

# Take the TDA

You will be asked to respond to a series of questions. Each question contains a group of choices; select the one that best describes you. While responding, keep your focus on your current attitudes and behavior.

Be honest with yourself! The goal isn't a perfect score. No one sees your results except you. Beginning with an accurate benchmark of your current spiritual formation will help you see not only areas of potential growth but also areas of strength.

If time permits, complete the TDA in one uninterrupted setting. This should take approximately 15 minutes. If you do have to stop, don't worry--your answers are saved after you complete each page.

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**Survey results are available as soon as you complete the final page of questions. Your report and results will be available under "Completed Surveys" or you can always click on the ["My Results"](#) link.**

**1.** During difficult circumstances, I sometimes doubt that God loves me and will provide for my life.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**2.**

I feel comfortable that I can share my belief in Christ to someone else effectively.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**3.**

A Christian should consider himself/herself accountable to other Christians.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**4.**

A Christian must learn to deny himself/ herself in order to serve Christ.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**5.**

I know what spiritual gift(s) the Holy Spirit has given me.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**6.** I expect my Christian friends to challenge me if I make unwise choices.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**7.** I believe everything I have belongs to God.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**8.** I am hesitant to let others know that I am a Christian.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**9.** I desire to please and honor Jesus in all that I do.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**10.** I believe that God has a purpose for all events in my life, regardless of whether I perceive each event as being good or bad.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**11.** I have developed significant relationships with people at my church.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**12.** Often during the worship part of the church service (singing or prayer), I find myself just "going through the motions."

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**13.** When I sing at church, my thoughts are usually focused right on God.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**14.** If I go several days without reading the Bible I find myself unfulfilled.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**15.** It is important for churches to serve the poor and the hurting.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree



**16.** I feel overwhelmed by the need to share my personal experience with Jesus Christ with non-Christians.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**17.** I am open to working in any job God wants me to have.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**18.** I feel sorrow and regret when I realize I have sinned.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**19.** I sometimes doubt that God can change the lives of non-Christians I know.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**20.** I believe one of the best ways to get to know others in the church is to serve with them.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**21.** I try to avoid situations in which I might be tempted to think or do immoral things.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**22.** I am open to helping anyone God wants me to help.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**23.** When things happen that I can't explain, I typically doubt that God was involved.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**24.** I regularly use my gifts and talents to serve / help people in need who are not part of my church.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**25.** While interacting with others on a normal, daily basis, I seek opportunities to speak out about Jesus Christ.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**26.** Reading and studying the Bible has not made significant changes in the way that I live my life.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**27.** I am intentionally putting my spiritual gift(s) to use serving God and others.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**28.** Throughout the day I find myself thinking about biblical truths.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**29.** When convinced of sin in my life, I readily confess it to God as sin.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**30.** I intentionally spend time building friendships with non-Christians for the purpose of sharing Christ with them.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**31.** I often express praise and thanksgiving to God for who He is and for what He has done.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree



**32.** I intentionally make time in my schedule to fellowship and interact with other believers.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**33.** Spiritual matters do not tend to come up as a normal part of my daily conversations with other Christians.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**34.** I intentionally give up certain purchases so I can use that money for others.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**35.** I find myself praying at the spur-of-the-moment throughout the day.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**36.** I intentionally spend time with other believers in order to help them grow in their faith.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**37.** I regularly find myself meeting a need without being asked.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**38.** I have made a serious attempt to discover God's will for my life.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**39.** I have a personal responsibility to contribute financially to efforts and ministries that share Jesus Christ with non-Christians.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**40.** I am open and responsive to those in my church who teach the Bible.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**51.** I tend to dwell on the same types of sinful thoughts over and over.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**52.** I openly share about difficulties I am experiencing when I talk with Christian friends.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**53.** I hesitate to share with Christian friends about my own doubts and spiritual struggles.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**54.** I consistently contribute financially to my local church each month.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**55.** God is just and sin has to be punished.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**56.** If a person is sincerely seeking God, he / she can obtain eternal life through religions other than Christianity.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**57.** The Holy Spirit is at work in every believer teaching, convicting of sin, and guiding.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree



**58.** Participation in a local church is a necessity (not optional) for any believer who desires to be truly obedient to God.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**59.** Jesus was a sinner just like us.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**60.** Jesus died on the cross and was physically resurrected from the dead.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**61.** The fruit of the Spirit (love, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, etc.) is evidence of a genuine relationship with God.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**62.** I have a personal responsibility to share my religious beliefs about Jesus Christ with non-Christians.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**63.** The Bible is the written Word of God and is totally accurate in all that it teaches.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**64.** Satan is a real being, not just a symbol of evil.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**65.** The God of the Bible is no different from the gods or spiritual beings depicted by world religions such as Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, etc.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**66.** My Christian faith is very important in my life today.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**67.** Eternal salvation is possible through God's grace alone; nothing we do can earn salvation.

