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# GOSPEL DISCIPLESHIP TYPE ASSESSMENT

With each of the questions below, choose the ONE answer that you think BEST answers the question FOR YOU. You will most likely agree that more than one, perhaps even all, of the options are true, but choose the one that you think is the best response in your own opinion. The only wrong choice is a choice that does not reflect what you think.

1. Which of these words best describes discipleship to you?
  - a. Empowering
  - b. Doing
  - c. Loving
  - d. Learning
  
2. Which feels most like discipleship to you?
  - a. Initiating a new ministry for Jesus that uses my specific gifts and graces
  - b. Serving those who are hungry or thirsty
  - c. Sitting with someone who is going through a hard time
  - d. Learning about the Bible from a great teacher

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3. What could best help you understand your faith and how to live it?
  - a. A spiritual gifts test and a conversation with someone who can help me discern the results
  - b. A basic inquiry class on the vows of membership at your church
  - c. A small-group discussion
  - d. Meeting with a trusted leader or pastor to talk about purpose (e.g., God's will)
  
4. What is the best witness to your personal faith?
  - a. Living an authentic, faithful life
  - b. Doing mission work so people see Jesus in my actions
  - c. Spending time paying attention to other people and loving them
  - d. Leading through Christ's example
  
5. Who would you most want to trade places with in the Bible?
  - a. One of the disciples when the Holy Spirit shows up on Pentecost (Acts 2)
  - b. The Good Samaritan who rescues the traveler assaulted on the side of the road (Luke 10)
  - c. One of the people walking on the road to Emmaus with Jesus (Luke 24)
  - d. The woman at the well who gets to talk one-on-one with Jesus (John 4)
  
6. What works best to help you grow in your faith?
  - a. Having the freedom to figure out my own path
  - b. A defined list of things to work on

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- c. Collaborating with friends on how to grow
  - d. Receiving direction from a trusted mentor
7. What is the biggest strength of your particular church?
- a. We make space for all kinds of people
  - b. We have incredible programs and outreach
  - c. We have wonderful fellowship with each other
  - d. We offer solid and useful teaching on the Bible
8. What would you like people to say about your particular church?
- a. People figure out their life's purpose here
  - b. People here are the hands and feet of Christ
  - c. We do life together well
  - d. Each person matters to us
9. What adjective best describes you?
- a. Creative
  - b. Hardworking
  - c. Caring
  - d. Knowledgeable
10. Which word best describes ideal leaders in a church?
- a. Innovators
  - b. Organizers
  - c. Companions
  - d. Mentors

11. Which phrase best describes your ideal pastor?
- a. Encourages and empowers the people
  - b. Casts a compelling vision that gets us moving
  - c. Walks alongside us through life
  - d. Excellent teacher and preacher
12. What is the best way to make a disciple?
- a. Cultivate personal gifts to live fully into the person God calls them to be
  - b. Engage in mission and worship together
  - c. Build a meaningful relationship that encourages growth through sharing faith with each other
  - d. Teach the biblical principles of discipleship (e.g., studying the parables or Sermon on the Mount)
13. What would be a significant faith crisis for you?
- a. If I felt like the Spirit had left me or my church
  - b. If I felt like my church wasn't doing anything to change lives
  - c. If my Sunday school class or small group got in a fight and dissolved
  - d. If my pastor or mentor had a significant moral failure
14. What do you think the purpose of the church is in the twenty-first century?
- a. Helping people recognize and cultivate the gifts God has given them
  - b. Making a difference in our community in the name of Jesus

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- c. Providing space for people to develop authentic, loving relationships with Christ and each other
- d. Teaching people how to live like Jesus

15. Which phrase best describes who faithful people of God are?

- a. People who know who they are and whose they are
- b. People who are transforming the world for Christ
- c. People who love God and love neighbor
- d. People who follow Jesus

16. When the church is off track . . .

- a. People quit contributing—no one wants to share their gifts with a broken community
- b. No one's life is being changed for the better
- c. People quit caring about each other
- d. The leadership tends to get in trouble

