

Discipleship Plan

The Church Manual states that the first work of the church board is to “ensure that there is an active, ongoing discipleship plan in place, which includes both spiritual nurture and outreach ministries. This is the most important item for the board’s attention” (Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual, 2015 edition, p. 131). As churches build their localized discipleship plans, we recommend that they incorporate each phase of the GROW evangelism cycle – Prepare, Plant, Cultivate, Harvest, and Preserve – working progressively toward ingathering souls and the discipleship of new members. Please refer to the chart below for a practical explanation of how to incorporate each GROW phase into your church’s discipleship plan.

FROM JANUARY THROUGH MARCH

PREPARE



This phase launches your Evangelism Calendar for the year. This is the time to focus on making personal connections and building friendships to prepare hearts to receive spiritual truths. Plan events associated with those ministries in your church that meet people’s physical and emotional needs, such as health seminars, depression recovery seminars, financial peace classes, and Fieldwork initiatives.

FROM MARCH THROUGH APRIL

PLANT



This phase seeks to transition the friendships developed during the Prepare phase into spiritual interests. This is the time to focus on introducing spiritual truth to people. Plan events through those ministries in your church that are specifically geared toward sharing the Word, such as GLOW-athons, literature distribution, door-to-door ministry, and Bible study card mailings.

FROM APRIL THROUGH AUGUST

CULTIVATE



This phase aims to develop the spiritual interests discovered during the Plant phase through personal and group Bible studies. It provides training and opportunities and encourages widespread member involvement in local Bible study ministry.

FROM AUGUST THROUGH OCTOBER

HARVEST



This phase aims to lead interests developed in former phases into making personal commitments to Jesus and His truth through baptism, rebaptism, or profession of faith. This is the time for every church ministry to unite their respective talents and resources with the church’s public evangelism efforts.

FROM OCTOBER THROUGH DECEMBER

PRESERVE



This phase aims to disciple new members and integrate them into the church's activities and services. A systematic discipleship plan, such as the one found in the Discipleship Handbook, should be set into motion with trained discipleship mentors. Utilize church services – prayer meetings, Sabbath Schools, and worship services – to study subjects that will confirm and strengthen the understanding of the truth. Plan events that will connect new members with existing ones, such as church socials and district campouts. Participate in conference-sponsored events like the Rest and Renew Weekend. This is also an opportune time for churches to evaluate the year and previous discipleship plan and lay plans for the coming year.

Our Discipleship Plan for _____ (year)

Church: _____ Pastor: _____ District: _____


Church board approval date: _____

Church's monthly evangelism budget: \$ _____


Number of baptisms/POF: Last year: _____ Current year: _____ Anticipated next year: _____


For each phase, identify the time of emphasis in the coming calendar year, list the corresponding events and training opportunities you are planning, and estimate the expenses each phase will require.

	Events & Time:	Estimated Expenses
 <p>PREPARE</p>		

	Events & Time:	Estimated Expenses
 <p>PLANT</p>		

	Events & Time:	Estimated Expenses
 <p>CULTIVATE</p>		

	Events & Time:	Estimated Expenses
 <p>HARVEST</p>		

	Events & Time:	Estimated Expenses
 <p>PRESERVE</p>		

Total estimated evangelism expenses (all phases): \$ _____

Total amount requested from district evangelism funds: \$ _____

District Superintendent Section

Total approved evangelism funds \$ _____ Superintendent Signature: _____