

Emotionally Healthy Discipleship

Deborah Gant - 2021 Leaders' Retreat

The following assessment is designed to help you get a picture of where you're at right now with your own spiritual and emotional maturity. It will help you get a sense of whether your discipleship has touched the emotional components of your life, and if so, how much. It will challenge you.

Even if some of the questions make you feel uneasy or uncomfortable, I invite you to answer with honesty and vulnerability. Be as open as possible before God, who loves you right where you are. Remember, the assessment will reveal nothing about you that is news to Him. You may want to take a moment to pray, inviting God to guide your responses.

(taken from Emotionally Healthy Discipleship)

Your answers are private and only you see the results.

How Emotionally Healthy Are You?

Next to each statement below circle the number that best describes your response.

Mark 1: Be Before You Do

- | | |
|--|---|
| | Not very true
Sometimes true
Mostly true
Very true |
| 1. I spend sufficient time alone with God to sustain my work for God so that I live out of a cup that overflows (<i>Mark 1:35; Luke 6:12</i>). | 1 2 3 4 |
| 2. It is easy for me to identify what I am feeling inside (<i>Luke 19:41-44; John 11:33-35</i>). | 1 2 3 4 |
| 3. When I become anxious or feel like I have too much to do in too little time, I stop and slow down to be with God and myself as a way to recenter (<i>Luke 4:42; Luke 10:38-42</i>). | 1 2 3 4 |
| 4. I set apart a twenty-four-hour period each week for Sabbath-keeping — to stop, to rest, to delight, and to contemplate God (<i>Exodus 20:8-11</i>). | 1 2 3 4 |
| 5. People close to me would describe me as content, non-defensive, and free from the approval or disapproval of others (<i>Philippians 4:11-12; John 5:44</i>). | 1 2 3 4 |
| 6. I regularly spend time in solitude and silence. This enables me to be still and undistracted in God's presence (<i>Habakkuk 2:1-4; Psalm 46:10</i>). | 1 2 3 4 |

Mark 1 Total: _____

Mark 2: Follow the Crucified, Not the Americanized, Jesus

- | | |
|---|---------|
| 1. I have rejected the world's definition of success (e.g., bigger is better, be popular, attain earthly security) to become the person God has called me to become and to do what God has called me to do (<i>John 4:34; Mark 14:35-39</i>). | 1 2 3 4 |
| 2. I rarely change the way I act so others will think highly of me or to assure a particular outcome (<i>Matthew 6:1-2; Galatians 1:10</i>). | 1 2 3 4 |
| 3. I take a lot of time to carefully discern when my plans and ambitions are legitimately for the glory of God and when they cross the line into my own desire for greatness (<i>Jeremiah 45:5; Mark 10:42-45</i>). | 1 2 3 4 |
| 4. Listening to Jesus and surrendering my will to his will is more important than any other project, program, or cause (<i>Matthew 17:5; John 16:13</i>). | 1 2 3 4 |
| 5. People close to me would describe me as patient and calm during failures, disappointments, and setbacks (<i>Isaiah 30:15; John 18:10-11</i>). | 1 2 3 4 |

Mark 2 Total: _____

Mark 3: Embrace God's Gift of Limits

- | | |
|---|---------|
| 1. I've never been accused of "trying to do it all" or of biting off more than I could chew (<i>Matthew 4:1-11</i>). | 1 2 3 4 |
| 2. I am regularly able to say no to requests and opportunities rather than risk overextending myself (<i>Mark 6:30-32</i>). | 1 2 3 4 |
| 3. I recognize the different situations where my unique, God-given personality can be either a help or a hindrance in responding appropriately (<i>Psalm 139; Romans 12:3</i>). | 1 2 3 4 |

Not very true
Sometimes true
Mostly true
Very true

- 4. It's easy for me to distinguish the difference between when to help carry someone else's burden and when to let it go so they can carry their own burden (*Galatians 6:2, 5*). 1 2 3 4
- 5. I have a good sense of my emotional, relational, physical, and spiritual capacities, intentionally pulling back to rest and replenish (*Mark 1:21-39*). 1 2 3 4
- 6. Those close to me would say that I am good at balancing family, rest, work, and play in a biblical way (*Exodus 20:8*). 1 2 3 4

Mark 3 Total: _____

Mark 4: Discover the Hidden Treasures Buried in Grief and Loss

- 1. I openly admit my losses and disappointments (*Psalms 3, 5*). 1 2 3 4
- 2. When I go through a disappointment or a loss, I reflect on how I'm feeling rather than pretend that nothing is wrong (*2 Samuel 1:4, 17-27; Psalm 51:1-17*). 1 2 3 4
- 3. I take time to grieve my losses as David and Jesus did (*Psalms 69; Matthew 26:39; John 11:35; 12:27*). 1 2 3 4
- 4. People who are in great pain and sorrow tend to seek me out because it's clear to them that I am in touch with the losses and sorrows in my own life (*2 Corinthians 1:3-7*). 1 2 3 4
- 5. I am able to cry and experience depression or sadness, explore the reasons behind it, and allow God to work in me through it (*Psalms 42; Matthew 26:36-46*). 1 2 3 4

