understanding the entirety of the Christian life.

As you can see, we have given further definition to each shape by identifying nine *lifelong priorities* of a multiplying disciple. As a Triad, you will spend five weeks being oriented to each of the nine priorities. This does not mean you will become competent in each one by the end of this journey. However, God has given you a lifetime to deepen your appreciation for them as you grow in implementing them in your daily life. Furthermore, as you multiply and embark on other journeys with future Triads, we are confident that God

will continue to grow you in each of these areas. As God's priorities increasingly become your own, we believe He will receive glory through your life and you will discover lasting joy in Him.

### *What are the Elements of a Triad?*

These shapes are not simply the *content* of the Triad journey; they provide key *elements* of the journey as well.

The STRONGER TRIANGLE is all about our love for God. We believe that a knowledge *of* and love *for* God is nurtured vitally through a deeper reading of Scripture and a wider life of prayer. Both are key elements to the Triad journey.

SCRIPTURE – Most of us tend to be "skimmers" of Scripture. We read pretty quickly through a passage and within the hour have forgotten what we read. Instead of "skimmers" we want to be "diggers." To that end, we have designed the Triad journey to involve the re-reading of the same passage of Scripture all week. It might sound like overkill, but you can read a passage of Scripture a hundred times and God shows you something new on the hundred and first. If you really commit to it, we believe God will show you things on days three and five that He didn't show you on day one. His Word is living and active! At the end of this journey you will have reflected deeply and meaningfully on 36 glorious passages from God's Word, which will be for your personal benefit and the blessing of others as you have opportunities to share. We've included a copy of the Scripture passage each week so you can mark it up as you read and re-read. Underline, draw arrows, write questions, jot notes--whatever helps!

PRAYER – Also at the heart of a Triad is a growing commitment to daily prayer. Jesus has promised that if we ask anything in His name, according to His will, we already have what we have asked for. Now, most of us have struggled with prayer either because we haven't known what to pray for, or because we've tried it and it hasn't worked very well. We include in this journey "A Disciple's Prayer" which will focus you on the things that matter most to Jesus. We believe that, if we are praying that His priorities would become primary in our lives and in the lives of those in our Triad, amazing things are going to happen.

"A Disciple's Prayer" contains a one-sentence prayer for each of the nine lifelong priorities of a multiplying disciple. This Triad guide unpacks that prayer through Scripture over the course of your journey. When you are studying one of the priorities, there is an expanded, four-sentence prayer--one sentence for each of the weekly themes. (For an example, see page 26.) There is nothing magical about the wording of the prayer. In fact, if it would make it more personal, please feel free to rewrite the lines of the prayer in your own words.

Our encouragement is to begin praying daily through the whole prayer so that, from the outset, you are inviting God to place what matters most to Him at the center of your life and the lives of those in your Triad. When you are doing *that*, look out! You can begin living expectantly, believing that God is going to be busy within you, through you, and around you each and every day. You get the joy of living with your eyes wide open to the many different ways God will be answering your prayers. He will be!

The CLOSER CIRCLE is all about our love for one another in the body of Christ. Throughout the Scriptures we are called to a number of "one anothers": "love one another," "serve one another," "bear one another's burdens," "encourage one another daily," "confess your sins to each other and pray for each other," and many more. Where do those things happen for you? Where do these things happen in the lives of others through you? Whom do you encourage daily? To whom do you confess your sin? A number of these "one anothers" call for a deep level of relationship, what we call "authentic community."

This is why we believe that it is so important to have groups of three people of the same gender. In mixed company groups (like most Christian home groups), there are things that men will never share because women are in the room, and vice versa. Even in groups of six or eight of the same gender, we have found that four people will share, one or two will chime in here and there and one or two won't say a word. You can hide in a group of six. You can be struggling deeply and the other men or women will never know. It's harder to hide in a group of three. Some of you might see that as a bad thing! But as you open your lives slowly and more fully to each other, if you are on the journey with two others who know they also need God's grace, we believe you will experience welcome and grace. That, at least, is the heart of the Father. And this is yet another place where "Receiving Grace" enters in. Because you can develop deeper levels of trust in a small group of three, we hope that you will be free to share areas of struggle in your life that you wouldn't share elsewhere. In fact, we encourage you to do just that at different points in the journey. God has designed us in such a way that we can more powerfully receive God's grace when it is proclaimed over us by another who has also experienced grace.

The FURTHER ARROW is all about our love for those who are outside the faith. It is a sobering statistic but one that has been confirmed anecdotally time and time again: once someone has followed Jesus for five to seven years, they no longer have anyone in their social circle who is outside the faith. We may have acquaintances who don't know Jesus, neighbors or co-workers, but none that we intentionally spend time with in order to build friendship. And yet we're following Jesus, who was known as "the friend of sinners." Consider this challenging thought: "Does your life display the fellowship with sinners that Jesus so desired and pursued?" For most of us, the answer is "No."

This is hard! We know that. That's why pursuing future disciples is such a key element of the Triad journey. We need to pray for each other and encourage each other to join God on His mission in the world

**by moving** *toward* **sinners, not** *away* **from them.**

You will be asked each week to think of someone who is outside the faith. How they might respond to the theme you are studying that week, and to consider how you would talk with them about what you're learning. In the PURSUE chapter, you will be challenged to pray about, identify, and start moving into a place where you can deepen friendships with those who don't know Jesus. If we are going to follow Jesus, we know from His life that He is going to lead us to engage sinners.

The STARTING POINT is all about receiving gospel grace, and so is the Triad journey. As mentioned above, we pray that you will develop deep, authentic relationships where you can confess your sin and receive His grace,

in part through declaring it over each other. This entire journey is covered by grace and aimed to deepen your understanding and experience of grace.

Many Bible Studies are helpful in accomplishing the STRONGER element of knowing God through Scripture and even perhaps widening our prayer lives. Many accountability groups are helpful in the CLOSER element of fostering authentic community. However, we have found few environments that are a catalyst for growing us FURTHER by living on mission outside the church walls. Even fewer, if any, do all four of these things: help people live more fully in the joy of receiving grace, grow stronger in our love for God, closer in our commitment to one another, and further in our passion for the world.

*This* **is why we created the Triad journey.**

That said, we don't presume that this journey is anything more than *a* strategy. There are many others that might work just as well, but we are excited that you are willing to give *Multiply* a try. Joining a Triad is not about getting God to do what *we* want; it is finally slowing down and focusing long enough to invite Him to do what *He* wants in and through us! And there is *grace* for each step.

It is not a journey of self-effort where you prove to God that you are "really serious this time." It is a journey of faith, where God will grow you to be more dependent upon Him, more expectant of Him forming His character in you, and displaying His character through you for the blessing of others. You can anticipate that there will be dips and valleys along the way because we all know life happens. You might get thrown off course, but then you will just recalibrate. You will miss some days of prayer or Scripture, and that will be okay. The pressure's off. Remember, it isn't about a perfect track record,

**it's about getting to** *know* **God.**

Keep that the focus. Keep the main thing the main thing, and God will be glorified and you will be filled with greater joy!

### *What is the Schedule of a Triad?*

This guide will walk you through the 48 weeks of the journey.

LIFE MAPS – We recommend that you take the first three weeks to share your Life Maps (see the Life Map Overview on page 22 for some direction), and we highly encourage you to share your Life Maps in the environment of your own home. You might try something like this: Member #1 invites Members #2 and #3 to have dinner at their home with their family present. Members #2 and #3 don't bring their families with them so they can focus all of their attention on getting to know the family of Member #1. Those who have done this have found it to be a great gift to see each other's homes and get to know each other's families right out of the gate. After dinner, withdraw to a private part of the home and have Member #1, the host, share their Life Map with the others. Close by having Members #2 and #3 pray over the one who just shared their Life Map. Over the next two weeks, you repeat this process with Member #2 and Member #3. The heart

behind this beginning is to express some level of vulnerability from the very start, and to deepen the relationship by offering some personal context. Share a little more than you might be inclined to share. Remember the goal of your Triad is not merely to consume information alongside a few others.