17. To grow in my own discipleship, I need . . .

- a. The chance to start a new ministry that God has laid on my heart
- b. To do something—engage in Bible study, help lead in worship, or go on a mission trip—that will move me out of my comfort zone
- c. To open my home and my heart to a new small group of people
- d. To spend some time learning from the wise people of faith in our congregation

18. The church should . . .

- a. Pay attention to how the Holy Spirit is moving in its midst
- b. Teach people how to go into the world and make a difference in people's lives
- c. Build a supportive and loving community
- d. Be an example for the rest of the world

19. The church is missing the point when . . .

- a. It isn't allowing people to use their gifts to serve God
- b. It isn't making a difference in the community
- c. It isn't getting to know its neighbors
- d. Its leadership is failing to lead

20. I have been most frustrated with church when . . .

- a. I haven't found my place there
- b. We aren't doing anything
- c. People are fighting and gossiping
- d. The pastor isn't helping me grow

21. The kind of pastor who would be best for us . . .

- a. Nurtures our gifts and empowers us to serve
- b. Is a go-getter who inspires us to work for Jesus
- c. Loves us deeply and is present in our lives
- d. Is a great teacher and preacher of the word

22. The best way to share Jesus with others is to . . .
- a. Help them understand that they are special to God and God has a purpose for their lives
  - b. Show them Jesus by talking the talk and walking the walk
  - c. Love them and help them see God in their own lives
  - d. Teach them about Jesus in a personal way

Thank you for completing the Gospel Discipleship Assessment. If you take this assessment online at [www.MinistryMatters.com/gospeldiscipleship](http://www.MinistryMatters.com/gospeldiscipleship), your score and Gospel Discipleship type can be emailed to you. If your church is taking it together, be sure to email your results to the person compiling totals for your church. For additional resources for this collection, visit [www.gospeldiscipleship.net](http://www.gospeldiscipleship.net).

To score this assessment on your own, tally up how many times you answered *a*, how many times you answered *b*, how many times you answered *c*, and how many times you answered *d*. Whichever letter you have the most answers for is your primary type. Your second highest score is your secondary type. You may have a tie as well, in which case you share characteristics of both types. The letters each correspond to the following types:

- A = Markan
- B = Matthean
- C = Lukan
- D = Johannine

## How Do You Determine Your Type?

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So to start the process of understanding how to intentionally live your discipleship, you need to take it. To do so, take the survey above or go to [ministrymatters.com/gospeldiscipleship](http://ministrymatters.com/gospeldiscipleship). Your email address is necessary so that your score can be emailed to you with your Gospel Discipleship type. While answering the survey, it is likely you will desire to choose more than one option on the questions. Each of the alternatives suggest good practices of discipleship! And naturally as learners, we were encouraged by a previous teacher to adopt a particular approach to discipleship. We essentially took the road that was right before us. Nevertheless, please pick the one answer that resonates *most* with *you!* It is important that you live fully into the kind of discipleship God desires, so that you can serve in the ways God needs you. Trying to fit a square peg into a round hole is probably not furthering for the reign of God.

Once you have your results from the survey, return to this book. You are encouraged to read the whole book, but you will probably skim quickly to the descriptions that apply to you. Most people have a primary and a secondary discipleship type. Lean heavily into your primary type, but read up on your secondary type because that will sometimes influence how your primary type plays out. For instance, one of my good friends is Markan (actually, he has no secondary type), and I am Markan Johannine. We were talking one night about whether we like teaching with short notice. Markans, who are driven by the Holy Spirit, tend to move quickly and at the urging of the Spirit. However, the Super Markan (as I call him) said no way would he like to teach with little notice, especially if he did not feel the urging of the Spirit

to do it. I, on the other hand, said I only need about five minutes to pull an outline together (assuming it is a topic I have some expertise on, which presumably would be the case if people are asking me to teach) and I am good to go. But my secondary type is Johannine, people who love learning and teaching. So my secondary type has some impact on how my primary type plays out.