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

**68.** Have you been baptized?

- Yes
- No

**69.** About how often, if at all, do you personally read the Bible? Do not include any times that are part of a church worship service.

- Every day
- A few times a week
- Once a week
- A few times a month
- Once a month
- Rarely/Never

**70.** About how often, if at all, do you personally study the Bible (more in-depth than just reading it)? Do not include any times that are part of a church worship service.

- Every day
- A few times a week
- Once a week
- A few times a month
- Once a month
- Rarely/Never

**71.** About how often, if at all, do you personally set aside time for prayer of any kind? Do not include any times that are part of a church worship service.

- Every day
- A few times a week
- Once a week
- A few times a month
- Once a month
- Rarely/Never

**72.** About how often, if at all, do you personally set aside time for private worship, praise, or thanksgiving to God? Do not include any times that are part of a church worship service.

- Every day
- A few times a week
- Once a week
- A few times a month
- Once a month
- Rarely/Never

**73.** About how often, if at all, do you personally pray in a group with other Christians? Do not include any times that are part of a church worship service.

- Every day
- A few times a week



- Once a week
- A few times a month
- Once a month
- Rarely/Never

**74.** About how often, if at all, do you personally confess your sins and wrongdoings to God and ask for forgiveness? Do not include any times that are part of a church worship service.

- Every day
- A few times a week
- Once a week
- A few times a month
- Once a month
- Rarely/Never

**75.** About how often, if at all, do you personally pray for the spiritual status of people you know who are not professing Christians? Do not include any times that are part of a church worship service.

- Every day
- A few times a week
- Once a week
- A few times a month
- Once a month
- Rarely/Never

**76.** In a typical month, about how many times (if any) do you attend a worship service at your church?

- 4 or more
- 3
- 2
- 1
- Zero

**77.** In a typical month, about how many times (if any) do you attend small classes or groups for adults at church such as Sunday school, Bible study, small groups, Adult Bible Fellowships, etc?

- 4 or more
- 3
- 2
- 1
- Zero

**78.** In the past six months, about how many times have you, personally, shared with someone how to become a Christian?

- 10 or more times
- 6-9 times
- 3-5 times
- 1-2 times

Zero

**79.** In the past six months, about how many times have you, personally, made a decision to obey or follow God with an awareness that choosing His way might be costly to you in some way?

- 10 or more times
- 6-9 times
- 3-5 times
- 1-2 times
- Zero

**80.** In the past six months, about how many times have you, personally, invited an unchurched person to attend a church service or some other program at your church?

10 or more times

- 6-9 times
- 3-5 times
- 1-2 times
- Zero

**81.** Are you currently involved in ministries or projects that serve people in the community not affiliated with your church?

- Yes
- No

**82.** Do you currently have regular responsibilities at your church (for example: greeter, teacher, musician, etc.)?

- Yes
- No

# Summary Report

Thank you for completing the Transformational Discipleship Assessment. Nothing is more important than seeking, knowing, and following God. This report will help you assess your spiritual development from the perspective of eight attributes of biblical maturity. The eight attributes are built upon the foundation of your personal belief system, which is also evaluated in this report.

For each of the eight attributes of discipleship, two sets of results will be shown. The first of these is an **Average Score**.

- All scores are based on a five-point scale. Attributes are colored using the following system.

#### **Average Score**

- 4.0 to 5.0 (GREEN) – Consistent in Spiritual Development
- 2.0 to 3.9 (YELLOW) – Moderate in Spiritual Development
- 0.0 to 1.9 (RED) – Limited Evidence of Spiritual Development

Secondly, each attribute will also show a percentage of ideal and positive scores, with the ideal being the highest possible score for any question.”

Of course, no one is "finished" growing as a disciple. When an individual or group has 90% of responses within an attribute falling in the "ideal" or "positive" range, that is a sign that their answers indicate spiritual health and steady growth.

No one should be alarmed if they don't hit the 90% mark on one or more attributes. That is what the TDA is for--to help each of us identify where we can seek to grow, learn, obey, and mature on our journey as disciples.

This page is designed to provide you with a visual summary of your discipleship profile from the perspective of eight biblical attributes of maturity and your personal belief system.