The goal is **life** *transformation* **and eventual** *multiplication.*

So, take a risk. Share honestly and deeply without fear, listen attentively without judgment, and pray that God would cultivate a bond between you. It happens to be one of His favorite things to do.

NINE PRIORITIES – After each one has had an evening to share, you are ready to consider your first lifelong priority of a multiplying disciple — RECEIVE Gospel Grace. You will spend five weeks on each of the nine priorities (for a total of 45 weeks). Each priority has four unique devotional themes which set the table for your week in Scripture, prayer, and in Triad. A final Week of Reflection is recommended so that you adequately absorb all that God would have for you before moving on to the next priority.

## THE GUIDE LAYOUT

We have intentionally created a simple structure to guide your devotional life each week. Each week is divided into four sections: pray, read, reflect, and respond.

**P**RAY daily and expectantly "A Disciple's Prayer" (below) for yourself and those in your Triad.

**R E C E I V E** God, thank You for Your pursuing grace that has found me and forgiven me!

**L O V E** Father, show me Your love and enable me to love You with all of my heart, soul, and mind.

**H O N O R** Jesus, lead me into a life of growing obedience, more today than ever.

**F O L L O W** Holy Spirit, strengthen me and bear the fruit of Jesus' character in me today.

**L I N K** Equip me to love my spiritual brothers and sisters sacrificially as You have loved me.

**D I S C I P L E** Inspire me and enable me to disciple with others who will multiply.

**I N V E S T** Motivate me to generously invest my time, energy, money, and skills in my local church.

**P U R S U E** Use me today to bring Gospel Grace to those who are outside the faith but inside my reach.

**R E S T O R E** Give me Your compassion and courage to play my part in restoring brokenness around me.

I have joy in You and in the life You've given me.

Be glorified today…and appear soon! Amen.

**R**EAD devotionally the Scripture passage for the week, asking God for a new insight each day.

**R**EFLECT thoughtfully on the devotional reflections in Stephen Kirk's book, *Multiply,* which correspond to your weekly devotional theme. These brief devotionals set you up for a meaningful week in God's Word and in prayer by piquing your interest, explaining key biblical concepts, and raising personal questions that guide your reflections on the week's theme.

**R**ESPOND honestly to the three questions provided in preparation for meeting with your Triad. Each week there is one STRONGER question that asks you to reflect on what God is teaching you through the Scripture passage that week; there is one CLOSER question that asks you to share something from your life related to that Scripture and theme; and there is one FURTHER question that asks you to reflect on how you might talk about these things with someone in your life who is "outside the faith but within your reach." Be prepared to share your responses with your Triad the next time you meet together.

## Week of Reflection

Once you have covered the four devotional themes which unpack each lifelong priority, we have built into the journey a Week of Reflection. This week includes both thoughtful *action* and thoughtful *assessment.*

TRIAD EXPERIENCES – Most of what we do and how we teach in the church favors auditory learners, people who learn best by hearing. God has made some of us, though, who learn best by *doing.* That is why we have included in the journey recommended "Triad Experiences." These are activities that will be fun (we hope), will be a shared memory, and will help deepen your understanding and appreciation of the priority you have been studying. We recognize that people are different so we have provided at least three options from which you can choose. We encourage you to look at these on the first week you begin a new priority, choose one, and try to schedule when you will do it together. It will probably work best if you do it outside your normal meeting time. If you do it during your normal meeting time, you may want to add a week for discussion of the "Reflection Questions" as it's hard to do the activity and have time to share your reflections in the same meeting.

PERSONAL ASSESSMENT – When we fill our lives with constant activity, we rarely pause long enough to assess our spiritual growth. Perhaps we fear what we will discover, or perhaps we just don't find it all that interesting or important. But think about it: what other growing things do not get regular assessment? When a baby is developing in the womb, or a child becomes a toddler, when we prune a rose bush or plant a garden we measure growth.

**We *measure* growth**
**because we *anticipate* growth.**

That is the natural way of growing things. And so it is in your life with Jesus. We are all growing as His disciples. At different rates to be sure, but we are becoming who God made us to be. There are four assessment questions we ask at the end of each priority:

INSIGHT – What was the most meaningful insight you have had over these last four weeks about this priority?

BARRIER – What is the biggest barrier in your life to living in this priority more deeply?

ACTION – What is one action step you could take to overcome that barrier and how can we help?

BENEFITS – What are some specific benefits that would come to your life, and the lives of others, as a result of growth in this area?

We need not fear assessment—God's nor our own. Assessment simply notes progress, or at times regress, and offers a baseline from which you can move forward again. At the very least you will know what needs more of your attention. Might it be that God wants to give you the joy of noting your development? One of the greatest gifts Triads can offer is noticing spiritual growth in each other. So as you wrap up each lifelong priority, answer the assessment questions and share them with your Triad.

*"Search me, Oh God, and know my heart!*
*Try me and know my thoughts.*
*And see if there be any grievous way in me,*
*and lead me in the way everlasting."*
*(Psalm 139:23-24)*

# LAUNCHING A TRIAD

If you do not currently have a Triad but are intrigued by the idea, our encouragement is to begin praying daily "A Disciple's Prayer," specifically asking God to place on your heart a few people whom you might invite on this journey. Give God some time to prepare your heart to ask and their heart to receive your invitation. When you feel the time is right, and God will make that clear, you can reach out to them with something like,

*"I have been praying for you regularly in recent weeks/months*
*and I was wondering if you might consider joining me in a Triad,*
*where we'll intentionally disciple together in order to eventually multiply.*
*Would you like to learn more about what that could look like"?*

If your heart has been prepared through prayer, you won't be anxious about their response. You want what God wants, nothing more, nothing less. If it is not the right time—and for some it won't be—no harm done in having taken an interest. Perhaps you're just planting a seed! If, however, they are blessed by your pursuit and are indeed interested, it will be a sweet beginning of something very special. You might invite them to join you in praying for the third person who will complete your Triad. This models mutuality from the beginning.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Why do you talk about "mutual discipleship"? I've always thought of discipleship as a more mature believer investing in a less mature believer.**

Our decades long experience of discipleship (confirmed by Greg Ogden's excellent book, "Transforming Discipleship") is that in a one-on-one relationship, the one being discipled rarely, if ever, feels prepared to become the "discipler" in someone else's life. When discipleship is mutual from the get go, the pressure to be competent enough is off the table.

**How long does a Triad journey take?**

As long as it takes your Triad to meet for 48 sessions. Normally this takes between a year and a year and a half and then you're ready to multiply!

**How do people make time for an extra meeting every week? I'm really busy!**

As Americans we pack our schedules full, often because we think we *have* to. We don't. We encourage you to look deeply at the things you are giving your time to…even things that feel like they're "untouchable"…and ask God if there's something He might have you let go of so you can be about multiplying discipleship. The question is not one of time, it is one of priority.

**What kind of person should I think about inviting into a Triad?**

If you know a follower of Jesus who is willing to commit to meeting weekly with you for over a year so you can grow together in the grace, community, and mission of Jesus, and then multiply…go for it! It does help if there is some natural affinity, but too often we try to find the "perfect fit." God knows who you need, and who needs you…so ask God to lead you to two others, and we believe He will!

**Where should we meet?**

Any quiet place that is free of distraction and allows for vulnerable sharing. Meeting in a home or a room in the church has worked well for many. Restaurants do not tend to provide an atmosphere where people can share deeply and listen well to each other.

**What if one of the three can't meet one week? Should the other two continue?**

We recommend that the other two meet to catch up, but that you wait for the other one to join you before you move on in the content.

**Isn't it hard to end a Triad and split up so we can multiply? We've become so close!**

It may be hard initially, but your friendships don't end…just the journey. By multiplying you're simply expanding your circle of kindred spirits and you're giving others a chance to get in on the joy!

