



Spiritual Growth Interview

Introduction

The following questions were developed around our New Hope Identity and Practices as well as journey theology. For obvious reasons, they are not specific to the Disciple. But if you have been meeting with a Disciple for a while, you should be able to tailor the questions to fit their unique journey. If you have just begun meeting, simply be as alert as possible to the Holy Spirit's leading. In either case, you will need to prepare for this assessment before meeting with the Disciple.

These questions are meant to provide a foundation from which you can build an interview for assessing the Disciple's current growth. You should *not* simply go down the list, asking one question after the other. Be discerning in which questions you ask. Reword them as appropriate. Perhaps create some of your own. Which questions will provide the best insight into where the Disciple is at in their journey? Which questions might help both you and the Disciple learn more about what God is doing in their life?

Once you've begun the interview, remain attentive to the Holy Spirit. Be flexible. You may be prompted to change which questions you ask or how you ask them. You may be prompted to ask follow-up questions of your own as you listen to the Disciple share. Where is the Holy Spirit leading the discussion? What are you noticing about the Disciple's replies? Be attentive not only to what the Disciple says in response to each question but also to the attitude with which they respond.

However the Holy Spirit directs your conversation, you should be looking for insight into the Disciple's growth along their spiritual journey, including areas in which they might be stuck. Keep in mind that the interview is not necessarily the time to "work on" these areas. You do *not* need to provide answers right now for questions or struggles the Disciple has. Simply listen. Take note of challenging areas, and perhaps you may return to these areas in future meetings together. As you listen, be attentive to the Disciple's relationships with others, their engagement in discipleship, their practice of spiritual disciplines, and their witness in the world. (To assist with this, the questions below are organized into categories as much as possible.) Remember: the *speed* of our growth is not significant; what is most important is that we *are* growing.

Questions: General Christian Living

Tell me about the beginning of your relationship with Jesus.

What have been some of the significant moments along your spiritual journey?

When/how have you experienced God in your life?

How do you experience the Holy Spirit's activity in your life?

Describe the season of spiritual life that you feel you are in. If you were to liken your current spiritual season to a season of the year (winter, spring, summer, fall), which one would it be? Why?

When did you feel closest to God during the past week (or month, year)? When did you feel furthest?

Describe an aspect of spiritual life that brings you joy and/or excitement.

Describe an aspect of spiritual life that brings you frustration and/or discouragement.

What makes/has made you feel angry with God? (If past:) How did you resolve your anger? (If present:) What do you do when you feel this way?

What do you do when you have questions about God? About the Bible? About living your faith?

Describe something that irritates you. What do you do when you encounter that thing/situation?

How do you practice good stewardship?

Questions: Relationships

Tell me about one or two people who made a significant contribution to your journey toward Christ.

Tell me about one or two people who currently make a significant contribution to your spiritual journey.

How does our church community contribute to your spiritual journey?

How does your relationship with Jesus affect the way that you think about other people? The way that you treat other people?

Describe a person or group of people who are very different from you. What is your reaction when you encounter this person/group of people?

Name a subject (not necessarily a spiritual subject) that you are very passionate about. How do you respond when someone disagrees with your view on this subject?

Tell me about your relational calling. Do you know whether you are called to marriage, to permanent singleness, or to temporary singleness? How are you responding to this calling?

Questions: Discipleship

Describe something that you have learned about God in the last year.

Describe something that you have learned about yourself in the last year.

Describe an area where you have received/are receiving healing from God. (Alternately: Describe an area where you would like to receive healing from God.)

Describe an area in which you have changed because of your relationship with Jesus. Be as specific as possible.

(If they are a Disciple-Maker:) Tell me about something you have learned through the process of discipling someone else. What has been the most challenging part of discipling someone? The most rewarding?

(If they should be or may soon become a Disciple-Maker:) In what ways do you feel equipped to disciple others? In what ways would you like to become better equipped to disciple others? Who in your life might God be positioning you to disciple?

Questions: Spiritual Disciplines

Describe the spiritual disciplines that you regularly practice. How do these disciplines nurture your relationship with God?

Describe your prayer life. What do you talk to God about? When do you talk to him?

How do you listen to God?

Describe how you encounter scripture. How does God's Word play a role in your spiritual life?

Share about something you read recently in the Bible. How did God speak to you through his Word?

Have you tried any spiritual disciplines that were new to you? Which one(s)? What did you learn from the experience?

Questions: Witness

What are your spiritual gifts? How are you using them?

How are you serving in ministry (inside or outside the church)?

Describe a time when God invited you step outside your comfort zone to serve him. How did you respond?

How do you serve God through your job?

Who in your life does not know Jesus yet? How are you participating in their journey toward Jesus?

How is God calling you to participate in his work in the world?