

# IPA TOOL

## IDENTITY → PRIORITY → ACTION PLAN

As we look ahead, we want to intentionally foster our identity in Christ. To become more like Jesus, we need to make Spirit-led choices that lead to spiritual formation. This means reviewing who we are, what our priorities are in light of that, and the habits we can embrace to live that out more fully. Our identities shape our priorities, our priorities shape our habits, and our habits reinforce our identity.

## IDENTITY → PRIORITY → ACTION HABIT

We want to start small, consistently embracing one new habit in this next season, to help us grow to become more like Jesus. Using the questions below, let's build that together.

### IDENTITY

Review the following passages to remind you of who you / we are in Christ. Which 1-2 stand out to you? Why? Write some thoughts below.

*Galatians 2:20 • 2 Corinthians 5:17 • Ephesians 2:10 • John 1:12 • Romans 8:16-17 • 1 Peter 2:9  
Matthew 28:18-20 • Acts 1:8 • John 15:15 • Matthew 5:13-16 • 2 Corinthians 5:20*

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Out of these verses, write a few spiritual identity statements about yourself. Some examples might be: *I am... a multiplying discipler, a loving witness to my friends and family, a servant of Christ, a child of God, a citizen of God's Kingdom.*

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These are all tied up in one key identity statement: I am a disciple of Jesus Christ. Write your name in the space below.

**I, \_\_\_\_\_, AM A DEVOTED DISCIPLE OF JESUS.**

Our identity as disciples often comes in competition with the other identities we hold in our life. What other identities do you carry? Think through the spheres in your life (live, learn, work, play) and the roles you fill (family, vocation, hobbies). Write them below and then **circle** the top 3.

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Would you list your identity as a disciple at the top of the list? Why or why not? Share some thoughts below.

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Our identities shape what we prioritize in life. Without intentionality (**discipleship is intentional**), the important things can slip out of focus. In the next section, consider how your identities shape your priorities.

## PRIORITY

Based on the top 3 identities you listed above, including your identity as a disciple, list out your key priorities. Priorities are things we treat with importance, something we give our time, attention or resources to. They are general enough to guide us but not specific enough to yet be defined as a habit. We're getting to that soon!

Here's an example from Greg St. Cyr:

**Identity:** I am a child of God and a citizen of the kingdom of God, a disciple and slave of the Lord Jesus, indwelt and filled with the Holy Spirit.

**Priority:** Cultivating a personal, intimate relationship with the Lord.

**List out your top three identities and priorities below.** Start with your spiritual identity statement. It doesn't need to be as all-encompassing as Greg's, so start small with "I am a devoted disciple of Jesus Christ" if you desire. These don't need to be perfect, just a place to start.

Some helpful questions to determine your priorities:

- Why is this identity statement important to me?
- What area do I need to grow in as it relates to that identity?
- What results will come if I actually prioritize this?
- By prioritizing this, how will I more fully fulfill my identity?

If you need help with identifying what your spiritual priority should be, you can also check out the nine essentials in the back of the document. What area do you need to focus on or grow in?

Identity (Who I am): \_\_\_\_\_

Priority (What I value): \_\_\_\_\_

Identity (Who I am): \_\_\_\_\_

Priority (What I value): \_\_\_\_\_

Identity (Who I am): \_\_\_\_\_

Priority (What I value): \_\_\_\_\_

## ACTION PLAN

Out of our identity and priorities come our habits. Some might call these practices, rhythms, or action steps. Habits are best built by focusing on a single habit at a time until mastered, so start small. Once mastered, you can move onto the next.

**Taking your spiritual identity statement only**, write out a supporting habit. In addition, write out what else might need to happen in your life to make this habit take place. Let's go back to Greg's example to illustrate this:

**Identity:** I am a child of God and a citizen of the kingdom of God, a disciple and slave of the Lord Jesus, indwelt and filled with the Holy Spirit.

**Priority:** Cultivating a personal, intimate relationship with the Lord.

**Habit:** The Morning Watch (Psalm 5:3)

**Notes:** Get in bed by 9:30 PM. Before that, get coffee ready and set for 4:50 AM, place Bible, chapter a day and devotional out. Alarm goes off at 5 AM, spend time with the Lord.

