

THE TREE OF LIFE: A DISCIPLESHIP SURVEY

INTRODUCTION & EXPLANATION

The purpose of this survey is to help members of our parish to discover their opportunities for growth as disciples of Jesus. The illustration that we are using to explain this process is that of a tree, which needs both strong roots and good growth above the ground to be healthy and mature. In the same way, in order to grow as disciples of Jesus we need both to have a strong relationship with God and for that relationship to be expressed in active ways in our life.

The survey is divided into ten sections, five 'roots' and five 'branches'. The roots are disciplines that help us grow in our knowledge of God and our closeness to him. The branches are disciplines that express the reality of our life as a disciple of Jesus and a member of the Kingdom of God.

In each section there are several questions. These are designed to measure the depth to which you are currently practicing each discipline. Generally you will be asked to state how strongly you agree with a particular statement, but please read the response options carefully.

Please note! The purpose of this survey is not to determine whether you are a Christian, or to compare you against other members of the church. There is no such thing as a 'good' Christian or a 'bad' Christian.

Some questions are more challenging than others, and are meant to reflect the fact that we all have room to grow. This survey is hopefully a chance for you to reflect honestly on your strengths and opportunities for growth as a disciple.

Some of the questions will ask about personal areas of your life and faith. For this reason we have provided a number of methods to use to complete it (see the next question). In any case, your results will never be shared with others without your permission.

Once you have completed the survey, the most helpful next step would be to talk to your Life Group or trusted Christian friends about how to implement the results in a helpful way.

***1. Have you read and understood the explanation of the survey?**

Yes

No

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NEED MORE INFORMATION?

It is important that you understand what the survey is about before you do it, because the results are only meaningful as part of a process of discipleship that is bigger than just taking a questionnaire.

If you need to learn more before taking the survey, you can go to www.stjohnsdc.org.au/discipleship and download the Study Guide that contains a more detailed description of our discipleship process. Or please feel free to discuss it with a member of staff, or email your questions to andrew@stjohnsdc.org.au.

Feel free to come back and try the survey again when you are ready!

***1. Do you still want to complete the survey?**

Yes

No

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COMPLETING THE SURVEY

You can complete the survey and get your results in a number of ways:

- a) Online, giving your name and details. This will mean that a member of staff will be able to see and identify your results, and send you a summary of your results with recommendations.
- b) Online, anonymously. This will mean that your data will still be collected, but you will not be able to be identified. To do the survey this way is helpful, as it will help the church staff and leadership to see trends among the church as a whole. However, you will not get any results sent to you. You will also have to score the test as you go along. To score the test for yourself, use the scoring sheet available for download at stjohnsdc.org.au/discipleship.
- c) You can also do the survey entirely by pen and paper. Go to www.stjohnsdc.org.au/discipleship and download the survey and scoring sheet.

In any case, the next best step after completing the survey is to take your results to your Life Group or other Christian friends and discuss how to use them in your discipleship growth.

***1. How would you like to complete the survey?**

- Online, giving my name and details
- Online, anonymously
- Pen and paper

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PEN AND PAPER METHOD

If you would like to do the survey using pen and paper, go to www.stjohnsdc.org.au/discipleship to download and print out the survey questions and scoring sheet.

There will also be copies available on the welcome desk in the church foyer at St. John's.

All the best with your survey completion, and if you have any further questions please email andrew@stjohnsdc.org.au.

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YOUR DETAILS

This information is to help us analyse your results and give you feedback. For this reason we need it as part of the online version.

***1. What is your surname?**

***2. What is your first name?**

***3. What is your email address?**

***4. Are you currently a member of a Life Group in our parish?**

Yes

No

5. If 'Yes', who is your Life Group leader?

***6. Is this the first time you have completed this survey?**

Yes

No

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ROOTS: PRAYER

Prayer involves opening ourselves up to God and asking him into our lives, through actions such as giving thanks, praising, making requests, sharing our thoughts and feelings with God, or spending time in quiet contemplation.

***1. I have a clear understanding of what it means to 'pray'.**

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

***2. I set aside time to pray:**

Never	Occasionally	Weekly	Several times a week	Daily	More than once a day
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

***3. I experience God in a deep way through prayer.**

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

***4. Prayer is integrated into every area of my life.**

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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ROOTS: WORSHIP

Worship is an attitude and practice of giving honour to God, and celebrating his presence and actions among us. It happens in our worship services on Sundays, but is also part of everyday life for a disciple of Jesus. The area of worship in this survey includes what we sometimes call 'spirituality', which is about the various ways that we experience God.

***1. I have a clear understanding of what 'worship' of God involves.**

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

***2. I set aside time to worship God (including church services):**

Never	Occasionally	Monthly	Several times a month	Weekly	Daily or more often
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

***3. I find the spiritual experiences in my life (including times of worship) to be deeply satisfying.**

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

***4. I am constantly aware of God's presence in my life.**

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

THE TREE OF LIFE: A DISCIPLESHIP SURVEY

ROOTS: BIBLE STUDY

We study the Bible so that we are able to hear what God has to say to us, through those people whom he inspired to compose the writings that make up the Bible.