You will discover that Markan types are discussed prior to Mattheans, which is not the order those books are found in the Bible. Scholars have developed strong evidence that Mark was written before Matthew, which affects some of the discussion about how Mark's Gospel resonates with Markans.

After you get results from the survey, if they raise some concerns for you, see the last section of the book, which addresses common questions people had through the pilot process.

## But the Point Is . . .

Most people find that it is fun to learn their discipleship type. When they take the assessment with friends or family, they start to understand more about how they interact and learn from each other. The tool offers useful glimpses into self-awareness as well as an outward orientation toward others who seek to follow Jesus. The primary purpose of this exercise is to help you grow in your discipleship. Such growth happens intentionally. So each chapter on a particular Gospel type provides a reflection on the way discipleship plays out for a Markan, Matthean, Lukan, and Johannine. It closes with an outline of a plan for your discipleship that you can customize. You can also find worksheets at [www.gospeldiscipleship.net](http://www.gospeldiscipleship.net). We never retire from being disciples of Jesus. To progress in your growth plan, you will return to it

again and again. First, return to check in to make sure you are actually progressing, and if not, what adjustments need to be made. Then, return to it so you can refresh it to avoid getting stuck in a rut. You may want to set a reminder in your calendar to return every six months.

You are encouraged periodically to retake the assessment. This applies if you experience a significant spiritual encounter that may alter your discipleship type. Other significant changes in your life can also affect your discipleship. Don't worry if you change: this is the purpose of intentional faith development. Perhaps the Spirit is calling you to a new role in your life. Yet don't worry if you remain the same for a long season. Continue in your steadfast path of discipleship grounded as the person that you are.

By going through this process in community, you can stay accountable to your growth. Therefore, you may want to do this process together as a small group or as an entire church. A *Gospel Discipleship Congregation Guide* is available for group or church-wide use. It goes into more depth about how a particular group or an entire church can live into their dominant discipleship type. It also explores the roles people in nondominant discipleship types contribute in a church that focuses on one thing particularly well.

We all need to stay focused on loving and living for Jesus. In this busy world, it is easy to get distracted from our purpose and our strengths. If this process helps you live more fully into a relationship with Christ, please tell others about it. A website is available with regular blog posts about joys, concerns, and questions that recur on the discipleship pathways: [www.gospeldiscipleship.net](http://www.gospeldiscipleship.net). Please come visit! You will find ways to share your own story there. Whatever path you choose, may you find yourself closer to Christ and closer to living as the disciple he calls you to be.



# WHAT'S YOUR DISCIPLESHIP TYPE?

Through *Gospel Discipleship*, you—and potentially your whole church—will learn whether you practice faith like a Markan (Holy Spirit-centered), Matthean (action-driven), Lukan (relationship-focused), or Johannine (apprentice-nurtured) disciple. Once you understand your discipleship type, you can map a path to grow intentionally in your life with Jesus. You will also work better alongside other Christians as you discover why and how they practice a shared Christian life together.

*“Gospel Discipleship exceeded my expectations. It helped me make sense of past spiritual experiences when I got disillusioned with the church and left for a time. This process reminded me of who I was and who I am as a disciple.”*

—**Vicki Tanner**, layperson, Winfield United Methodist Church,  
Little Rock, AR

*“Gospel Discipleship is the scripture-based system I’ve been looking for since I began my ministry. By showing that each of the four writers of the Gospels presents different but clear ways to grow in faith, Michelle Morris provides an outstanding resource for individuals and for church leaders.”*

—**Todd-Paul R. Taulbee**, pastor, First United Methodist Church  
of Sheridan, Sheridan, AR

Visit [www.ministrymatters.com/gospeldiscipleship](http://www.ministrymatters.com/gospeldiscipleship) to take the Gospel Discipleship Assessment. In addition to this *Gospel Discipleship Participant Guide*, other resources include the *Gospel Discipleship Congregation Guide* and *Gospel Discipleship* streaming videos (available only at [Cokesbury.com](http://Cokesbury.com)).

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