

# Mapping Your Spiritual Journey

You have in your hand an assessment tool to help you determine where you are on your spiritual journey as a disciple of Jesus. This will not define how holy you are or how good you are; it is not your entrance exam for heaven. It is simply a means to help you continue to grow in the love and knowledge of Christ. Keep in mind that even if you scored perfectly, you probably aren't perfect. And even if you only want to do the more "advanced" classes, you will never outgrow the need to go back to the basics—you never "graduate." It's like when you are at the creek: even when you are enjoying splashing around and diving in, there are times to stand on the shore or go into the shallow water. The key is to just keep going deeper in your faith.

Here is all you have to do:

- Complete the 48 statements based on your immediate reaction. Don't try to figure out where you *should* be; be honest about where you are. This shouldn't take you more than 10 or 15 minutes.
- Then go to the score sheet, Getting Your Bearings, on page 4. Transfer your answers and total your scores.
- Next, look at Where You Are on Your Journey. In each of the key areas—Worship, Walk, Work—you will find suggestions of ways you can grow. This isn't a comprehensive list or a mandatory curriculum. You will find a Definitions section to help you find further clarity about where you are. Again, this is to help you so you can know the joy of diving deep into the life-giving grace of Jesus.



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	0-Not yet 3-Moderately	1-Slightly 4-Significantly	2-Somewhat 5-Definitely			
1. I love God more than anything else.	0	1	2	3	4	5
2. I accept the Apostles' Creed as a foundational statement for what I believe and understand it in relation to life today.	0	1	2	3	4	5
3. God calls me to be involved in the lives of the poor and suffering.	0	1	2	3	4	5
4. Worship has an audience of one—God.	0	1	2	3	4	5
5. I seek to follow Jesus each day so my life looks more like his.	0	1	2	3	4	5
6. I believe we are created in the image of God and therefore have equal value, regardless of race, religion, or gender.	0	1	2	3	4	5
7. I look at the world around me and I am awed by God's creativity.	0	1	2	3	4	5
8. As I realize more and more how much Jesus loves me, I find myself loving people more.	0	1	2	3	4	5
9. Wherever the Holy Spirit directs me to go or whatever the Holy Spirit leads me to do, I will obey.	0	1	2	3	4	5
10. I pray every day for the Holy Spirit to lead and direct me.	0	1	2	3	4	5
11. I do not let other activities (TV, internet, recreation, work) get in the way of my daily relationship with Jesus.	0	1	2	3	4	5
12. When I hear the daily news from around the world, I am moved to prayer.	0	1	2	3	4	5
13. Intimacy is a word I would use to describe my relationship with the Lord.	0	1	2	3	4	5
14. Other people would describe me as a passionate follower of Jesus.	0	1	2	3	4	5
15. I believe the Holy Spirit works through my life and the lives of others, calling and guiding us to do God's work in the world.	0	1	2	3	4	5

	0-Not yet 3-Moderately	1-Slightly 4-Significantly	2-Somewhat 5-Definitely			
16. I realize that worship isn't about pleasing me but glorifying God.	0	1	2	3	4	5
17. I believe I cannot grow as a Christian unless I am part of a local church.	0	1	2	3	4	5
18. I regularly invite others to come to church with me.	0	1	2	3	4	5
19. I read the Bible daily so I can know God more and more.	0	1	2	3	4	5
20. I specifically set time aside for solitude and to listen to God.	0	1	2	3	4	5
21. I know my talents and spiritual gifts and am actively serving Christ by using those gifts.	0	1	2	3	4	5
22. I pray prior to our worship, asking for God's presence and power to come among us.	0	1	2	3	4	5
23. When facing daily decisions, I submissively seek God's will through the Bible, prayer, and the wisdom of mature Christians I trust.	0	1	2	3	4	5
24. I give away my time to serve and help others in my community.	0	1	2	3	4	5
25. I am hungry to know God much more deeply.	0	1	2	3	4	5
26. I believe salvation is graciously offered to me as a gift through Jesus' death and resurrection, not something I earn by anything I do, and I trust that Jesus is my Savior and Lord of my life.	0	1	2	3	4	5
27. Because everything ultimately belongs to God, I am generous with all the resources I have.	0	1	2	3	4	5
28. I prepare my heart and mind before participating in worship.	0	1	2	3	4	5
29. I allow others to hold me accountable for the way I live as a follower of Jesus.	0	1	2	3	4	5
30. I make a spiritual impact in my home, school, and/or work through my consistent daily example that invites others to ask why I live that way.	0	1	2	3	4	5
31. God is not a vague concept; God is a living reality for me.	0	1	2	3	4	5
32. As a means of growing in Christ, I prayerfully practice various spiritual disciplines.	0	1	2	3	4	5
33. I actively participate in a ministry that serves our community.	0	1	2	3	4	5
34. I can find any scripture a teacher or pastor invites us to study.	0	1	2	3	4	5
35. My family would tell you that my relationship with Jesus is the most important relationship in my life.	0	1	2	3	4	5

	0-Not yet 3-Moderately	1-Slightly 4-Significantly	2-Somewhat 5-Definitely			
36. My commitment to serve God and others is life-long: I will never “retire” from it.	0	1	2	3	4	5
37. I believe the God of the Bible is the one true God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.	0	1	2	3	4	5
38. I believe a Christian should live a sacrificial life that is not driven by pursuit of material things.	0	1	2	3	4	5
39. I intentionally spend time with people who don’t know Jesus.	0	1	2	3	4	5
40. I regularly confess my sins, repent of wrong thoughts, words, and deeds, and offer my life to God for obedient service.	0	1	2	3	4	5
41. My giving to the church shows that following Jesus is the top priority in my life.	0	1	2	3	4	5
42. I am comfortable talking to others about Jesus’ love for me and my trust in him.	0	1	2	3	4	5
43. I daily worship God when I am alone and I weekly worship God with my church family.	0	1	2	3	4	5
44. I understand the Christian faith well enough to teach it to others.	0	1	2	3	4	5
45. People in the church would call me a spiritual leader.	0	1	2	3	4	5
46. I recognize that in the sacraments Jesus is encountering us in a real but mysterious way.	0	1	2	3	4	5
47. I am seeing the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control) growing in me.	0	1	2	3	4	5
48. I look forward to opportunities to share my faith story with other people.	0	1	2	3	4	5