**Do I go through the same material with my second Triad? Won't that be redundant?**

It may seem now like it's repetitive, but you'll be studying it with new people, you'll be in a different place spiritually than you were the first time you went through, and there will always be room to deepen in understanding each of these nine lifelong priorities!

# IMPORTANT RESOURCES

## LISTENING RESOURCES

We cannot emphasize enough the importance of listening well in the Triad journey. Frankly, most of us aren't very good listeners. We interrupt. We pick up on what someone has said and excitedly share something from our own lives, unwittingly drawing attention away from what the other person just shared. We jump in and offer advice. We start asking questions and end up guiding what the other person talks about rather than giving them the steering wheel in the conversation. Someone risks and shares something deep from their lives and we skip right over it. Someone starts to cry and we awkwardly change the subject. Few things will kill authenticity in a Triad more quickly than not listening well. We urge you, if you are able, to take the "Listening for Heaven's Sake" course offered by Equipping Ministries International (www.equippingministries.org). You will be trained and get practice on how to listen well. If that is not possible, at least pick up the book *Listening for Heaven's Sake* and read it. Learning to listen better will be a gift to those in your Triad and *everyone* in your life.

## HINTS ON READING SCRIPTURE

Diving deeply into God's Word will be a key part of your triad journey. Yet many people find that reading Scripture is a challenge–at least reading and understanding it. What are some pitfalls you can avoid, and what are some helpful suggestions that you might follow to rightly understand and apply God's Word?

### Tendencies to Avoid

READING WITH WRONG MOTIVES

- To Gain Points With God – Some people read Scripture because they think by doing so they will earn points with God or, if they don't, they'll lose points with God. The person who gets a flat tire on the way to work thinks to himself, "If I would have had my quiet time this morning, this never would have happened." As you will learn (or be reminded) on this Triad journey, that's not how God works. Nothing we do contributes to our acceptability to God. Jesus has already done that for us! We read Scripture for right motives when we read out of love, desiring to know God and hear what He wants to tell us.

- For Knowledge Only – Some of us like to read the Bible because we'll be more impressive when we do. We'll be able to amaze others at our Bible Study by the depth of our knowledge. But Jesus' harshest words were reserved for those who knew the Scriptures better than anyone: the Pharisees. (Not to mention the fact that Satan knows Scripture better than any of us.) Knowledge alone is not the reason God spoke.

READING WITH LOW EXPECTATIONS – So often we approach Scripture as a lifeless book that we "have to read," but did you know that the Living God, who had no beginning and will have no end, who holds the universe

in the palm of His hand wants to speak to you personally? Did you know that He *has* spoken to you and that He *will* speak with you if you'll listen? To open God's Word and read is a profound privilege and gift! It's been said that there was a Jewish rabbi who physically trembled every time he heard the phrase, "And God said…" He was that filled with wonder that the Living God would speak! Oh, that we would tremble with wonder and joy that God spoke…and speaks!

SKIMMING – In our culture we tend to be skimmers, quickly scanning a text or an email to get the overall gist and move on. If we approach Scripture the same way, we may feel good about being able to "check off the box" of reading our Bible for the day, but minutes later we have forgotten what we read! We're like the person described in James 1, looking at ourselves in a mirror and then going away, immediately forgetting what we look like. Scripture itself calls us to a deeper reading.

TAKING SCRIPTURE OUT OF CONTEXT – How many of us have heard someone on an athletic field say, "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength," meaning "Through Christ I can win this game"? To take this one sentence from Paul's letter to the Philippians and apply it to sports is to misunderstand Paul's point entirely. (I'll let you read Philippians 4 to see what Paul is talking about.) Reading what comes immediately before and after a passage is key to understanding it.

"WHAT DOES THIS VERSE MEAN TO ME?" A common idea in our culture is that things don't have meaning in themselves, they only have meaning that we bring to them. So with Scripture, for instance, some might say, "Well, that's what that passage means to *you,* but it means something different to me," as if one Scripture passage can have two very different meanings. When God inspired the author of that passage to write it, though, He had something specific to say. Our task, through study and guided by the Holy Spirit, is to discover as best we can what God meant when He inspired it and then apply it. There can be many *applications* to a passage of Scripture, but not many meanings.

## Suggestions on Reading Scripture

BEGIN WITH PRAYER – Before you open Scripture, spend a few silent moments before God, remembering that He is present with you, living *in* you, and wanting to speak with you. Then pray that He would speak through His Word and that you would have ears to hear what He says.

CHECK THE CONTEXT – Consider the book that your passage is in. Is there an overall purpose of the book? For instance, the gospel of John was written "that you might believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." (Some study Bibles have helpful introductions that give an overview of each book.) Look at what comes before your passage. What was being said in the previous passage? Where did the last idea end and the new idea begin? What is God addressing here?

READ THE PASSAGE TWICE SLOWLY – Consider reading it aloud, particularly if you are an auditory learner. You may even want to record it and play it back on your phone. (There are many apps on phones or tablets where you can play the Scripture in audio form.)

ASK, "WHAT IS THE AUTHOR TRYING TO SAY?" – Summarize the main point of each paragraph in a short phrase.

WRITE DOWN ANY QUESTIONS YOU HAVE – Make a list of questions then go back through and identify which seem to be the most important questions. Put a star by them and maybe check commentaries and see what they have to say.

THEN ASK, "GOD, HOW WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO RESPOND?" – Based on what God was communicating through His Word when it was originally spoken, how would He have me respond today? What does the passage teach about who God is, what He is like, and what He has done? Is there a command to obey, a promise to claim, a sin to avoid, an example to follow, a truth to believe, a reason to rejoice?

## Suggestions for Reading the Same Passage Multiple Times

On this journey we want to challenge you to be people who "marinate" in a Scripture passage, to return to it throughout the week and let God search your heart through it, but that can be hard. "I read it already. I get it!" Here are some ideas for digging deeper:

DAY 1 - After pausing for prayer, look at the book of the Bible that your passage is in. If your Bible has an introduction to the book, read it. If not, flip through the book and read the headings. What are some of the main concerns of the book? Then read the context immediately before the passage for the week. Where does the last thought end and the current thought begin/end? This may be all you do on Day 1.

DAY 2 – Remind yourself of the context, then read the passage slowly twice. Try to summarize the main point of the passage in one phrase.

DAY 3 AND FOLLOWING - Read the passage each day, then narrow your focus:

- You might try dividing the passage into smaller sections, so Day 3 you might read the whole passage then really focus in on verses 1-3 of the passage. Day 4 read the whole passage and then really focus in on verses 4-7, etc.

- If the passage is a narrative, read each day from the perspective of a different person in the account. One of your passages is Matthew 12:46-50 where Jesus says that His mother and brothers are those who do the will of God. Day 3 you might read from His family's perspective. How were they hearing/feeling about what Jesus said? Day 4 read from the perspective of the disciples. Day 5, from the perspective of Jesus, etc.

- Pick one verse to memorize and spend time each day meditating on that verse.

- Is there a word or phrase that jumps out? Spend some time meditating on that word or phrase, asking what God is saying to you through it.

- Try reading the passage in a different translation or version each day. The first day you might read the passage in the English Standard Version. The next day you could read the New International Version. Day three you could read it in, *The Message*, and so on.

# POTENTIAL PITFALLS IN THE TRIAD JOURNEY

**Selfishness** – Let's face it, a significant temptation we face in life is to make everything about us! What are *we* getting out of it?

SUGGESTIONS:

- Ask God to help you focus on listening and supporting the others in your Triad.
- Take the Listening Course as soon as possible (*www.equippiingministries.org*). If that's not possible, read *Listening for Heaven's Sake* by Anne Clippard and David Ping.

**Imbalance**

- Making it a Bible Study only.
- Spending so much time "checking in" that you never talk about the Scripture.
- Totally neglecting the missional emphasis of the journey.