## **Conclusion**

While you are reviewing the current state of your spiritual formation, regardless of your current scores, the goal is to move forward. Use the next steps links listed below to find plans for how to grow in each attribute of discipleship.

## Bible Engagement

[more](#)

SCORE: 4.70

[Next Steps](#)

## Obeying God and Denying Self

[more](#)

SCORE: 4.25

[Next Steps](#)

## Serving God and Others

[more](#)

SCORE: 2.85

[Next Steps](#)

## Sharing Christ

[more](#)

SCORE: 2.0

[Next Steps](#)

## Exercising Faith

[more](#)

SCORE: 4.85

[Next Steps](#)

## Seeking God

[more](#)

SCORE: 3.30

[Next Steps](#)

Building

Unashamed

Doctrinal

## Relationships

[more](#)

SCORE: 3.30

[Next Steps](#)

[more](#)

SCORE: 3.90

[Next Steps](#)

## Positions

[more](#)

SCORE: 5

[Next Steps](#)

# Bible Engagement

YOUR SCORE: 4.70

[back to score](#)

The Bible describes believers in Christ, those who follow Him, as learners. The Bible contains many commands like "pursue truth," "seek wisdom," "renew the mind," "learn from one another," and "examine the Scriptures."

It is impossible to fulfill God's summons to follow Him and serve Him without committing to a lifestyle of learning. This wonderful journey goes way beyond merely learning facts. Learning is both an attitude and a wide range of behavior and habits that lead to gaining knowledge, wisdom and ultimately



significant life change.

While the majority of churchgoers desire to honor Christ with their lives and even profess to think on biblical truths, [our recent study](#) found few actually engage in personal reading and study of the Scriptures.

When asked how often they personally (not as part of a church worship service) read the Bible...

- a similar number respond "Every Day" (19 percent) as respond "Rarely/Never" (18 percent).
- A quarter indicate they read the Bible a few times a week.
- Fourteen percent say they read the Bible "Once a Week" and
- another 22 percent say "Once a Month" or "A Few Times a Month."

"God's Word is truth, so it should come as no surprise that reading and studying the Bible are still the activities that have the most impact on growth in this attribute of spiritual maturity," Stetzer said. "As basic as that is, there are still numerous churchgoers who are not reading the Bible regularly. You simply won't grow if you don't know God and spend time in God's Word."

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#### Lowest Scores:

- About how often, if at all, do you personally read the Bible? Do not include any times that are part of a church worship service. Score : 4
- About how often, if at all, do you personally study the Bible (more in-depth than just reading it)? Do not include any times that are part of a church worship service. Score : 4

---

#### Percent Responses:

29%71%

28.57 % positive response.

71.43 % ideal response.

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# Obeying God and Denying Self

YOUR SCORE: 4.25

[back to score](#)

The Bible is filled with examples of and admonitions related to obedience and self-denial. To be a disciple is synonymous with following Jesus, and following Jesus is synonymous with self-denial in favor of obedience to God.

The questions included in the Obeying God and Denying Self Attribute will help you determine the degree to which you possess a "God-focus" versus a "self-focus."

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## Lowest Scores:

- About how often, if at all, do you personally confess your sins and wrongdoings to God and ask for forgiveness? Do not include any times that are part of a church worship service. Score : 2
  - When I realize that I have a choice between "my way" and "God's way," I usually choose my way. Score : 3
  - When I realize my attitude does not please God, I take steps to try and fix it. Score : 4
-

## Percent Responses:

12%62%

12.50 % positive response.

62.50 % ideal response.

# Serving God and Others

YOUR SCORE: 2.85

[back to score](#)

It is important to know how engaged you are in service to God and others. This attribute will help bring some objectivity to this assessment.

The concept of service is vividly portrayed throughout the Bible. Jesus provided a great example for all Christians both through his spoken words and deeds. The Apostle Paul states, "And our people must also learn to devote themselves to good works for cases of urgent need, so that they will not be unfruitful." Titus 3:14 (HCSB)

It is the responsibility of leaders to teach and it is the responsibility of every Christian to learn.

#### Lowest Scores:

- I regularly use my gifts and talents to serve / help people in need who are not part of my church. Score : 1
- I intentionally try to serve people outside my church who have tangible needs. Score : 1
- I intentionally give up certain purchases so I can use that money for others. Score : 2

#### Percent Responses:

33%

0% positive response.

33.33 % ideal response.

## Sharing Christ

YOUR SCORE: 2.0

[back to score](#)

“The Attribute of "Sharing Christ," focuses on an individual's growth and maturity in praying for the lost and practice of telling others about Jesus.

