

Becoming

Like

Jesus

7 Qualities of Maturity

Values Booklet



How to use this booklet:

Following Jesus leads to ongoing transformation. We mature by the power of the Spirit into the image of our Creator. (Eph. 4:13; Phil. 2:12-13; Col. 3:9-10)

This booklet lays out 7 Qualities of Maturity, which you would expect to see develop over time in the lives of individual Christians and Christian communities. Each quality corresponds to one of the *7 Ways of Jesus*, a tool from the Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada.

Use this guide...

For yourself - to read God's Word, reflect, and take steps to obey Him.

For a group/team - as a devotional for your meetings, to centre yourselves on how Jesus is calling you to live and mature as a group or team.

For those you disciple/lead - to consider how God has already grown them (celebrate!), and in what ways He may want to grow them next (you can then focus your future learning around those growth areas).

Praying & Obeying

“I have begun following Jesus, and am depending on the Spirit of Jesus in my journey.”

(Way of Jesus Statement #1)

Jesus died to give you life! Now he calls you to follow him, living for him instead of for yourself: spending time with him, listening to him, and obeying his direction. As Jesus leads you, he will transform your way of life. The Holy Spirit will help you every step along the way, as you pray and obey.

Read a Scripture: Matthew 4:19-20 John 15:5
2 Corinthians 5:14-15 Acts 2:38
Ezekiel 36:25-27 Luke 5:16

Ask a Question:

- Have you begun following Jesus? If so, when did that begin?
- Have you been baptized?
- How do you best connect with God, and when do you spend time in prayer?
- What do you need God’s help with right now?
- How has God been speaking to you? What practical steps can you take in obedience?
- Have you taken any recent steps of obedience?
- What’s your experience been with the Holy Spirit?

Generous & Inviting

“I am being sent by Jesus to bless others and invite them to follow Him”

(Way of Jesus Statement #2)

As you walk with Jesus, He sends you in his authority to do good works. He trains you to forgive, to love generously, to speak about Him, and to invite new people into faith and relationship. Followers of Jesus are servants of others, and ambassadors of God’s message of reconciliation: generous and inviting.

Read a Scripture: Genesis 12:1-3 Matthew 28:18-20
Ephesians 5:1-2 Luke 11:39-41
Matthew 5:43-45 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

- Ask a Question:**
- What good work is Jesus sending you to be involved in now, at this point in your life?
 - How might Jesus be calling you to be more generous? (With time, money, skills, wisdom?)
 - Who are you currently working to invite or include in our group/family/community?
 - What does hospitality look like in your life?
 - Have you prayed with or shared about God or Scripture with someone recently? How did it go?
 - Where do you feel stuck in your journey of blessing others and inviting them to follow Him?

Christ-like

“I am becoming like Jesus in my attitudes, behaviours and character”

(Way of Jesus Statement #3)

God is holy, and he calls you to be holy: paying attention to his voice more than status-quo, and obeying His commands. He changes your thought life, your attitudes, your behaviours, and your character. By His leading and grace, you become humble, holy, full of the fruit of the Spirit, and more and more like Christ.

Read a Scripture: John 14:23-24 Ephesians 4:22-32
1 Peter 1:14-16 James 3:13-18
Deuteronomy 10:12-13 Galatians 5:13-26

- Ask a Question:**
- How has God been shaping your attitudes, behaviours or character recently?
 - What's one area of your way of life, where God has done a total transformation from the way you used to live?
 - Who in your life challenges you or calls you out on your sin, in order to help you honour God?
 - What struggles might you need to share with others, in order to receive prayer or help?
 - What sin might you need to confess today to another believer? Who in your life can you do this with?

Loving God & Others

“I am learning to love God and others”

(Way of Jesus Statement #4)

Jesus taught that the most important commandments are to love God with all that you are, and to love others as you love yourself. God’s love and kindness fills you, and empowers you to love Him in return. He changes your heart and commands you to love people with compassion, sincerity and action, as He does.

Read a Scripture: Matthew 14:13-16 Mark 12:28-31
1 Corinthians 13:1-7 Romans 13:8-10
1 John 3:16-18 Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Ask a Question:

- How is your relationship with God? How is your love for Him?
- What does your most heartfelt form of worship look like? When do you make time for this?
- How are your relationships with the people in your life - spouse, kids, parents, peers, boss?
- Who have you been feeling compassionate towards recently? How can you take action?
- Have you been withholding love, forgiveness, or respect from anyone in your life, church or community?

Maturing & Multiplying

“I am helping someone and someone is helping me to be a reproducing follower of Jesus”

(Way of Jesus Statement #6)

Jesus set a pattern of intentional, relational disciple-making as the means for Christians to mature and make disciples. You need the help of other believers to mature, and God wants you to multiply by discipling others. You exist in a chain of disciples making disciples making disciples. Keep it going!

Read a Scripture: Matthew 4:18-22 1 Corinthians 3:5-9
Luke 10:1-11 2 Timothy 2:1-3
Psalm 71:14-18 Ephesians 4:11-16

- Ask a Question:**
- Who has been a mentor to you, helping you become a Christian or helping you grow? How can you thank them for that?
 - Who do you think could help you grow past your current level of Christian maturity?
 - How do you pray for and honour the Christian leaders and good examples in your church?
 - Who are you discipling these days? How have you been seeing them mature or multiply?
 - ...If you're not doing that yet, who can you begin to encourage and invite into your life?

Embracing Church & Mission

“I am participating in a community of followers of Jesus on mission to the world”

(Way of Jesus Statement #7)

Christians are to function together as *family on mission*: one family, with one Father, doing His work together. Jesus teaches you to love believers (and churches) as family, and to gather regularly. God designed you, and the Holy Spirit has equipped you, to be a participant in His Church and His mission.

Read a Scripture: Genesis 1:26-27 Acts 4:32-35
Matthew 12:46-50 1 Corinthians 12:7-14
John 13:12-17 Hebrews 10:19-25

- Ask a Question:**
- How could you further embrace your role as a true brother/sister to other believers?
 - Is anything getting in the way of you regularly gathering with others for church and mission?
 - For those you do mission with: how can you grow in loving them like family?
 - For those you gather with for church: how can you grow in doing mission together?
 - How can your group (or family or church) bless another group (or family or church) together?

Notes / Reflections