SUGGESTION: Regularly check yourselves using the Triad Assessment in the appendix.

**Inconsistency** – In our culture, even getting three schedules together can be challenging! You're going to miss weeks. But if you miss too many (especially if you aren't meeting weekly), it will take forever!

SUGGESTIONS:

- View your Triad meeting as an unbreakable appointment!
- If you absolutely can't meet during your normal meeting time, try to reschedule that week.
- Can you meet over Skype?

**Limited interaction -** In His Word, God calls us to "encourage one another daily." How might you encourage one another daily on the journey?

SUGGESTIONS:

- Pray daily.
- Send texts, email, or call once or twice during the week outside of your normal meeting.
- Schedule occasional, outside social connections, maybe with families.

**Facades** – Some people are afraid to share deeply. Others may risk it, then "plateau."

SUGGESTION: Ask yourself each week, "Is there something I'm holding back that I need to share?"

**Skipping "Triad Experiences"** – This is not really a pitfall, but the group experiences can add a lot of fun, meaning, and bonding to the Triad journey. Particularly if you meet in the mornings, doing the Group Activities during your normally scheduled time will probably not work. You may need to complete the Group Activity during another time of the week.

SUGGESTION: During Week 1 of each priority, look at the Suggested Group Activities at the end of the unit. Pick one as a group that you think would be most meaningful, then get it on the calendar.

# GETTING STARTED

## TRIAD COVENANT

### The Purpose of a Triad

GROWTH

Learning to receive and extend Gospel Grace (the Starting Point).
Learning to love God (Stronger Triangle), each other (Closer Circle) and the world (Further Arrow).

EQUIPPING

Learning how to make disciples of Jesus who will multiply.

### The Components of a Triad

DAILY connection with God

*Pray* through "A Disciple's Prayer" for yourself (your personalized version) and your Triad.
*Meditate* on "This Week's Scripture," listening for a fresh insight from God into that week's theme.

WEEKLY reflection in Triad

*Read* the assigned section of Stephen Kirk's book, *Multiply*, to prepare your heart and mind to grow.
*Meet* to share what you are learning (insights and challenges) and how you are growing, to encourage one another, to hold each other accountable, and to pray together.

MONTHLY Practical Experience

*Try* one Multiply Experience as a Triad, reflecting together on why it was challenging, helpful, etc.

### The Covenant of a Triad

1. By the power of the Holy Spirit I will faithfully fulfill the above commitments, making daily time with God, weekly time with my Triad, and monthly experiences with my Triad a priority in my life.
2. I will seek to daily yield myself to Jesus as King in every area of my life.
3. I will strive to pray daily that my Triad would do the same.
4. I will listen deeply and attentively to the others in my Triad, putting their needs before my own.
5. I will share openly and honestly, contributing to a climate of trust and vulnerability in a spirit of mutual encouragement.
6. I will keep confidential anything shared in my group (unless getting permission to share).
7. Throughout the journey I commit to prayerfully consider whether the Lord would have me take two others with me on the next Multiply journey.

Signed: _____ _____ _____

Date: _____

# LIFE MAPPING OVERVIEW

In the previous section we encouraged you to begin your Triad by meeting in each other's homes, having dinner together and then having the host that week share their "Life-Map." The purpose of sharing Life-Maps is to give others an overview of your life so they have some context of where you are now. From where has God brought you? What have been some of the key moments, seasons, people and experiences in your life, good and bad, joyful and sorrowful? What people and events in your life has God used to shape who you are today; your thoughts, attitudes, the way you see the world. How you view people and experiences today is largely through the lens of your own past experiences, so if others are going to know you well they need to know some of these things.

We use the term "Life Map" rather than simply "Life Story" or "Testimony" because it is a representation of your life in some kind of visual form. Some of you will love that; for others it might be more of a challenge. You certainly don't need to be an artist. If you can draw lines and write words, you can do a Life-Map.

On the back of this page there are examples of different types of Life-Maps you could do. It is generally helpful to think of your life chronologically, in blocks. Some blocks might be:

- Early years (0-12)
- Adolescence (13-18)
- Young Adulthood (19-25)
- Early family years (25-35), etc.

Or you could divide your Life Map by major life circumstances/places you lived:

- Cincinnati (ages 0-8)
- Jacksonville (ages 9-14)
- Memphis (ages 15-22)
- First job, P&G (23-35), etc.

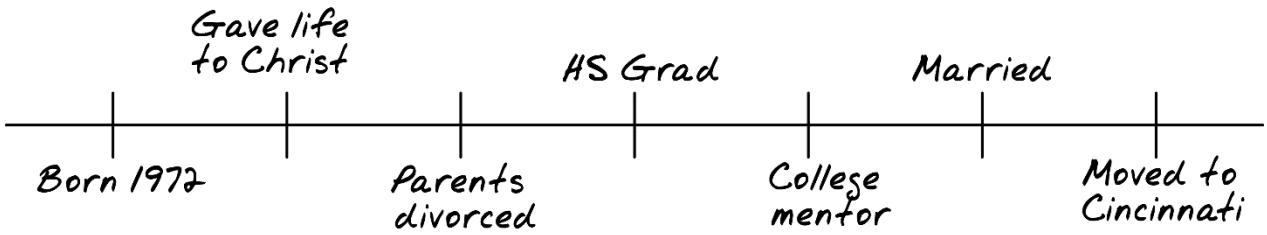
Some questions you might consider including in your Life Map include:

- What was family life like for you in the early years? (Relationship with parents, siblings, etc.)
- What were your first memories of hearing about God?
- What were you like as a kid?
- How did you come to know Jesus?
- Who have been some of the key people in your life who have influenced you, for good or bad?
- What was family life like in adolescent years?
- What were some early faith struggles? If you found some kind of resolution, how?
- What were some of the high points of your life? How did/do they affect you?
- What were some of the low points of your life? How did/do they affect you?
- What have been some of the dreams you've had/have for your life?
- What have been some recent struggles?
- What is giving you the most joy in life right now?
- Where would you like to be 5 years from now?

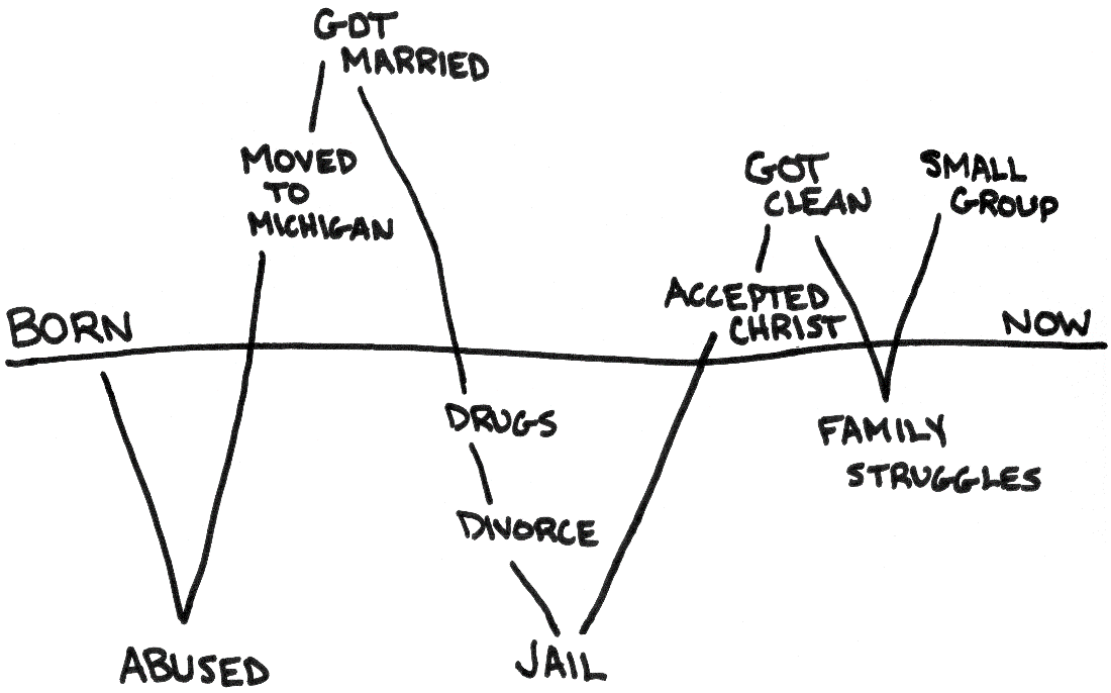
So look over the following examples and give it a try! You may want to sketch your Life Map out on a scrap piece of paper first, but remember, there is no wrong way to do a Life Map…as long as it's authentically "you."