"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."- Matthew 28:19

As established in chapter nine of *Transformational Discipleship*, a key mark of a growing disciple is an outward focus.

If you feel like sharing your faith is important, but you rarely do so--[you aren't alone](#). Our research found that three-quarters of churchgoers say they feel comfortable in their ability to effectively communicate the gospel, while 12 percent say they don't feel comfortable telling others about their faith.

Despite a vast majority believing it's their duty to share their faith and having the confidence to do so, 25 percent say they have shared their faith once or twice, and 14 percent have shared three or more times over the last six months.

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#### Lowest Scores:

- About how often, if at all, do you personally pray for the spiritual status of people you know who are not professing Christians? Do not include any times that are part of a church worship service. Score : 0
- I intentionally spend time building friendships with non-Christians for the purpose of sharing Christ with them. Score : 1
- While interacting with others on a normal, daily basis, I seek opportunities to speak out about Jesus Christ. Score : 1

---

#### Percent Responses:

14%14%

14.29 % positive response.

14.29 % ideal response.

---

# Exercising Faith

YOUR SCORE: 4.85

[back to score](#)

As established in chapter seven of *Transformational Discipleship*, a disciple is marked by a posture of weakness. Such weakness creates a great opportunity to exercise faith in a strong God. From Genesis to Revelation the Christian experience is described using words like believe, trust, rely upon, and act upon. It's clear that above all, God desires active faith in His people, for without faith it is impossible to please God.

The Exercising Faith Attribute will assist you as you seek to benchmark your faith.

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## Lowest Scores:

- I express praise and gratitude to God even in difficult circumstances. Score : 4

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## Percent Responses:

14%86%

14.29 % positive response.

85.71 % ideal response.

# Seeking God

YOUR SCORE: 3.30

[back to score](#)

A disciple is one who seeks after and worships God. Jesus stated, "Yes, the Father wants such people to worship Him. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:23-24) A true disciple, a follower of Christ, is to engage in a lifestyle of worship, both privately and corporately.

## Lowest Scores:

- About how often, if at all, do you personally set aside time for private worship, praise, or thanksgiving to God? Do not include any times that are part of a church worship service. Score : 0
- About how often, if at all, do you personally set aside time for prayer of any kind? Do not include any times that are part of a church worship service. Score : 0
- When I sing at church, my thoughts are usually focused right on God. Score : 4

---

### Percent Responses:

29%43%

28.57 % positive response.

42.86 % ideal response.

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# Building Relationships

YOUR SCORE: 3.30

[back to score](#)

As established in chapter eight of *Transformational Discipleship*, a disciple is one who is properly related to others, especially the community of faith. The Christian faith is neither a spectator sport (where self-professed Christians sit back and watch the local church in action), nor is it a solo sport (living in isolation from the Body of Christ).

The Bible frequently ties genuine spirituality to loving and caring for one another. This attribute will assist you in developing meaningful, God honoring relationships.



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Lowest Scores:

- I have developed significant relationships with people at my church. Score : 1
  - About how often, if at all, do you personally pray in a group with other Christians? Do not include any times that are part of a church worship service. Score : 2
  - I believe one of the best ways to get to know others in the church is to serve with them. Score : 3
- 

Percent Responses:

14%29%

14.29 % positive response.

28.57 % ideal response.

---

# Unashamed

YOUR SCORE: 3.90

[back to score](#)

A disciple is not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ. This quality is exhibited in the willingness to talk openly in church and community environments about his or her walk with God.

We naturally praise and talk about that which we love. Those unashamed of the work and presence of God don't wait for a predefined environment to talk about their beliefs in Jesus; rather, they embody the attitude of Peter and John who stated that they couldn't help talking about the ongoing work of God in their lives and world.

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#### Lowest Scores:

- Often during the worship part of the church service (singing or prayer), I find myself just "going through the motions." Score : 2
- I hesitate to share with Christian friends about my own doubts and spiritual struggles. Score : 2
- I openly share about difficulties I am experiencing when I talk with Christian friends. Score : 2

---

#### Percent Responses:

62%

0% positive response.

62.50 % ideal response.

---

## Doctrinal Positions

YOUR SCORE: 5

[back to score](#)

The Bible knows nothing of "spirituality" without sound beliefs about God and all related doctrinal truths. What you believe about God, the Bible, and many other issues, radically impacts your behavior and the motivation for your behavior. Simply put, ideas matter. Doctrine matters.

