

A current inventory of your Christian history to determine a plan of disciplined growth to maturity.



# **Christian Life Appraisal**

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Welcome to the home fellowship/discipling ministry of Lexington Christian Fellowship! The leadership of our church has committed themselves to training Christians to live the victorious Christian life of knowing God and loving others. Every member of Lexington Christian Fellowship begins by being equipped to live the life himself. Before long, they have moved on to helping others enjoy consistent growth as well.

The purpose of this appraisal is to help you determine your strengths and weaknesses in living out your Christian life. It is not a test. You cannot flunk. The appraisal will cover the basic areas of Christian growth and then help you determine a plan of growth for the rest of your life.

After you work through the questions and exercises, a home fellowship leader (who may have worked through the appraisal a short time ago himself) will sit down with you and help you get started on a disciplined pattern toward growth. You will sit down with what we call our "Christian Life Manual," and map out your next immediate step toward growth. You will also set short term and long term goals for deepening your relationship to God and service to others.

Remember, this is not a test. There are no right or wrong answers. The idea is for you to honestly assess where you are in your life. From an honest appraisal you can make the best plans for moving ahead.

***"Where there is no vision, the people perish [get scattered around], but those who build their life in the word do well."***

***“We are to grow up in all aspects unto Him”***



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**How long have you been a Christian?**

- Less than six months
- More than two years
- More than five years
- Since childhood
- Other:

**What previous Christian training have you completed?**

- Introduction to Christianity
- Foundations course
- Bible survey course
- Advanced discipleship
- Ministry courses
- Other:

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**What previous Christian service have you been involved with?**

(Include offices or positions held in churches or Christian organizations)

**My previous participation in church life has included:**

- Attending church services as a child
- Attending church services as an adult
- Other:

**My conversion experience was...**

- Dramatic
- Quiet
- Vague
- Often doubted
- Other:

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**I share my faith with others...**

- Naturally
- With hesitation
- Rarely
- Don't know how
- Am honestly scared to do it
- Other:

**How would you describe past periods in your Christian Life?**

- After my conversion, I was carefully grounded in my faith by another Christian.
- I have never been disciplined by another Christian.
- A lapse of many years has gone by in my spiritual life. During that time, I have been unconcerned about my spiritual growth, or about developing myself as a Christian involved in ministering to others.
- I have had some previous disciple training, but I must say in all honesty that at the present time my values are a mixture of those picked up from life, and those which are truly Christian.
- I have been committed to Christ's Lordship for some time. I have a great desire to fully obey Him.
- I have a good understanding of Spiritual Gifts.
- I need help in understanding Spiritual Gifts, and how I can discover mine.
- I need guidance in discovering what ministry is appropriate for using my Spiritual Gifts.
- I am ready to learn about the Bible in depth.

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- I would like to be involved in bringing totally unchurched persons to Jesus Christ.
- I don't feel I can undertake such a ministry yet, but I would like to be trained and involved in visiting people who are searching for a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.
- I usually reserve some time each day to read my Bible and pray.
- Memorizing scripture is meaningful to me.
- I have read through the entire Bible.
- I have read completely through the New Testament.
- I have read completely through the Old Testament.
- I own a collection of Bible study books and commentaries.
- I have helped another person become a Christian.
- I have prayed with several people, helping them to become Christians.
- I naturally share my faith when it's appropriate to do so.
- I am ready to get some help in learning how to share my faith in a natural manner, based on relationships rather than by "selling" the message of Christ's love.

**How do I learn?**

- I read a lot. Books are important to me when I want to learn something.
- I seldom read. It's not my lifestyle. I learn by doing, by watching, by being involved in things.
- I like to find someone who knows what I need to know, get involved with them, and develop a skill by being with them.
- I like large teaching meetings.
- I like weekend seminars.
- I like structured courses.
- Other:



## **Strongholds**

Scripture talks about "strongholds in our lives...areas where we seem to be constantly facing defeat, discouragement, or fear. Often we are unable to move forward in our Christian life because of these strongholds. They can defeat us spiritually, robbing us of peace, love, and a deep fellowship with the Father. Sometimes heavy periods of stress can enlarge the power of these strongholds.