## Getting Your Bearings

*Now write your responses here and add up the total of each column.*

Worship		Walk		Work	
1	_____	2	_____	3	_____
4	_____	5	_____	6	_____
7	_____	8	_____	9	_____
10	_____	11	_____	12	_____
13	_____	14	_____	15	_____
16	_____	17	_____	18	_____
19	_____	20	_____	21	_____
22	_____	23	_____	24	_____
25	_____	26	_____	27	_____
28	_____	29	_____	30	_____
31	_____	32	_____	33	_____
34	_____	35	_____	36	_____
37	_____	38	_____	39	_____
40	_____	41	_____	42	_____
43	_____	44	_____	45	_____
46	_____	47	_____	48	_____

## Where you are on your journey

If your total in any area was...	0-28	29-48	49-67	68-80
you are...	<i>Standing on the Shore</i>	<i>Wading In</i>	<i>Splashing Around</i>	<i>Diving In</i>
To move forward try...				
<b>Worship</b>	Alpha	How to Read the Bible/ How to Pray	Epic of Eden	Disciple, Christian Believer, Jesus and the Gospels
<b>Walk</b>	BC 101, Sunday school classes	Christian life studies	Spiritual Disciplines	Bible studies
<b>Work</b>	Service opportunities	Everyday Ethics	Everyday Evangelism; Spiritual Gifts	Leadership 101

*Remember, you are on a particular journey that will last a lifetime—it's not a race. So surround yourself with companions of Jesus who will help you on that journey and pick one area of concentration at a time. Then join one of our studies or ministry opportunities that will help further you along the Way and allow you to join in the adventure of a lifetime—and beyond.*

## Why This Matters

*We do all of this to become the people and the church Jesus calls us to be. What does that look like? Here are our Mission, Vision, and Core Values:*

### **Our Mission**

Make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

### **Our Vision**

When we realize that we are loved by Jesus we come alive.

People are drawn to people who are full of life.

Bear Creek will be a church flowing with life and overflowing with people because we teach that a fulfilling life is found through Jesus Christ as we:

#### worship—

being filled with wonder that leads us to acknowledge our need for God in every moment of our lives;

#### walk—

encouraging each other to develop disciplines that open us to the transforming grace of Jesus Christ; and

#### work—

responding to what Jesus has done for us by letting the Holy Spirit use us to share Christ with others.

### **Our Core Values**

Unconditional love: all people matter

Unlimited grace: all people need Jesus

Unending growth: all people grow together in God's love, shaped by constant prayer and by Scripture

Unleashed power: all people have a divine purpose

## DEFINITIONS

### **Discipleship Pathway**

We have a discipleship pathway to equip people to experience the fullness of life God has for them as they become more and more like Jesus. In each aspect of our life of faith—Worship, Walk, and Work—the Way of Bear Creek is to venture into the Living Water deeper and deeper, from Standing on the Shore to Wading In to Making a Splash to Diving In.

In **Worshipping** we discover who God is.

In **Walking** we discover a fulfilling life through Jesus.

In **Working** we discover how we join in the work of God to transform the world.

### **Standing on the Shore** (Exploring Christ)

Who are you?

People who do not have a relationship with Jesus Christ and/or are not involved in the life of a church

People we do not know personally or as a congregation

People not connected to Bear Creek UMC

What do you need now for the journey?

- Help in developing a relationship with Jesus Christ
- Compelling worship experiences that stretch them upward
- A sense of belonging
- Help in understanding the Bible in a deeper way
- Leaders who model spiritual growth

### **Wading In** (Growing in Christ)

Who are you?

- People with some level of contact with Bear Creek UMC but have not become full participants in the life of our church
- People who are on board with the core beliefs of our faith
- People becoming more comfortable with spiritual practices and poised to grow spiritually
- People who are hesitant to make their faith known to people outside of church

What do you need now for the journey?

- Help in developing a personal relationship with Christ
- Help in understanding the Bible in greater depth
- Church leaders who model spiritual growth
- Compelling worship experiences that stretch them upward
- Challenge to grow and move onward in faith

### **Making a Splash** (Close to Christ)

Who are you?

- People who have made a commitment to Bear Creek UMC and are actively involved in the life of the church
- People making their relationship with Jesus part of everyday life
- People who are confident of God's presence and power
- People who connect daily with God through personal spiritual practices
- People beginning to show signs of spiritual transformation

What do you need now for the journey?

- Help in understanding the Bible in greater depth
- Help in developing a personal relationship with Christ
- Church leaders who model spiritual growth
- Challenge to grow and move onward in faith
- Encouragement to take personal responsibility for spiritual growth

### **Diving In** (Christ-Centered)

Who are you?

- People who are in love with God and exhibit the love of Christ in every facet of their lives as they serve through Bear Creek UMC
- People who tithe, serve, and evangelize as a way of life
- People willing to risk everything for Christ

What do you need now for the journey?

- Help in understanding the Bible in greater depth
- Help in developing a personal relationship with Christ
- Church leaders who model spiritual growth
- Challenge to grow and move onward in faith
- Encouragement to take personal responsibility for spiritual growth