## Next Steps: Bible Engagement

- **Brand New to Reading the Bible?**  
Consider spending some time with the [Jesus Story Book](#)



## Transformational Discipleship

# BIBLE ENGAGEMENT

Survey of 2,930 USA Protestant churchgoers

**READ  
THE BIBLE**



How often I read the Bible

19%

Every  
Day

26%

A few  
times  
a week

14%

Once  
a week

22%

At least  
once a  
month

18%

Rarely or  
Never

**HONORING**



90%

I desire to please  
and honor Jesus  
in all that I do

**THINKING**



59%

Throughout the  
day I find myself  
thinking about  
biblical truths

ages four and up, The Jesus Storybook Bible tells the one story underneath all the stories of the Bible and points to the birth of a child, the Rescuer, Jesus." [From their website:](#)

[The Beginning: A Perfect Home \(pdf\)](#)

[Audio Excerpts \(MP3\)](#)

- **Need a reading plan or regular reminders?**

Prompt yourself to read the Bible daily with a reminder on your phone's calendar or download a Bible reading App such as [YouVersion](#).

- **Sometimes confused or frustrated when reading?**

Use an online Bible study tool such as [MyStudyBible.com](#) to read, highlight and add your own notes, look up words, and read commentary about each passage you study.

- Challenge yourself to read the whole Bible. Use a free [Bible reading plan](#) or get a copy that is already formatted such as [Reading God's Story: A Chronological Daily Bible](#).

- **Ready to learn more about how to study the bible?**

Build your understanding of the Bible and your ability to live the Word by reading [Read the Bible for Life](#) by George H. Guthrie or [The Drama of Scripture](#) by Goheen and Bartholomew.

- Suggest for your small group the study [Growing Disciples: Live in the Word](#) by Philip Nation.

# Next Steps: Obeying God and Denying Self

## First steps:

- Take time each day this week to pray and ask God to reveal to you areas in your life that you may be holding back your obedience.  
Ask...  
Where am I obedient?  
Where am I being stubborn?  
Where am I confused?

How do I need to grow?

- Think of a time when obeying God seemed "too difficult"--how did you decide to obey (or not to obey)?
- What is God showing you? What is one thing you can do this week to be more obedient?
- Who is someone that you know well whom you see as regularly obedient to God? Step out and give them a call to see if you could meet for coffee and talk about how they have matured to that place.
- **Does "obedience" sound more like a chore than a blessing to you?**  
Watch this 5-minute video on the blessing of [Obedience](#) as Gene Getz teaches from Luke 11:27-28.
- **What does obedience look like in the Bible?**  
You can watch this "[Amazing Stories](#)" series from North Point
  - 1) **Noah**: From Board to Boat (Brent Shoemaker)
  - 2) **Fighting Fear** (Gavin Adams)
  - 3) **Moving Past the Past** (Joel Thomas)
  - 4) **No Explanations Required** (Andy Stanley)
- Turn from a stubborn sin in your life by turning to the only one who can truly help you change: God. Read [I Really Want to Change...So, Help Me God](#) by James MacDonald for a practical guide on how to do it.
- Suggest that your small group study [Follow Me: Learning About Faith, Obedience, and Being Made Holy](#) by Jason Hayes to learn from 6 life-altering encounters the disciples had with Jesus.
- Encounter what Jesus actually said about being His disciple and obeying Him by reading David Platt's book [Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream](#) or [Gospel: Recovering the Power that Made Christianity Revolutionary](#) by J.D. Greear.
- Find a mentor who is willing to lead you through [The Call to Follow Christ: 6 Disciplines for New and Growing Believers](#) or use it as a small group study.
- Work systematically through the four [MasterLife](#) studies to gain victory over areas of weakness, master living in the Word, prayer, personal purity, witnessing, and other key disciplines of faith.
- Engage the power and companionship available through the Holy Spirit through the group study [Life in the Spirit](#) by Robertson McQuilkin.
- Address specific attitude changes by reading [Lord, Change My Attitude](#) by James MacDonald or suggest this [video study](#) for your small group.

Subscribe to the Obeying God and Denying Self Next Steps newsletter.