These are some ideas:

Draw a timeline*




Draw a Graph*



## Create a Chart*

| **Key Events** | **Ages 0-12** | **Ages 13-18** | **Ages 18-22** | **Ages 22-30** | **Over 30** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Christian Home | Sports | College | First job | Mom's cancer |
| | Moved | Girlfriend | Wild Living | Married | Children rebel |
| | Became Christian | Youth Group | Friend died | Child | Faith renewed |
| **Key Person** | Mom | Youth Pastor | Professor | Wife | Boss |
| **Key Struggle** | Insecurity | Pornography | Doubt Faith | Stress at work | Anger |

(*If you create a "word-only" timeline, we encourage you to bring some pictures of key people, places, and/or events so the others in your Triad have a "visual.")

## PowerPoint Presentation



# SPIRITUAL ASSESSMENT

The vision of your home church is to glorify God by bringing lasting joy to all people. To that end, our mission is to help one another *discover* and live in Gospel grace, *grow together* in our capacity to love God and people, and *be equipped* to make disciples of Jesus who will multiply. In order to achieve this mission we are committed to a lifestyle of growth in these lifelong priorities:

RECEIVE Gospel Grace

LOVE God as Father • HONOR Jesus as King • FOLLOW the Holy Spirit

LINK deeply with a Few • DISCIPLE together to Multiply • INVEST in the Church

PURSUE future Disciples • RESTORE the Broken

The items on the following pages are designed to identify your current baseline for these lifelong priorities. Your results will affirm areas of this mission that are well established in your life, as well as those areas that are not so well established. This will help you determine what next steps you can take to move forward. We are all growing in this mission, at different rates for sure, becoming who God has made us to be. God wants to give you the joy of noting your development as a disciple of Jesus. This is a self-scoring evaluation and you are in control of who sees your results. You are not required to turn this in to a pastor or your community leader, but there are some suggestions following the scoring pages that might prompt you to get in touch with someone to discuss your results.

Before beginning your assessment, you might spend a couple of minutes of reflection with the Lord to bring clarity to your mind. Then to get started, please go to the next page and follow the directions at the top of the page.

Using the scale below of 0-100, write the number in the blank that best describes your *confidence* concerning how valid each statement is.

| 0 | 10 | 20 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 80 | 90 | 100 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Certain the statement is false | | | | | Could be either true or false | | | | | Certain the statement is true |

____1. A person's accurate identity is realized as God pursues him or her through Jesus Christ.

____2. An interruption by another person can serve as a trigger from God, prompting a response to that person's need.

____3. As a child of God, I can have a relationship with God as my Father.

____4. My personal worth is acknowledged by the length to which God Himself was willing to go to "win" my freedom and redemption.

____5. God is unconcerned with providing us spiritual "siblings" for our life's journey.

____6. The Good News of Jesus is the best news I could ever share with someone else.

____7. I am called by Jesus to make disciples beyond my own family.

____8. My church's health and vitality exist separately from my input or efforts.

____9. God chooses what to make knowable about His ways.

____10. My motivation to express love and respect, even to those who may not return that love and respect, is based on Christ's sacrificial love for me.

____11. God provides for all my needs.

____12. The worst thing for my life is when God reveals my wrongdoing to me.

____13. My life is ruled by persons or forces other than Jesus.

____14. It is possible for those who know Christ to listen to and to follow the Holy Spirit.

____15. All of my resources are a gift from God for my provision, enjoyment, and generous giving.

____16. When I learn of another who is in need, my interaction with them is a Gospel-grace opportunity.

____17. Jesus wants me to join Him in pursuing those outside the faith but within my reach.

____18. When I ask God to help people grow spiritually, He works through my prayers.

Using the scale below of 0-100, write the number in the blank that best describes your *confidence* concerning how valid each statement is.

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

Certain the statement is false — Could be either true or false — Certain the statement is true

____19. It's important to build relational bridges to reach into the lives of people around me who do not yet have a personal relationship with Jesus.

____20. God actively transforms me.

____21. God is my loving Father.

____22. Jesus deliberately chose to become fully acquainted with all our sin.

____23. Healing begins when I admit my need to those who can help for the purpose of restoration.

____24. God changes my view of myself and my focus in life so that I may enjoy a personal, intimate relationship with Him.

____25. God's resources are entrusted to me so that I can be generously invested in my church.

____26. God wants to use me for the spiritual transformation of others.

____27. I need people in my life who really know me so that they can support and encourage me when I face difficult challenges.

____28. Jesus is committed to equipping me for obedience to His teachings and commands.

____29. Being sad about the brokenness of others means I am weak.

____30. God delights in my generous giving.

____31. Helping people become multiplying disciples is outside the realm of my responsibility.

____32. I heal and grow when I am able to share my wrong doings with a few trusted people who know me from top to bottom.

____33. How I live my everyday life and relate to those outside of the Christian faith is important in my pursuit of them.

____34. The highest priority in my life is to love God.

____35. I should seek God's guidance for decisions I make in my life.

Using the scale below of 0-100, write the number in the blank that best describes your *confidence* concerning how valid each statement is.

| 0 | 10 | 20 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 80 | 90 | 100 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Certain the statement is false | | | | | Could be either true or false | | | | | Certain the statement is true |

____36. God desires to be closely connected to me.

____37. No one rules better than Jesus.

____38. God's unwavering commitment to me gives me peace.

____39. Knowing how to communicate the Gospel with others is an optional function for a disciple of Jesus.

____40. Connecting regularly with a few people to share our spiritual journeys with Christ is key to my growth.

____41. There are limits to my access to God through the Holy Spirit who resides in me.

____42. A key to spiritual growth is trustworthy relationships wherein we challenge one another in our faithfulness to God.

____43. Those who have experienced restorative grace become the restorers of the broken around them.

____44. The Holy Spirit equips me to make meaningful contributions to the church.

____45. Learning to love others is separate from my love for God.

____46. I prevent people from knowing me completely, as I really am.

____47. I pray to God daily.

____48. I thank God for His gracious pursuit of me.

____49. I engage the broken at their point of need.

____50. I give thanks to Jesus that He delivered me from death and took on the judgment I deserve for my mistakes and wrongdoings.

____51. I invest in certain relationships for the express purpose of mutual spiritual growth.

____52. My unique giftedness finds expression in the life of my church.

Using the scale below of 0-100, write the number in the blank that best describes your *confidence* concerning how valid each statement is.

| 0 | 10 | 20 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 80 | 90 | 100 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Certain the statement is false | | | | | Could be either true or false | | | | | Certain the statement is true |

____53. I disregard God's promptings.

____54. I tell others outside the faith but within my reach about Gospel grace.

____55. I deny Jesus' supreme influence on my decisions and actions.

____56. I extend grace to others when they share their failures with me.

____57. I intentionally pursue non-Christians in my life.

____58. I pray for people outside my family, asking that God would help them grow spiritually.

____59. I take action when God nudges me.

____60. I withhold from God access to the deepest aspects of myself.

____61. I ask God to lead me in my financial investment in my church.

____62. I notice God's specific, tangible blessings in my day-to-day life.

____63. I serve with ministries or organizations that restore those who are broken.

____64. I seek to enter into the world of my non-Christian friends to better understand their attitudes, actions and thinking.