Mark 4 Total: _____

Mark 5: Make Love the Measure of Spiritual Maturity

- 1. I am regularly able to enter into the experiences and feelings of other people, connecting deeply with them and taking time to imagine what it feels like to live in their shoes (*John 1:1-14; 2 Corinthians 8:9; Philippians 2:3-5*). 1 2 3 4
- 2. People close to me would describe me as a responsive listener (*Proverbs 10:19; 29:11; James 1:19*). 1 2 3 4
- 3. When I confront someone who has hurt or wronged me, I speak more in the first person ("I" and "me") about how I am feeling rather than speak in blaming tones ("you" or "they") about what was done (*Proverbs 25:11; Ephesians 4:29-32*). 1 2 3 4
- 4. I have little interest in making snap judgments about other people (*Matthew 7:1-5*). 1 2 3 4
- 5. People would describe me as someone who makes "loving well" my number one aim (*John 13:34-35; 1 Corinthians 13*). 1 2 3 4

Mark 5 Total: _____

Mark 6: Break the Power of the Past

- 1. I resolve conflict in a clear, direct, and respectful way, avoiding unhealthy behaviors I may have learned growing up in my family, such as painful putdowns, avoidance, escalating tensions, or going to a third party rather than to the person directly (*Matthew 18:15-18*). 1 2 3 4
- 2. I am intentional at working through the impact of significant "earthquake" events from the past that have shaped my present, such as the death of a family member, an unexpected pregnancy, divorce, addiction, or financial disaster (*Genesis 50:20; Psalm 51*). 1 2 3 4

Not very true
Sometimes true
Mostly true
Very true

- 3. I am able to thank God for all my past experiences, seeing how he has used them to uniquely shape me into who I am (*Genesis 50:20; Romans 8:28-30*). 1 2 3 4
- 4. I can see how certain “generational sins” have been passed down to me through my family history, including character flaws, lies, secrets, ways of coping with pain, and unhealthy tendencies in relating to others (*Exodus 20:5; cf. Genesis 20:2;26:7; 27:19; 37:1-33*). 1 2 3 4
- 5. I don’t need approval from others to feel good about myself (*Proverbs 29:25; Galatians 1:10*). 1 2 3 4
- 6. I take responsibility and ownership for my past rather than blame others (*John 5:5-7*). 1 2 3 4

Mark 6 Total: _____

Mark 7: Lead out of Weakness and Vulnerability

- 1. I often admit when I’m wrong, readily asking forgiveness from others (*Matthew 5:23-24*). 1 2 3 4
- 2. I am able to speak freely about my weaknesses, failures, and mistakes (*2 Corinthians 12:7-12*). 1 2 3 4
- 3. Others would readily describe me as approachable, gentle, open, and transparent (*Galatians 5:22-23; 1 Corinthians 13:1-6*). 1 2 3 4
- 4. Those close to me would say that I am not easily offended or hurt (*Matthew 5:39-42; 1 Corinthians 13:5*). 1 2 3 4
- 5. I am consistently open to hearing and applying constructive criticism and feedback that others might have for me (*Proverbs 10:17; 17:10; 25:12*). 1 2 3 4
- 6. I am rarely judgmental or critical of others (*Matthew 7:1-5*). 1 2 3 4
- 7. Others would say that I am slow to speak, quick to listen, and good at seeing things from their perspective (*James 1:19-20*). 1 2 3 4

Mark 6 Total: _____

TALLY YOUR ASSESSMENT RESULTS

For each group of questions on the previous pages:

- Add your responses to get the total for that group.
- Transfer your totals to the the right column below.
- Plot your answers and connect the dots to create a graph on the next page, following the sample above the graph.
- Read the descriptions on the following pages to learn more about your level of emotional health in each area.
What patterns do you discern?