# Next Steps: Serving God and Others

- Discover your spiritual gift(s) with this [article](#) and free download. Share with your pastor one of your spiritual gifts that you would like to use to serve your church.
- Read [Conspiracy of Kindness by Steve Sjogren](#) and discuss with other believers how you could serve the community.
- Ask some local government leaders, school principals, and business leaders what some of the greatest needs are in your community. Then pray and discuss with other believers what you can do to meet these needs.
- Explore the serious and complex problems of poverty, addiction, and homelessness with your small group in these six Bible studies from The Heritage Foundation [Social Justice: Transforming Lives in Need](#).
- View an example of believers coming together to serve others in [San Francisco](#).
- Get motivated to serve by understanding the why of ministry. Suggest that your small group study [Compelled by Love: A Journey to Missional Living](#) by Ed Stetzer and Philip Nation.
- Learn the practical expression of ministry-based evangelism through serving others with the group study [Growing Disciples: Minister to Others](#).
- Read Max Lucado's book [Outlive Your Life](#) as he asks the question, what if we rocked the world with hope? Or suggest the [group study](#) that includes video teaching segments for your small group.

Subscribe to the Serving God and Others Next Steps newsletter.

# **Next Steps: Sharing Christ**



- Write out your story of turning to follow Jesus Christ. Be sure to include a short description of your life without Christ, how and why



## Transformational Discipleship

# SHARING CHRIST

Survey of 2,930 USA Protestant church goers

**61%** have not shared how to become a Christian with anyone in the past 6 months

**48%** have not invited anyone to church in the past 6 months

**20%** rarely/never pray for people who are not professing Christians

**80%** agree:  
"I have a personal responsibility to share my religious beliefs about Jesus Christ with non-Christians."

**75%** feel comfortable sharing their belief in Christ with someone else

**8%** are hesitant to let others know they are Christian

PRAYER



How often I pray for the spiritual status of people

SHARE



In the past six months, about how many times

INVITE



In the past six months, about how many times

- Christ, and the benefits of walking with Him. Show it to a leader at church for input. Practice sharing your story with friends.
- Review a simple presentation of the gospel on your way to work or class several times each week to be prepared if the opportunity to share presents itself. Review the “[How to Know God Personally](#)” outline. (To carry an outline with you, get a pack of [FAITH evangelism cards](#) or download the [Steps2Peace iPhone App](#).)
  - Suggest that your small group study [Sent: Living the Missional Nature of the Church](#) by Ed Stetzer.
  - Pray for those you know who are not followers of Jesus Christ. Need some biblical guidance on how to pray for those without Christ? Read this sermon on the [Spiritual Discipline of Prayer](#).
  - Suggest your small group study [More to Life](#). This approach provides evangelistic training based on a simple four-story approach that enables believers to more easily share their faith and an understanding of the gospel.
  - Identify people in your life who need Christ. Take steps to share the Gospel with them. If you need help proactively taking these steps, engage with the small group Bible study [Growing Disciples: Witness to the World](#).
  - Stop tripping over “what if...” scenarios of how someone might respond if you share the Good News of Jesus Christ with them. Read [Share Jesus Without Fear](#) or suggest this [video study](#) for your small group.
  - Study to understand, defend, and proclaim your beliefs in a culture of confusing views of truth as you read the Bible by using [The Apologetics Study Bible](#).

Subscribe to the Sharing Christ Next Steps newsletter.

# Next Steps: Exercising Faith

## Getting Real

Think of your friends and family members...among them, who do you trust the most? Who can you count on no matter what? Think of 2 or 3 people. Now that you have them in mind, list off the reasons why you have come to trust and count on them:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Think of a time when you felt you should have had more faith but didn't feel like you had any. What happened that challenged your faith? Where did you find encouragement? Has this or another experience caused your faith to shrink a little...or a lot?

Trusting God is similar in many ways with learning to trust others. It is built on experience...realizing someone says what they mean and

does what they say they will do. Even if you have been disappointed or struggled in your faith in the past, are you willing to learn to trust God is Who He says He is...God does what He says He will do?

### **Thankfulness**

Challenge yourself to list a dozen things you are thankful for each day this week. Trusting God is closely related to acknowledging and welcoming his activity in your life.

Select [Hudson Taylor's Spiritual Secret](#) by Dr. and Mrs. Howard Taylor for the next biography you read.

Suggest that your small group study on of these Bible studies on faith:

- [Interrupted: An Adventure in Relearning the Essentials of Faith](#) by Jen Hatmaker Discover God is interrupting the lives of Christ-followers and reminding them that He cares deeply about issues of justice and mercy.
- [James: Faith at Work](#) A working faith is more than knowing what to do. A working faith is doing what you know to do with a sincere heart.
- [Stand Against the Wind](#), a video study by Erwin McManus Character transformation comes, not from facts and proposition, but from standing against the wind to become all God designed you to be.
- [Ignite: Refining and Purifying Your Faith](#), a video study by Ed Young Jr. that explores the trials from great stories in Scripture to help fan the flames of our own faith today.
- [Fresh: Reviving Stale Faith](#), a DVD led experience by Kerry Shook Explore ancient disciplines and you will see the irony of how patterns of the past are really practices that promise to revive faith.
- [Barbarian: A Call into Uncharted Faith](#), a part of the Small Group Life series. To belong to God is, in fact, to belong to his heart. To belong to the original tribe meant total self-abandonment and would seem barbaric by the standards most believers are measured by today.
- Discover that a fulfilling life God wants for you may exist behind a present problem, a past failure, or a lifelong fear. Study [Chase the Lion: Stepping Confidently into the Unknown](#) by Mark Batterson with your small group.