____65. I ask the Holy Spirit to reveal God to me.

____66. I go throughout the day without praying to God.

____67. When I am "off course" in my faith journey, I inform a few persons close to me who can help get me back on track.

____68. When God reveals my wrongdoing, I change my behavior to align with His will.

____69. I help other followers of Jesus discern the next step that God is calling them to take.

____70. If an opportunity of meeting tangible needs presents itself, I provide assistance.

Using the scale below of 0-100, write the number in the blank that best describes your *confidence* concerning how valid each statement is.

| 0 | 10 | 20 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 80 | 90 | 100 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Certain the statement is false | | | | | Could be either true or false | | | | | Certain the statement is true |

____71. I invest none of my financial resources in my church.

____72. I submit my life to Jesus.

____73. I communicate to God gratitude and joy from knowing He is always there for me.

____74. I lack relationships wherein we are being equipped to become multiplying disciples.

____75. I pass on the opportunity to meet needs that are brought to my attention.

____76. I invest financially in my church.

____77. I obey God as an act of love.

____78. I cultivate a regular rhythm for listening to the Holy Spirit.

____79. I reflect Jesus' character through my interactions with people in my life who don't have a relationship with him.

____80. I assess where I need to grow in applying the teachings and directions of Jesus.

____81. For those with whom I have a close relationship, I provide encouraging feedback to help them grown in their relationship with God.

____82. I apply insights from the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) to my life.

____83. I receive assurance from the Holy Spirit that my relationship with God lasts forever.

____84. I ask God to lead me to someone I might encourage.

____85. I talk with others about making disciples of Jesus who will multiply.

____86. I ask someone to pray with me when I want to change for the better.

____87. I regularly pray that God will transform me and form the character of Christ in me.

____88. I apply God's teachings in my relationships.

Using the scale below of 0-100, write the number in the blank that best describes your *confidence* concerning how valid each statement is.

| 0 | 10 | 20 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 80 | 90 | 100 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Certain the statement is false | | | | | Could be either true or false | | | | | Certain the statement is true |

____89. I volunteer to do tasks for the church.

____90. I refrain from clearly communicating the Good News of Jesus to other people.

## Scoring

Write your scale number from the Assessment sheet which corresponds with each number below. For example – under Receive Gospel Grace on the scoring sheet, number 1 will correspond with number 1 on the assessment, number 12 on the scoring sheet with number 12 on the assessment, etc.

You will notice on the scoring sheet that there is one yellow-highlighted item for each section. For each of these items, please score as follows: If you had a 0 as your score on the assessment, on the score sheet enter 100; if you had 10 as your score, enter 90; if you had 20 as your score, enter 80; if you had 30 as your score, enter 70; if you had 40 as your score, enter 60; and if you had 50 as your score, enter 50.

You will want to have a calculator with you when doing this final part of the scoring. After you have recorded all of your assessment numbers, add the numbers together in each priority section, then divide by 5 to get your average score for each of the nine priorities.

Following the scoring, the final page of the Assessment will give you some things to look for in your scoring as well as suggestions if you wish to pursue this further.

RECEIVE GOSPEL GRACE

____1.
____12.
____27.
____36.
____38.
____Sum
____Average (Sum divided by 5)

RECEIVE GOSPEL GRACE

____48.
____60.
____68.
____73.
____83.
____Sum
____Average (Sum divided by 5)

LOVE GOD AS FATHER

____3.
____11.
____21.
____34.
____45.
____Sum
____Average (Sum divided by 5)

LOVE GOD AS FATHER

____47.
____62.
____66.
____77.
____88.
____Sum
____Average (Sum divided by 5)

HONOR JESUS AS KING

____4.
____13.
____22.
____28.
____37.
____Sum
____Average (Sum divided by 5)

HONOR JESUS AS KING

____50.
____55.
____72.
____80.
____82.
____Sum
____Average (Sum divided by 5)

## Scoring

Write your scale number from the Assessment sheet which corresponds with each number below. For example – under Receive Gospel Grace on the scoring sheet, number 1 will correspond with number 1 on the assessment, number 12 on the scoring sheet with number 12 on the assessment, etc.

You will notice on the scoring sheet that there is one yellow-highlighted item for each section. For each of these items, please score as follows: If you had a 0 as your score on the assessment, on the score sheet enter 100; if you had 10 as your score, enter 90; if you had 20 as your score, enter 80; if you had 30 as your score, enter 70; if you had 40 as your score, enter 60; and if you had 50 as your score, enter 50.

You will want to have a calculator with you when doing this final part of the scoring. After you have recorded all of your assessment numbers, add the numbers together in each priority section, then divide by 5 to get your average score for each of the nine priorities.

Following the scoring, the final page of the Assessment will give you some things to look for in your scoring as well as suggestions if you wish to pursue this further.

FOLLOW THE HOLY SPIRIT

____9.
____14.
____20.
____35.
____41.
____Sum
____Average (Sum divided by 5)

FOLLOW THE HOLY SPIRIT

____53.
____59.
____65.
____78.
____87.
____Sum
____Average (Sum divided by 5)

LINK DEEPLY WITH A FEW

____5.
____10.
____27.
____32.
____40.
____Sum
____Average (Sum divided by 5)

LINK DEEPLY WITH A FEW

____46.
____56.
____67.
____81.
____84.
____Sum
____Average (Sum divided by 5)

DISCIPLE TOGETHER TO MULTIPLY

____7.
____18.
____26.
____31.
____42.
____Sum
____Average (Sum divided by 5)

DISCIPLE TOGETHER TO MULTIPLY

____51.
____58.
____69.
____74.
____85.
____Sum
____Average (Sum divided by 5)

## Scoring

Write your scale number from the Assessment sheet which corresponds with each number below. For example – under Receive Gospel Grace on the scoring sheet, number 1 will correspond with number 1 on the assessment, number 12 on the scoring sheet with number 12 on the assessment, etc.

You will notice on the scoring sheet that there is one yellow-highlighted item for each section. For each of these items, please score as follows: If you had a 0 as your score on the assessment, on the score sheet enter 100; if you had 10 as your score, enter 90; if you had 20 as your score, enter 80; if you had 30 as your score, enter 70; if you had 40 as your score, enter 60; and if you had 50 as your score, enter 50.

You will want to have a calculator with you when doing this final part of the scoring. After you have recorded all of your assessment numbers, add the numbers together in each priority section, then divide by 5 to get your average score for each of the nine priorities.

Following the scoring, the final page of the Assessment will give you some things to look for in your scoring as well as suggestions if you wish to pursue this further.

INVEST IN THE CHURCH

____8.
____15.
____25.
____30.
____44.
____Sum
____Average (Sum divided by 5)

INVEST IN THE CHURCH

____52.
____61.
____71.
____75.
____89.
____Sum
____Average (Sum divided by 5)

PURSUE FUTURE DISCIPLES

____6.
____17.
____19.
____33.
____39.
____Sum
____Average (Sum divided by 5)

PURSUE FUTURE DISCIPLES

____54.
____57.
____64.
____79.
____90.
____Sum
____Average (Sum divided by 5)

RESTORE THE BROKEN

____2.
____16.
____23.
____29.
____43.
____Sum
____Average (Sum divided by 5)

RESTORE THE BROKEN

____49.
____63.
____70.
____75.
____86.
____Sum
____Average (Sum divided by 5)

## Next Steps

Once you have calculated your score for each lifelong priority in the Belief and Behavior assessments, are there any scores that stand out to you? Take note of any large gaps in your scores between Belief and Behavior on any of the priorities. Consider reasons for this and what could be done to close the gap.