Are you struggling with areas of life where you feel defeated? If so, your visit with a home fellowship leader may be the opportunity to find freedom. Our Lord Jesus Christ is more powerful than any stronghold, and it is your birthright as God's child to be fully delivered from fear, discouragement, or any other bondage that has hindered you. Be sure to talk about this area when you meet!

The following statements have been made by people in Lexington Christian Fellowship and they have found deliverance from these bonds by the power of the Holy Spirit. There is nothing in your life that has not already been faced and conquered. If you relate to any of these comments, begin to pray right now and prepare for victory.

***"My dad NEVER complemented me when I did well. He ALWAYS corrected me when I did wrong. I still feel a need to be pleasing, but can never attain."***

***"I was sexually abused as a child and I have tried to put it out of my mind. The older I get, the more it plagues me and affects how I relate to others. I am growing angry and depressed."***

***"I don't really fit in. My past life is so different. If people knew me, they would never talk to me."***

***"I have never been able to listen to anyone tell me what to do. I always resent bosses, parents, and friends who try to influence me. I know this hinders me, but I just can't humble myself."***

***"I know I'm supposed to be forgiving, but I can't. I try, but the feelings just explode in me when I'm reminded of what they did to me."***

***"I can't seem to get out of debt. I've been slipping the last couple of years and I can't get a handle on it."***

**Perhaps you have a statement you would like to add to the list?**

## Home Fellowships

At Lexington Christian Fellowship, Home Fellowships are synonymous with "church."

Much of the modern view of church has been shaped by organizations that have cultivated attitudes of independence, "professionalism" among the "clergy," consumerism and materialism.

The picture of the church we see in the New Testament is a group of people committed to living out a common life based on the work of Jesus Christ.

They had no buildings and met from house to house during the week. In the home, they would give themselves to prayer, study of God's word, partaking of the Lord's table and jointly participating in life together. Their ministers were not produced in a seminary but in the community where they were nurtured by older Christians and established elders.

What actually went on in meetings was not dependent on a single person, but on the ministry of the body, one to another. During the week, significant ministry continued in daily life among these "called out" believers.

Living as part of the body was not something that was taught from a manual. It happened as new converts met older believers who came along beside them to show them the ropes.

As you begin to enter into the family life of Lexington Christian Fellowship you will find a couple of people to be very helpful in helping you find your way:

### **Your Home Fellowship Leader**

Home fellowship leaders have been trained by the leadership to serve the rest of the body. Their purpose is not to be your "all-in-all." They are aware of the various strengths, ministries and gifts in the body. They will work together with your discipler to make sure you find the connections you need to grow and begin to give yourself to the common vision.

There are a couple of ways to find a HFL. First, you may have friends in the church already. You may want to be in their home fellowship. Just ask. Secondly, you may have met the church through a corporate meeting and not really know anyone. Just walk up to the pastor and say, "I want to be in a home fellowship."

### **A Discipler**

Once you are in a home fellowship, the HFL will want to make sure that you have someone to personally help you take the next steps. He will make sure you find a qualified person to walk with you.

Remember this person probably won't be a "super Christian." They will probably be a step or two ahead of you at the most. Once again, the discipler is not meant to be an all-in-all. This person works together with the HFL to make sure you find a place in the body for growth through receiving and giving.



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*“This is eternal life, that they might know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ Whom Thou hast sent.”*

The following list of subjects are extremely important areas to have integrated into your Christian life. Mark the ones you believe you are mature in with an M. Mark the ones you need growth in with an N. If you have never been exposed to the topic, use an O.

1. Knowing God.
2. God as Father.
3. Humility, Brokenness, Cross.
4. Unity.
5. Relationships.
6. Servanthood.
7. The Local Church.
8. Personal freedom in Christ.
9. The work of the Holy Spirit.
10. Grace.
11. Love.

The purpose of life is to know and walk with God. That happens as we become partakers of His grace, grow in His life and let that life flow to others through us. These two lists will help you identify steps you have taken toward a deeper knowledge of Him, growth in your personal life and ministry to others.