***1. I know the overall storyline of the Bible.**

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

***2. I take time to read from the Bible:**

Never	Occasionally	Weekly	Several times a week	Daily	Several times a day
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

***3. I have the necessary skills to understand what I read in the Bible.**

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

***4. I am constantly learning new things from my study of the Bible.**

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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ROOTS: UNDERSTANDING

A vibrant faith in Jesus is not just about how we feel, it also involves a growth in our understanding, because we want to know more about God and what he has done for us.

***1. I can clearly describe what 'the Gospel' is.**

Strongly Disagree Disagree Slightly Disagree Slightly Agree Agree Strongly Agree

***2. I can answer common questions about what Christians believe (eg.why did Jesus die on the Cross?).**

Strongly Disagree Disagree Slightly Disagree Slightly Agree Agree Strongly Agree

***3. I have the necessary skills to keep learning more about God and what he has done.**

Strongly Disagree Disagree Slightly Disagree Slightly Agree Agree Strongly Agree

***4. I have a deep understanding of the Christian faith in areas that are particularly important to my life.**

Strongly Disagree Disagree Slightly Disagree Slightly Agree Agree Strongly Agree

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ROOTS: SELF-AWARENESS

This discipline is about our awareness of ourselves as persons, with all the complex background of thoughts, feelings, and stories that make us the people that we are. What we hope for is a clear and alert awareness of what is going on inside us at any time so that we can bring it to God for healing and strength.

***1. I can identify the events and influences in my life that have contributed to making me who I am.**

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

***2. I am aware of my weaknesses.**

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

***3. I have developed strategies to deal with the spiritual struggles that I encounter.**

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

***4. I am able to persevere in my faith no matter what happens.**

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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BRANCHES: VOCATION

Our vocation is another word for our 'calling', which is about what we do with our lives, and the gifts and opportunities that God has given us. Christians believe that the Holy Spirit empowers disciples of Jesus to live out their vocation in the world.

***1. I know what are the gifts (i.e. talents, skills, abilities, opportunities) that God has given me in order to serve him.**

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

***2. I know what my current vocation is.**

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

***3. To the extent that I can control, what I am currently doing with my life is the same as what I believe my vocation to be.**

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

***4. I am confident that I am growing in my vocation because of the results I can see in my life and the lives of others around me.**

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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BRANCHES: ETHICS

Our ethics are how we behave according to principles that are important to us. Christian ethics involve living in a way that imitates the values and practices of Jesus. As you consider this, remember that it is not by our good works that we are saved, but by God's grace through the death and resurrection of Jesus (Ephesians 2:8-10).

***1. I know the basic standards of behaviour that are expected of all Christians.**

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

***2. People could identify me as a Christian by the way that I behave, even if they did not know what I believe.**

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

***3. I know how to behave as a Christian in my particular roles in life (ie. at home, study, work, recreation, etc.).**

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

***4. I have wisdom about how to live that other Christians would benefit from hearing.**

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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BRANCHES: ENCOURAGEMENT

Not all of us are called to be 'teachers', but all disciples of Jesus have opportunities to share with others what they have learned, and to encourage others in their faith.

***1. I know how to offer simple words of encouragement that will help other people grow in their faith.**

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

***2. I regularly offer words of encouragement to other Christians.**

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

***3. I am able to teach others what I have learned from the Bible.**

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

***4. I am able to offer appropriate encouragement to other Christians at all stages of their growth as disciples.**

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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BRANCHES: EVANGELISM

'Evangelism' is telling other people the good news about Jesus, sharing your faith by the words that you say and by the way that you live.

***1. I am able to share my 'testimony' (how I came to have faith in Jesus).**

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

***2. I know how to share my faith appropriately with the people in the different areas of my life (eg. family, friends, work, study, recreation).**

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

***3. I regularly take opportunities to share my faith with others.**

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

***4. I am confident that I am 'promoting the Gospel' in the particular ways that God has called me to.**

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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BRANCHES: FRUITFULNESS

In order to live full and productive lives as disciples of Jesus, we need to be healed in our hearts so that what comes out of us is the 'fruit of the Spirit' - expressions of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

***1. Conscious repentance from sin and asking God for forgiveness is a regular part of my life.**

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

***2. I know how to deal with the feelings, patterns of thought and behaviour that might hold me back from growing as a Christian.**

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3. The 'fruit of the Spirit' is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Which of these fruit do you believe that God is calling you to grow in this year? (You can choose more than one)

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness
- Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self-Control

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THANKS!

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. If you have given your contact details, you will be contacted by email within the week with a summary of your results and suggestions for how you might put your results into practice.

If you have any further questions about the survey, please contact Andrew Bowles - andrew@stjohnsdc.org.au.

1. Please leave any feedback or comments you have about the survey in the box below.