Marks of Emotionally Healthy Discipleship

Totals

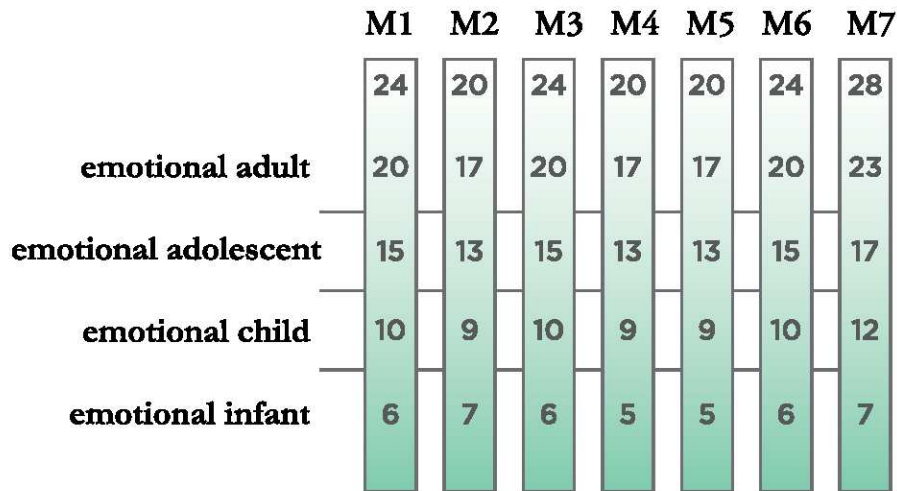
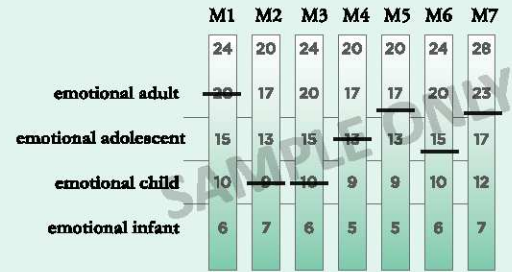
<i>Mark 1.</i> Be Before You Do	____ / 24
<i>Mark 2.</i> Follow the Crucified, Not the Americanized, Jesus	____ / 20
<i>Mark 3.</i> Receive God’s Gift of Limits	____ / 24
<i>Mark 4.</i> Discover the Treasures Buried in Grief and Loss	____ / 20
<i>Mark 5.</i> Make Love the Measure of Spiritual Maturity	____ / 20
<i>Mark 6.</i> Break the Power of the Past	____ / 24
<i>Mark 7.</i> Lead out of Weakness and Vulnerability	____ / 28

SAMPLE

Marks of Emotionally Healthy Discipleship

- Mark 1.* Be Before You Do
- Mark 2.* Follow the Crucified, Not the Americanized, Jesus
- Mark 3.* Receive God's Gift of Limits
- Mark 4.* Discover the Treasures Buried in Grief and Loss
- Mark 5.* Make Love the Measure of Spiritual Maturity
- Mark 6.* Break the Power of the Past
- Mark 7.* Lead out of Weakness and Vulnerability

Totals
<u>20</u> / 24
<u>9</u> / 20
<u>10</u> / 24
<u>13</u> / 20
<u>16</u> / 20
<u>14</u> / 24
<u>21</u> / 28



UNDERSTANDING YOUR ASSESSMENT: LEVELS OF EMOTIONAL MATURITY

Being an emotionally healthy disciple is not an all-or-nothing condition; it operates on a continuum that ranges from mild to severe, and may change from one season of life and ministry to the next. As you read through the descriptions below, what stands out to you? Wherever you find yourself, the good news is that you can make progress and become an increasingly more mature disciple. So even if your current state of discipleship is sobering, don't be discouraged. You can learn and grow through failures and mistakes, and it is possible for anyone to make progress. Here are some observations to help you better understand your assessment results.

EMOTIONAL INFANT

I look for other people to take care of me emotionally and spiritually. I often have difficulty in describing and experiencing my feelings in healthy ways and rarely enter the emotional world of others. I am consistently driven by a need for instant gratification, often using others as objects to meet my needs. People sometimes perceive me as inconsiderate and insensitive. I am uncomfortable with silence or being alone. When trials, hardships, or difficulties come, I want to quit God and the Christian life. I sometimes experience God at church and when I am with other Christians, but rarely when I am at work or home.

EMOTIONAL CHILD

When life is going my way, I am content. However, as soon as disappointment or stress enter the picture, I quickly unravel inside. I often take things personally, interpreting disagreements or criticism as a personal offense. When I don't get my way, I often complain, withdraw, manipulate, drag my feet, become sarcastic, or take revenge. I often end up living off the spirituality of other people because I am so overloaded and distracted. My prayer life is primarily talking to God, telling him what to do and how to fix my problems. Prayer is more a duty than a delight.

EMOTIONAL ADOLESCENT

I don't like it when others question me. I often make quick judgments and interpretations of people's behavior. I withhold forgiveness from those who sin against me, avoiding or cutting them off when they do something to hurt me. I subconsciously keep records on the love I give out. I have trouble really listening to another person's pain, disappointments, or needs without becoming preoccupied with myself. I sometimes find myself too busy to spend adequate time nourishing my spiritual life. I attend church and serve others but enjoy few delights in Christ. My Christian life is still primarily about doing, not being with him. Prayer continues to be mostly me talking with little silence, solitude, or listening to God.

EMOTIONAL ADULT

I respect and love others without having to change them or becoming judgmental. I value people for who they are, not for what they can give me or how they behave. I take responsibility for my own thoughts, feelings, goals, and actions. I can state my own beliefs and values to those who disagree with me—without becoming adversarial. I am able to accurately self-assess my limits, strengths, and weaknesses. I am deeply convinced that I am absolutely loved by Christ and do not look to others to tell me I'm okay. I am able to integrate *doing* for God and *being* with him (Mary and Martha). My Christian life has moved beyond simply serving Christ to loving him and enjoying communion with him.

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