Read [The Christian Atheist: Believing in God but Living as If He Doesn't Exist](#) Craig Groeschel's own journey will immerse you and challenge you into a deeper, Christ-filled life.

Read [Crazy Love: Overwhelmed by a Relentless God](#) by Francis Chan or listen to the [audio book](#). God is calling you to a passionate love relationship with Himself. Because the answer to religious complacency isn't working at a list of do's and don'ts - it's falling in love with God.

Subscribe to the Exercising Faith Next Steps newsletter.

# Next Steps: Seeking God

## **God is present:**

Do you ever feel that God is limited in where He can be? Do you sometimes feel outside of God's view? God knows all things, God is in all places. When you pray, you are calling out to Someone who is everywhere. Read these verses for comfort and encouragement.

- [Jeremiah 23:23-24](#)
- [Psalm 139:7-12](#)

## **Getting to know God:**

- Download flashcards of names

M A R Y A . K A S S I A N

KNOWING

G  D

BY NAME

A Personal Encounter



Mary Kassian's book, *Knowing God by Name*). (You will need to right click on the "Flash card" link and save the pdf to your computer.)

- In her prayer recorded in Luke 1, Mary expressed humble recognition of the greatness of God and His grace and an awareness that God's unique calling on her life would result in all future generations calling her blessed. She viewed herself as both humbled and exalted.

*And Mary said: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, 47 and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior*

Take a moment to read that prayer [here](#).

- Watch this 5-minute video discussion of the [Presence of God](#) revealed throughout Scripture.

### Asking God

Are you ever concerned about what to ask God or how to ask God for something? What is ok and what is out of the question? God wants us to bring everything to Him that is on our minds. If we spend all of our time trying to get things "just right," we'll never get around to praying at all. There are some guidelines to asking that can help shape our thoughts and remind us we can trust God. To see those, download [this guide \(pdf\)](#).

### Jesus says "I AM"

Seven times, in the Gospel of John, Jesus gives Himself a name. Read each of these names and verses and think about what they tell you about Jesus meeting your specific needs.

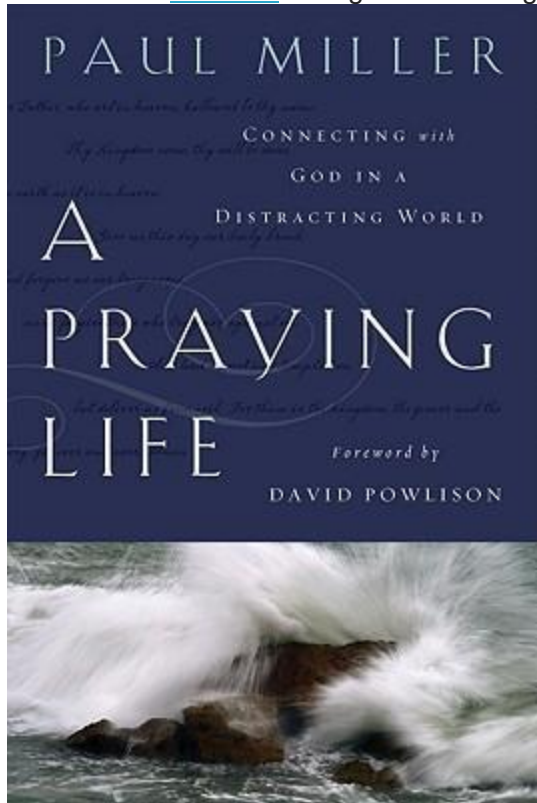
- I am the bread of life. ([John 6:25-58](#))  
\_\_\_\_\_
- I am the light of the world. ([John 8:12](#))  
\_\_\_\_\_
- I am the door for the sheep. ([John 10:1-10](#))  
\_\_\_\_\_
- I am the good shepherd. ([John 10:11-18](#))  
\_\_\_\_\_
- I am the resurrection and the life. ([John 11:17-44](#))  
\_\_\_\_\_
- I am the way, the truth, and the life. ([John 14:5-14](#))  
\_\_\_\_\_



- I am the true vine. ([John 15:1-17](#))
- 

## Reading and Studies

- Commit to go through [Experiencing God](#), a 13 week workbook study that can be done on your own or as part of a group.
- Read J.I. Packer's classic [Knowing God](#), a book that reveals the wonder, the glory and the joy of knowing God.
- Suggest for your small group the study [Crave: An Exploration of the Human Spirit](#) by Erwin McManus.
- Subscribe to [LifeWalk](#) to begin a life-changing walk thru the Bible in 12 months.