**Write down below five identities you'd like to focus on.** If you need some examples of spiritual habits, look at the Nine Essentials document at the end.

1. Identity (Who I am): \_\_\_\_\_

Priority (What I value): \_\_\_\_\_

Habit (What I'm going to do): \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Identity (Who I am): \_\_\_\_\_

Priority (What I value): \_\_\_\_\_

Habit (What I'm going to do): \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Identity (Who I am): \_\_\_\_\_

Priority (What I value): \_\_\_\_\_

Habit (What I'm going to do): \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Identity (Who I am): \_\_\_\_\_

Priority (What I value): \_\_\_\_\_

Habit (What I'm going to do): \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Identity (Who I am): \_\_\_\_\_

Priority (What I value): \_\_\_\_\_

Habit (What I'm going to do): \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## **SHARE + PRAY**

Take a few minutes to share your identity, priority, action habit with one other person. Once done, pray for each other as you embrace a small, new habit to become more like Jesus.

## THE NINE ESSENTIALS

| Definition of Disciple | Essential            | Definition                                                                                                      | Key Verses                                          | Key Practices/Habits                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Follows</b>         | <b>Intentional</b>   | Discipleship is intentional - we must be actively engaged in the spiritual growth process.                      | Philippians 2:12-13                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identify as a disciple</li> <li>- Define + reorder priorities</li> <li>- Engaging our whole heart and will</li> <li>- Make a plan</li> </ul>                                                                               |
|                        | <b>Holistic</b>      | Discipleship is holistic - the gospel should infiltrate and transform every part of our lives.                  | Mark 12:30, Philippians 1:6                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- heal from past wounds</li> <li>- deal with sin</li> <li>- view all spheres as life as spiritual growth opportunities (live, work, play, learn)</li> </ul>                                                                  |
| <b>Changed By</b>      | <b>Word-Centered</b> | Discipleship is word-centered - it is God's Word that forms and shapes us.                                      | 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:3                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- daily bible intake</li> <li>- scripture memory</li> <li>- speaking God's word with others</li> </ul>                                                                                                                       |
|                        | <b>Spirit-Led</b>    | Discipleship is spirit-led - we are guided and motivated by God's Spirit.                                       | Galatians 5:22-23                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- daily surrender to the Spirit</li> <li>- prayer and meditation on God's Word</li> <li>- engage in worship</li> <li>- practice silence and solitude</li> </ul>                                                              |
|                        | <b>Relational</b>    | Discipleship is relational - spiritual growth happens best in the context of relationships.                     | Mark 3:14; 1 Cor 11:1; Proverbs 27:17, Acts 2:42-47 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- engage in spiritual community</li> <li>- practice hospitality</li> <li>- serve together</li> <li>- practice forgiveness and reconciliation</li> </ul>                                                                      |
|                        | <b>Prayerful</b>     | Discipleship is prayerful - we are changed as we commune with God.                                              | Matthew 6:9-13, Luke 11:1-4                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- pray about everything / establish a daily prayer rhythm</li> <li>- pray scripture</li> <li>- pray for and with others in community / corporately</li> <li>- pray in all circumstances - rejoicing and repenting</li> </ul> |
|                        | <b>Costly</b>        | Discipleship is costly - Jesus invites us to count the cost and deny ourselves in order to follow Him.          | Luke 14:25-33                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- denying self daily</li> <li>- being generous with time, treasure, talent</li> <li>- serving others</li> <li>- embrace suffering</li> </ul>                                                                                 |
| <b>On Mission With</b> | <b>Reproducing</b>   | Discipleship is reproducing - it invests in and equips others so we can reproduce disciples who make disciples. | 2 Tim. 2:2                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- live a life worth imitating</li> <li>- invest spiritually in the life of another</li> <li>- selects and invests in reliance on the HS</li> </ul>                                                                           |
|                        | <b>Evangelistic</b>  | Discipleship is evangelistic - it aims to reach the lost through both word and deed.                            | Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Corinthians 5:18-19; Luke 19:10 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- grow a heart for the lost</li> <li>- blather about Jesus</li> <li>- praying for lost friends and family members</li> <li>- study big questions of life and faith</li> <li>- know your own story</li> </ul>                 |