



# 4 A 1-YEAR STRATEGY FOR YOUR DISCIPLESHIP

## OVERVIEW

When planning your year, we always recommend you start with a **discipleship strategy**. That's because we believe **spiritual growth should be the lens through which we see everything else we do in our ministries**. We believe there are four spiritual habits that help teenagers (and adults, too) grow closer to God. These four habits aren't anything new. They've been talked about countless ways, by countless numbers of people. Your church is probably already talking about them in your own unique way, so feel free to change the language to fit your context if you need to. The words aren't important, but here's what is: if these four spiritual habits are the behaviors that help teenagers grow closer to God, **we need a strategy to help teenagers engage in these four spiritual habits on a regular basis, year after year**. Here they are . . .

### ***SPEND TIME WITH OTHERS***

In the fall, we focus on developing the spiritual habit of Christlike community when teenagers are beginning a new school year, making new friends, and getting plugged into new small groups.

### ***USE YOUR GIFTS***

In the winter, we focus on helping students develop the spiritual habit of knowing and using their gifts to serve God and others, because during the holidays, there are lots of service opportunities available.

### ***SPEND TIME WITH GOD***

In the spring, we go deep into the spiritual habit of spending time with God individually through personal spiritual disciplines, when Easter is on the way and the unpredictability of school and the holidays will have leveled off into some stability for your students and your ministry.

### ***SHARE YOUR STORY***

In the summer, we focus on helping students develop the spiritual habit of sharing their stories while they prepare for summer mission experiences and a new school year.

## THIS YEAR IN GROW STUDENTS

Although we always focus on each spiritual habit at the same time every year, **how we focus on these spiritual habits changes every year.** This year, here's what you can expect with Grow Students . . .

### FALL

Because we always focus on the spiritual habit of **spending time with others** during the fall quarter, this year we're providing a really fun set of **choose-your-own adventure Small Group Conversation Starters**. They're miniature leader-led activities and discussions on important topics that your students and volunteers can use before or after youth group, during a small group hang-out, or as a get-to-know-you exercise at the beginning of the year.

### WINTER

Because we always focus on the spiritual habit of **using your gifts** during the winter quarter, this year we're providing a **Christmas Fundraising Campaign** (by Stephen Switzer) to inspire your students to be for others during the holidays. Oh, but this isn't your average fundraiser — there are dance battles, and costumes, and food, and all sorts of fun things involved.

### SPRING

In the spring, when numbers are starting to plateau and your attendance starts to wane (it's okay, it happens to all of us), it's the perfect time to go deep with your core students. Because we always focus on the spiritual habit of **spending time with God** during the spring quarter, this year we've provided a **40-Day Easter Devotional** (by Nik Walborn) to walk your students through lent and give you a chance to talk about the importance of regular time with God.

### SUMMER

Because we always focus on the spiritual habit of **sharing your story** during the summer quarter, this year to help prepare your students to share their stories with others, both during mission experiences and in their relationships when a new school year begins, we're providing an activity we're calling the **Go, Grow, Glow Challenge** (by Jerrod Gunter), which is going to encourage students to identify people they want to share Jesus with, think about how to do that well, and then go and do it!

## PLUS!

To help you better understand how your students are growing spiritually throughout the year, we've included **4 quarterly surveys** (one for each spiritual habit) to help you get real feedback and insight from your students about how they are putting these habits into practice.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

While every activity in our Discipleship Strategy is unique, **we always provide you with the same core tools and resources to make each one happen.** With each activity, we'll include . . .

### GRAPHICS

- **Editable graphics** in PSD format for each discipleship activity.
- **Title images** in horizontal, vertical, and square formats, so you can use them easily on all print, online, and social media platforms.
- **Background images** in horizontal, vertical, and square formats, so you can use them easily on all print, online, and social media platforms.

### QUARTERLY SURVEYS

- **Editable graphics** in PSD format for each discipleship survey.
- **Additional images** in horizontal, vertical, and square formats, so you can use them easily on all print, online, and social media platforms.
- **Instructions** for you, the ministry leader.
- **Editable surveys** for your students in PSD, PDF, and DOC formats.

### PLANNING

- **Activity guides** for you, the ministry leader.
- **Editable handouts and instructions** for your volunteers in PSD, PDF, and DOC formats.
- **Editable handouts and instructions** for your students in PSD, PDF, and DOC formats.