- Read [A Praying Life](#) by Paul Miller to investigate how prayer can become a more natural part of everyday living.

Subscribe to the Seeking God Next Steps newsletter.

# Next Steps: Building Relationships

- Look at your calendar. Building relationships with other believers requires an investment of time. Take advantage of regularly scheduled activities at church to spend time with believers. Also, make it a priority to meet with another believer of the same sex this week to get to know them better.
- Read [Creating Community](#) by Andy Stanley to better understand what it takes to have an authentic small group environment among believers.
- Suggest the 4-session Bible study [Relate: Knowing, Loving, and Forgiving the People in Your Life](#) for your group's next topic.
- Suggest that your small group study [Growing Disciples: Fellowship with Believers](#) by Mel Blackaby to better understand the nature of the church and how it functions as the body of Christ.
- Learn how to build loyal family, adult, and work relationships through [Authentic Relationships: Being Real in a Fictitious World](#), a 13-session group Bible study.
- If your small group needs to understand what it means to belong in a small group, live in community, discover mission, and learn the importance of "story" in group life, then consider the [Building Biblical Community](#) experience.

Subscribe to the Building Relationships Next Steps newsletter.

# Next Steps: Unashamed

- Begin reading through the book of Psalms. Highlight places where the psalmist is being open and transparent with God and examples of belief in God and praise and thanks for God's activity.
- Find a Christian friend or two whom you can trust. Ask them to keep you accountable in being an authentic disciple of Christ. As you get started use some of the [questions](#) shared in this blog post.
- Consider forming a Life Transformation Group using this [resource](#) from CMA Resources and Neil Cole
- Join a small group Bible study that encourages tough questions and doesn't assume everyone has overcome their spiritual struggles.
- Suggest that your small group study [My Identity in Christ](#) by Gene Wilkes to fully understand who you are in Christ.
- Gain confidence in your Christian faith by reading the classic [Mere Christianity](#) by C.S. Lewis or [The God Who Is There](#) by Francis Schaeffer.

- Get motivated to declare God's greatness by first understanding why. Suggest that your small group study [Compelled by Love](#) by Ed Stetzer and Philip Nation.
- Suggest your small group study [More to Life](#). This approach provides evangelistic training based on a simple four-story approach that enables believers to more easily share their faith and an understanding of the gospel.
- Suggest that your small group study [Sent: Living the Missional Nature of the Church](#) by Ed Stetzer.

Subscribe to the Unashamed Next Steps newsletter.

## Next Steps: Doctrinal Positions

- Look on your church's website or ask your pastor for your church's statement of faith or core beliefs. Read it and if provided look up the verses in the Bible that support each belief.
- Read [The Case for Christ: A Journalist's Personal Investigation of the Evidence for Jesus](#) by Lee Strobel.
- Read [The Grace and Truth Paradox: Responding with Christlike Balance](#) by Randy Alcorn or use the [study](#) with friends.
- Read J.I. Packer's classic [Knowing God](#), a book that reveals the wonder, the glory and the joy of knowing God.
- Suggest that your small group study on of these Bible studies on faith:
  - Suggest that your small group study [Holy Vocabulary: Rescuing the Language of Faith](#) by Michael Kelley. It is time to discover that behind the lingo holy words have deep and significant meanings regarding our faith.
  - [Jesus the One and Only](#) by Beth Moore Get to know Jesus intimately ... as if you had walked with Him during His days of earthly ministry.
  - [Growing Disciples: Live in the Word](#) by Philip Nation. Knowing God and understand His commands, His purposes, and His ways starts with living in His Word.
  - [Life in the Spirit](#) by Robertson McQuilkin Understand who the Holy Spirit is and the companionship available with Him through the group study.
  - [Foundational Truths](#), a conversational Bible study that answers questions seekers ask and unpacks vital principles that the Christian faith is built

Subscribe to the Doctrinal Positions Next Steps newsletter.