As you reflect upon your results, are there any priorities that you want to further develop? For a priority with a high score, you can explore what you are doing to maintain this strength. You could also develop a plan to continue your development in this strong priority. For instance, if one priority has a "70" for both Belief and Behavior you could develop a plan to move towards a "75". For a priority with a low score, begin to consider opportunities for improvement in this area and develop an action plan for growth. Always pray for guidance and be open for the Lord's "nudges" as you determine areas for growth and development.

You will gain even more benefit from your assessment by discussing your results with a trusted friend in Christ, a pastor, or an Elder. These conversations may give you new insights and assist you in setting a goal to grow.

Listed below are some options that can encourage and support your journey in living the nine lifelong priorities:

- Identify one priority that you want to learn more about and read the companion book on the Hope Multiply wall and Hope Multiply for Families wall in the main church hallway.
- Read the book Multiply by Stephen Kirk, diving in deeper to selected priorities.
- Contact the Spiritual Direction office to connect with a Spiritual Assessment coach to discuss your results, determine next steps for you, and pray with you.
- Schedule an appointment with one of the Lead Team staff members to discuss your results.
- Consider forming a discipleship Triad with 2 other people. Kari Glemaker and Bill Craig in Adult Discipleship can assist you.
- If you and your spouse take the assessment, connect with a Marriage Mentor couple to further discuss your results to enrich your marriage.
- Retake the Spiritual Assessment at a later date and compare your results to the current results.

# SPIRITUAL ASSESSMENT REFLECTION QUESTIONS
## BEGINNING OF TRIAD JOURNEY

1. What is your overall reaction to the experience of taking and scoring the assessment? What was helpful? What was difficult or confusing?

2. What was the biggest surprise when reviewing your results?

<u>Strengths</u>

3. Which priority (or priorities) have the highest scores? How do these strong areas affect your life?

4. How can you sustain this level or continue to grow in it?

<u>Opportunities for Improvement</u>

5. Was there any priority(ies) that had a significant gap between the "belief" and the "behavior" scores? Explain.

6. Is there one area you sense the Lord inviting you to grow in right now? How would your life look different if you were 5 to 10 points higher in that priority?

7. What is a step you could take to grow in that priority? How can your Triad help you?



# RECEIVE

Gospel Grace

# RECEIVE

## WEEK 1 – PURSUIT

**PRAY** daily and expectantly "A Disciple's Prayer" (below) for yourself and those in your Triad.

**RECEIVE** God, thank You for Your pursuing grace that has found me and forgiven me! (Pursuit)
In view of Your grace, my sin grieves me and I'm eager to turn from it. (Repentance)
I receive the Cross of Jesus that restores my fellowship with You. (Reconciliation)
And I receive the Holy Spirit, who guarantees that our fellowship will last. (Guarantee)

**LOVE** Father, show me Your love and enable me to love You with all of my heart, soul and mind.

**HONOR** Jesus, lead me into a life of growing obedience, more today than ever.

**FOLLOW** Holy Spirit, strengthen me and bear the fruit of Jesus' character in me today.

**LINK** Equip me to love my spiritual brothers and sisters sacrificially as You have loved me.

**DISCIPLE** Inspire me and enable me to disciple with others who will multiply.

**INVEST** Motivate me to generously invest my time, energy, money and skills in my local church.

**PURSUE** Use me today to bring Gospel Grace to those who are outside the faith but inside my reach.

**RESTORE** Give me Your compassion and courage to play my part in restoring brokenness around me.

I have joy in You and in the life You've given me.
Be glorified today…and appear soon!
Amen.

**READ** devotionally **Luke 15**, asking God for a new insight each day. Repetition actually weaves the passage more deeply into your memory and heart.

**REFLECT** thoughtfully on the INTRODUCTION to "RECEIVE Gospel Grace" in the book, *Multiply*, as well as the first theme: PURSUIT (pp. 33-38).

**RESPOND** honestly to the three questions on the next page in preparation for meeting with your Triad.

STRONGER What has God been saying to you through **Luke 15** this week?

CLOSER Talk about a time in your life when you, like the Prodigal Son, wandered from God, returned home, and experienced grace. Why do you think you wandered? How did it feel to be "away"? What led you to return? How did it feel to "come home"?

FURTHER Compose a text (or short note) to someone in your life who is "outside the faith but inside your reach." How might you explain God's pursuing grace to them in a way that they could experience this as good news? You don't need to send the text, but write it as it will help you put specific words around how you would communicate it to them!

**SAMPLE:** Hey, John. I was just reading some things that Jesus said about God and I thought of you. He said that God deeply loves people and is pursuing them to bring them home to Him, and when we do come home to God, He welcomes us with open arms, no matter what we've done. There has been no greater joy in my life than coming home to God and I'm praying that you would know that same joy! ***(Write yours below.)***

# Luke 15

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

So he told them this parable: "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

"Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

"But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants."' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

# Notes

# RECEIVE

## WEEK 2 – REPENTANCE

**PRAY** daily and expectantly "A Disciple's Prayer" (below) for yourself and those in your Triad.

**RECEIVE** God, thank You for Your pursuing grace that has found me and forgiven me! (Pursuit)
In view of Your grace, my sin grieves me and I'm eager to turn from it. (Repentance)
I receive the Cross of Jesus that restores my fellowship with You. (Reconciliation)
And I receive the Holy Spirit, who guarantees that our fellowship will last. (Guarantee)

**LOVE** Father, show me Your love and enable me to love You with all of my heart, soul and mind.

**HONOR** Jesus, lead me into a life of growing obedience, more today than ever.

**FOLLOW** Holy Spirit, strengthen me and bear the fruit of Jesus' character in me today.

**LINK** Equip me to love my spiritual brothers and sisters sacrificially as You have loved me.

**DISCIPLE** Inspire me and enable me to disciple with others who will multiply.

**INVEST** Motivate me to generously invest my time, energy, money and skills in my local church.

**PURSUE** Use me today to bring Gospel Grace to those who are outside the faith but inside my reach.

**RESTORE** Give me Your compassion and courage to play my part in restoring brokenness around me.

I have joy in You and in the life You've given me.
Be glorified today…and appear soon!
Amen.

**READ** devotionally **Psalm 51**, asking God for a new insight each day. Repetition actually weaves the passage more deeply into your memory and heart.

**REFLECT** thoughtfully on the second theme of "RECEIVE Gospel Grace in the book, *Multiply*: REPENTANCE (pp. 38-42).

**RESPOND** honestly to the three questions on the next page in preparation for meeting with your Triad.

STRONGER What do you sense God has been saying to you through Psalm 51 this week?

CLOSER In preparation for your Triad, be thinking about a sin from which you need to repent that you could share with them. Risk a little bit here. You don't have to go "to the bottom," but push yourself to confess a bit more than you might otherwise. When you are together as a Triad this week:

1. Confess that sin to them. (Listeners, don't excuse or condemn or advise. Just listen.)
2. After you've confessed it to them, turn to God in prayer and confess it to Him. ("Lord, I know that I _____. When I did that, I sinned against You, and I deeply wounded _____. I'm so sorry. I ask you to forgive me. Help me.")
3. After prayer, one of the other members of the Triad can read the following to the one who just confessed (or put something in your own words): "(Name), God's Word says, 'If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.' Based on what God's Word says, you are forgiven! You stand before God pure, holy, and spotless."
4. Afterwards, Triad partners, ask the one who confessed:
    a. "Is there anyone else you need to confess this to or ask forgiveness? If so, do you think you can do that this week?"
    b. "What can we do this week to help you turn away from that sin?"
5. Do this for each person in your Triad in your meeting this week.

FURTHER Think of a person who is "outside the faith but inside your reach." Read Psalm 51 with them in mind and imagine how they might respond to it. What part(s) of that Psalm do you think they might be able to receive as good news? What questions or objections do you think they'd have? Write them out below (use the "Notes" page if necessary).

# Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips and my mouth will declare your praise. For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem; then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

# Notes

# RECEIVE

## WEEK 3 - RECONCILIATION

**PRAY** daily and expectantly "A Disciple's Prayer" (below) for yourself and those in your Triad.

**RECEIVE** God, thank You for Your pursuing grace that has found me and forgiven me! (Pursuit)
In view of Your grace, my sin grieves me and I'm eager to turn from it. (Repentance)
I receive the Cross of Jesus that restores my fellowship with You. (Reconciliation)
And I receive the Holy Spirit, who guarantees that our fellowship will last. (Guarantee)

**LOVE** Father, show me Your love and enable me to love You with all of my heart, soul and mind.

**HONOR** Jesus, lead me into a life of growing obedience, more today than ever.

**FOLLOW** Holy Spirit, strengthen me and bear the fruit of Jesus' character in me today.

**LINK** Equip me to love my spiritual brothers and sisters sacrificially as You have loved me.

**DISCIPLE** Inspire me and enable me to disciple with others who will multiply.

**INVEST** Motivate me to generously invest my time, energy, money and skills in my local church.

**PURSUE** Use me today to bring Gospel Grace to those who are outside the faith but inside my reach.

**RESTORE** Give me Your compassion and courage to play my part in restoring brokenness around me.

I have joy in You and in the life You've given me.
Be glorified today...and appear soon!
Amen.

**READ** devotionally **Romans 5:1-11**, asking God for a new insight each day. Repetition actually weaves the passage more deeply into your memory and heart.

**REFLECT** thoughtfully on the third theme of "RECEIVE Gospel Grace" in the book, *Multiply*: RECONCILIATION (pp. 42-47).

**RESPOND** honestly to the three questions on the next page in preparation for meeting with your Triad.

## FURTHER

A tendency in Triads is to spend so much time talking about the "Stronger" and "Closer" questions that we never get to the "Further." In the Triad journey, however, we desire to keep "Further," our love for those outside the faith, front and center. To that end we will switch the order from time to time and ask you to discuss the "Further" question first.

Imagine you are talking to your friend who is "outside the faith but inside your reach." They say, "I know I'm going to hell. I've just done too much in my life for God to forgive." Write a 3-4 sentence response to that friend (perhaps based in part on Romans 5:1-11).

## STRONGER

What do you sense God has been saying to you through Romans 5:1-11 this week?

## CLOSER

Stephen mentioned a number of different views of God in the world today. Share with your Triad which of those views you were most exposed to growing up: God as an impersonal, mysterious force? An emotionally distant God who is removed from the world? An unpredictable God whose favor must be earned? Something else? Explain. How does that compare to God as portrayed in Romans 5:1-11?

# Romans 5:1-11

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

# Notes

# RECEIVE

## WEEK 4 - GUARANTEE

**PRAY** daily and expectantly "A Disciple's Prayer" (below) for yourself and those in your Triad.

**RECEIVE** God, thank You for Your pursuing grace that has found me and forgiven me! (Pursuit)
In view of Your grace, my sin grieves me and I'm eager to turn from it. (Repentance)
I receive the Cross of Jesus that restores my fellowship with You. (Reconciliation)
And I receive the Holy Spirit, who guarantees that our fellowship will last. (Guarantee)

**LOVE** Father, show me Your love and enable me to love You with all of my heart, soul and mind.

**HONOR** Jesus, lead me into a life of growing obedience, more today than ever.

**FOLLOW** Holy Spirit, strengthen me and bear the fruit of Jesus' character in me today.

**LINK** Equip me to love my spiritual brothers and sisters sacrificially as You have loved me.

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**INVEST** Motivate me to generously invest my time, energy, money and skills in my local church.

**PURSUE** Use me today to bring Gospel Grace to those who are outside the faith but inside my reach.

**RESTORE** Give me Your compassion and courage to play my part in restoring brokenness around me.

I have joy in You and in the life You've given me.
Be glorified today...and appear soon!
Amen.

**READ** devotionally **Ephesians 1:3-14,** asking God for a new insight each day. Repetition actually weaves the passage more deeply into your memory and heart.

**REFLECT** thoughtfully on the fourth theme of "RECEIVE Gospel Grace" in the book, *Multiply*: GUARANTEE (pp. 47-51).

**RESPOND** honestly to the three questions on the next page in preparation for meeting with your Triad.

STRONGER What do you sense God has been saying to you through Ephesians 1:3-14 this week?

CLOSER How much do you struggle to believe that you belong to Jesus? What are the times that it's hardest for you to believe that? What helps bring you assurance?

FURTHER Compose a text (or short note) to someone in your life who is "outside the faith but inside your reach." How might you explain "Guarantee" to them in a way that they could experience this as good news? You don't need to send the text, but write it, as it will help you put specific words around how you would communicate it to them!

SAMPLE: Hey, John. Me again ☺. One of the big questions people ask about religion is, "How can I be sure of where I stand before God?" Well, I was reading in the Bible today how we can know, *really know,* where we are with God! I don't have to wonder! It's so freeing! I'd love to talk with you more about that sometime if you're interested. *(Write yours below.)*

# Ephesians 1:3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

# Notes

# RECEIVE
## WEEK OF REFLECTION

This week has a bit of a different feel and rhythm to it. There is no new theme and no specific passage of Scripture to read. This is intentional. The tempo of our lives is often rather quick and we tend to fill any open space with the *next* thing. While we all long for it, "margin" is not something we are very familiar with. This week is a built-in week of margin and a change of pace where you can reflect more deeply on "RECEIVING Gospel Grace." I would encourage you to continue to pray daily, review the four Scriptures and themes, reflect on where God has you with this lifelong priority by answering the questions on the opposite page, and try one of the Triad Experiences as a group. Enjoy the week!

## Triad Experiences

If we are not careful, spiritual reflection remains theoretical. We can all too easily fall into the pattern of just looking for the next "insight" that will make the Christian journey more manageable. Insights are wonderful, but I find it helpful to also *practice* what I am learning and perhaps even more helpful to share an experience within a Triad. Pick one of the three experiences below related to "RECEIVING Gospel Grace" and set up a time to do that together.

**1 –** In your Triad, give each person an opportunity to confess personal sin. Listen well to each other and proclaim 1 John 1:9 over the one confessing—*"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* (If you didn't do this in Week 2…or you could do it again!)

**2 –** Watch the movie "*Les Miserables*" together as a Triad. What difference did the grace of the priest have on Jean Valjean's life?

**3 –** As a Triad, watch the testimony of a former Muslim who came to know the grace of Jesus through a vision in a prison. Search YouTube for: *"A Muslim Man Finds Jesus While In Jail."* How does this expand your estimation of the power of Gospel Grace?

**4 –** Go to a shooting range together (use paper targets if possible). After shooting, look at your targets. The Greek word for sin means "missing the mark." Point to a bullet hole that's closest to the center and talk about an area of your life that you feel is "close to the target" on what God desires. Point to one or two that are far away and talk about the area(s) that are farthest from what God desires. Have a time of prayer together, each confessing how we "miss the mark" and then thanking God for grace that covers it all!

# Reflection Questions

INSIGHT

What was the most meaningful insight you had over these five weeks related to "RECEIVING Gospel Grace"?

BARRIERS

At some level, we all struggle to receive Gospel Grace. It doesn't matter if you are new to the Christian faith or have been a disciple of Jesus for a long time. The wrestling remains. Some common barriers people have are listed below. What is your biggest barrier with "RECEIVING Gospel Grace"? Be prepared to share with your Triad.

**Shame –** "I'm not worthy."

**Ignorance –** "My sin isn't a big deal."

**Pride –** "I need to earn this."

**Entitlement –** "After all I've done for God, He owes me."

**Other –**

ACTION

What is one action step you could take to overcome that barrier and/or make "RECEIVING Gospel Grace" a growing priority in your life? How can we (as your Triad) help you with this?

BENEFITS

What are some specific benefits that would come into your life and into the lives of those who are close to you if you took that step and continued to grow in "RECEIVING Gospel Grace"?