

Marks of a Disciple Assessment Summary

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Introduction

In the previous assignment, the students were asked to create a Likert Scale based on their “Marks of a Disciple” paper. These questions were to provide the basis for an assessment of the current spiritual state of those who participated in the survey. It is hoped that upon the completion of the assessment, the respondent will have an honest assessment of their current spiritual status and provide the student who created the assessment with tangible data about the validity of their assessment. The information that follows is a summary of the material and its results.

Method of Data Collection

This student opted to create an assessment using a Google Form (located here: <https://forms.gle/jjjKborfWrbWpk4b6>) with the Likert Scale questions broken into four sections – one for each mark of a disciple. This data was collected anonymously, with only the timestamp indicating individual responses. Once the questionnaire was created, this student chose to reach out to potential contacts from two different groups: a men’s bible study group led by the student and a pointed message to the student’s Facebook friends.

Below is a sample of the request made to the student's bible study group:

Hello Brothers,

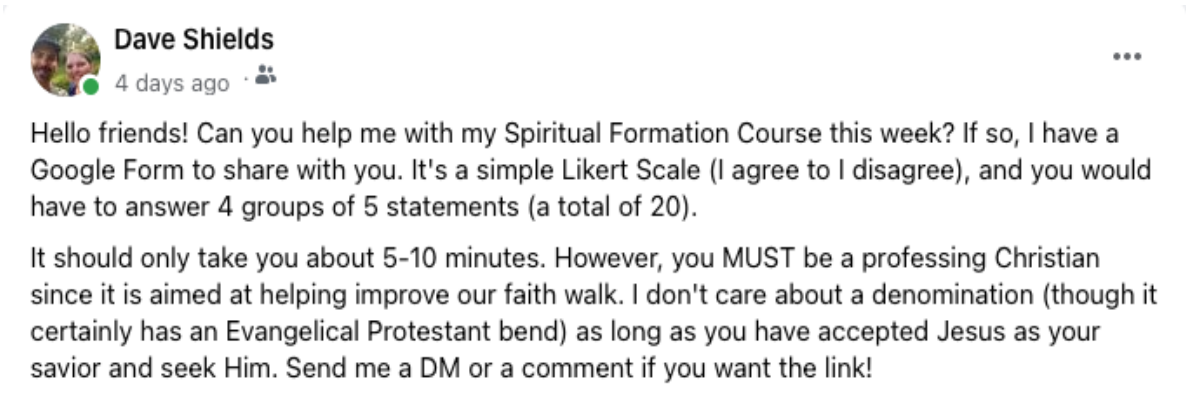
Happy early Thanksgiving! As I mentioned last week, this Thursday (11/23/2023) is Thanksgiving, so Men's Coffee will NOT be meeting at Grace Church this week. I strongly encourage you to enjoy your time with your families and be thankful for all the amazing things God is doing in your lives! We should never cease to be thankful for God's great mercy.

I do have a favor to ask! If you can help me with my doctoral work, I need you to complete a [spiritual formation survey](#). It's very short, only 20 questions. It's a basic Likert Scale so 1 = Strongly Disagree and 5 = Strongly Agree. Just read each phrase and then select the first thing that feels right. You want to answer quickly without a lot of thought, or you could skew the results. I promise it is 100% anonymous; all I will get is the timestamp for when you completed it and the answers you selected.

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This initial email was sent to a group of known believers with whom the student has an active relationship. It also provides the author with a sample of how well the group members he leads are growing spiritually. This request resulted in two submissions of the form.

After the student waited for a twenty-four-hour period with only a few responses, they opted to post the following message on their personal Facebook to friends:



Dave Shields
4 days ago · 🧑

Hello friends! Can you help me with my Spiritual Formation Course this week? If so, I have a Google Form to share with you. It's a simple Likert Scale (I agree to I disagree), and you would have to answer 4 groups of 5 statements (a total of 20).

It should only take you about 5-10 minutes. However, you MUST be a professing Christian since it is aimed at helping improve our faith walk. I don't care about a denomination (though it certainly has an Evangelical Protestant bend) as long as you have accepted Jesus as your savior and seek Him. Send me a DM or a comment if you want the link!

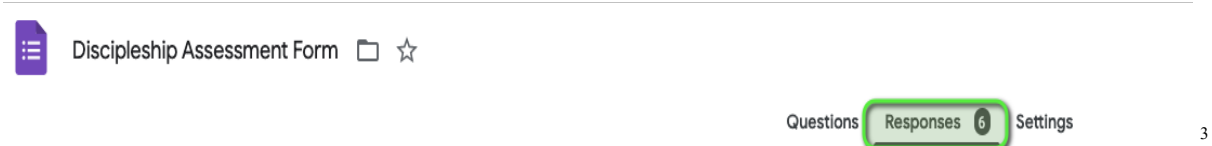
2

This Facebook request was shortly followed by four of the student's Facebook friends, all of whom are known personally to the student as professing Christians (with one being the student's former pastor). The student's friends reached out to the student via post comments,

¹ David Shields, personal screenshot, "Men's Coffee Email Sample," November 24, 2023

² David Shields, personal screenshot, "Facebook Friends Request," November 24, 2023

and the student responded by opening a direct message via Facebook Messenger to each friend, providing them with the link. This resulted in four additional respondents to the request for a total of 6 respondents as illustrated by the “Responses” in the Google form admin window:



Having collected beyond the minimum of five responses, the student felt this was sufficient to complete the required data assessment. Using the capability of Google Forms, the student selected two options for summarizing data: pre-generated Google Forms charts and raw data delivered to a Google Sheet. The results of this assessment have been summarized in the next two sections.

Summary of Demographics

- Six people took the assessment.
- Of those who took the assessment:
 - 5 Caucasian, 1 Unknown (either Caucasian or Persian)
 - The participants ranged in age from 42 to 68, and the average was 50.
- The education level of the participants is:
 - 2 Unknown (at least High School)
 - Four college graduates
- The location of the participants is:

³ David Shields, personal screenshot, “Google form response with total responses highlighted in green.”

- One lives in Southeastern Oklahoma
- Two live in the Oklahoma City metro area
- Three live in the Kansas City metro area
- Church attendance of the participants is:
 - One attends a Presbyterian church.
 - One attends a Catholic church.
 - Two attend a non-denominational Protestant church.
 - Two attend the same non-denominational church as the student.

Summary of Assessment Findings

The complete assessment findings are summarized in the following table. If the reader wants to see more of the calculations used in this assessment, see Appendix A.

Mark Assessed	Average Score of Assessment
Love God	4.43
Seek God	4.50
Trust God	4.50
Share God	3.97
Net Average Score	4.35

Conclusion

Upon the completion of the assessment, the student found some results that were expected and some surprising results. Initially, the student believed that few (if any) people would select 5 (Strongly Agree) for all options. However, this was proven incorrect since the

data illustrated that at least three of the respondents answered this on almost all the selections. The student also believed that more respondents would respond with a 3 (Average), but the data showed that only a few respondents answered with this option, and no one answered this on every mark. Lastly, the student anticipated that “Share Jesus” would be the lowest score as this mark of discipleship is the one that is most uncomfortable for most Christians. The data proved this was accurate (though not as low as anticipated). The student can determine, therefore, that many of their responding friends are more assertive in their faith than might have been anticipated. Despite the higher-than-average score, there were still some notable areas in each mark of a disciple that the respondents could use some spiritual guidance to help them grow. Ultimately, God is the author and perfecter of our faith, and He is working in each of our lives to help us grow: “I am sure of this, that He who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 1:6, HCSB).

Bibliography

Shields, David. Personal screenshot. "Men's Coffee Email Sample," November 24, 2023.

Shields, David. Personal screenshot. "Facebook Friends Request," November 24, 2023

Shields, David. Personal screenshot. "Google Forms response with total responses highlighted in green," November 24, 2023.

Appendix A: Calculation of Marks of Discipleship

This appendix includes the calculations from each respondent divided by each mark of a disciple. “Mark 1.1” indicates the specific mark and the question each respondent responded to (in this case: Love God – Question 1). Each respondent is listed with a number based on when they completed the survey (in this case, R1 is the first respondent, and R6 is the last respondent). All averages are calculated using the following formula: Average = total scores of respondents per question / divided by the number of respondents. All values were rounded up to only two decimal places.

A1: Mark One – Love God

	Mark 1.1	Mark 1.2	Mark 1.3	Mark 1.4	Mark 1.5
R1	5	5	5	5	5
R2	5	5	5	5	5
R3	5	5	5	5	4
R4	5	5	5	5	3
R5	5	5	4	5	3
R6	4	4	4	4	2
Average	4.83	4.83	4.17	4.67	3.67

A2: Mark Two – Seek God

	Mark 2.1	Mark 2.2	Mark 2.3	Mark 2.4	Mark 2.5
R1	5	5	5	5	5
R2	5	5	5	5	5
R3	5	5	5	5	5
R4	5	4	4	5	4
R5	5	4	4	5	3
R6	3	3	4	4	3
Average	4.67	4.33	4.50	4.83	4.17

A3: Mark Three – Trust God

	Mark 3.1	Mark 3.2	Mark 3.3	Mark 3.4	Mark 3.5
R1	5	5	5	5	5
R2	5	4	5	5	5
R3	5	4	5	5	5
R4	4	4	4	5	5
R5	4	4	4	5	5
R6	4	3	3	5	3
Average	4.5	4	4.33	5	4.67

A4: Mark Four – Share God

	Mark 4.1	Mark 4.2	Mark 4.3	Mark 4.4	Mark 4.5
R1	5	5	5	5	5
R2	5	5	4	5	5
R3	4	5	3	4	5
R4	4	4	3	3	5
R5	4	4	3	2	4
R6	3	3	3	1	3
Average	4.17	4.33	3.5	3.33	4.5