

**we are
helping
people
find &
follow
Jesus.**

—
our values explained



WELCOME

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the great commission

“¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19–20

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Acts 1:8ⁱ

the great commandment

²⁹ Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰ And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ ³¹ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

Mark 12:29–31

ⁱ Many understand this statement of Jesus as part of the Great Commission as well

~

***the church does not
have a mission,
the mission has a
church***

~

We do not have the authority to define nor redefine the purpose of Jesus' church. The 21st century church still has a 1st century mandate. Therefore every church's mission statement should ultimately be a version of Jesus' original plan, best summarizedⁱⁱ under *The Great Commission* and *The Great Commandment*.

We have distilled these two great mandates into our mission statement, also affectionately known as our **manifesto**:

we are

**helping
people
find &
follow
Jesus.**

Here at City Gates we talk a lot about our manifesto. But we don't just want to **say** it, we want to **see** it. The purpose of this tool is to give our community common language around what it means to *help people find & follow Jesus*.

You will discover that each of the words in our manifesto also embody our core values. **They describe who we are.** Over the next few pages we will take a closer look at each, ending with an exercise to both *assess* and *assist* you in valuing the same.

ⁱⁱ 1 Jn.3:23

helping

people

find &

follow

Jesus.



1:4:8

**one manifesto
four statements
eight values**

—

we are

helping

We are **Holy Spirit**
empowered **servants**
like Jesus.

people

We are the
hospitable family
of Jesus.

find

We are
strategic missionaries
for Jesus.

follow

We are
disciples devoted
to Jesus.

helping
people
find &
follow
Jesus.

*observe all that I have
commanded you. And behold,
I am with you always*
Matthew 28:20

Jesus.

You will notice that as with our manifesto, *Jesus* literally has the last word in the sentences that describe our values - which is precisely why we have to talk about Him *first*. **He truly is at the centre of who we are, what we do, and why we do it.**

a / relationship

The whole Bible is ultimately about Jesusⁱⁱⁱ. Therefore, Christianity is fundamentally not centred around a bunch of precepts, but around a person^{iv}. Here at City Gates we don't define our faith in terms of performing religious duties, but rather as having a life-giving relationship with Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit.

the / gospel

This tool may seem like it's full of things that you should do *for God*, but the Gospel is in fact the story of what God has done *for you* in and through His Son, Jesus^v. Therefore, our efforts are not an attempt to *earn* God's love^{vi}, but to *enjoy* it!

As we move into these next sections, **remember that each step you take to adopt or deepen our values can be a step that brings you even closer to Jesus!**

ⁱⁱⁱ Jn. 5:39-40; Luk. 24:27

^{iv} Jn. 6:29

^v Jn. 3:16; Jn. 14:6; 1 Jn. 4:9,19

^{vi} Eph. 2:4-10

helping people find & follow Jesus.

—

We are **Holy Spirit**
empowered **servants**
like Jesus.

helping

*But you will receive power when the
Holy Spirit has come upon you*
Acts 1:8

*And you shall love the Lord your
God... with all your strength*
Mark 12:30

1 / Holy Spirit *vii*

The Holy Spirit is our connection with the *presence* and the *power* of Jesus. Therefore we live in sincere dependency on Him. He comes alongside us as our Helper, giving diverse gifts to Christians so that they may serve and build up the church and society. Aware of these God-given Spiritual Gifts, we actively seek opportunities in which to exercise them.

2 / serving *viii*

We gladly give up our rights and resources, and actively demonstrate sacrificial love by serving others in Jesus' name. We are not customers who consume religious goods or chase comfortable experiences, but servants who contribute to meet the needs of others.

vii Luk. 4:1,14,18-19; Jn. 14:16-18, 26, 16:7, 14-15; 1 Cor. 12; Gal. 5:16-26; Eph. 4:4-16; Rom. 12:3-8
viii Phil. 2:5-8; Jn. 13:12-16; Matt. 20:28; 1 Jn. 3:16,18

helping people find & follow Jesus.

—

We are the
hospitable family
of Jesus.

people

You shall love your neighbour as yourself

Mark 12:31

*Go therefore and make disciples of all
nations, baptizing them in the name of
the Father and of the Son*

Matthew 28:19

3 / hospitality ^{ix}

According to Jesus everyone is our neighbour^x, especially strangers, and even our enemies! We therefore place a high value on building relationships, pursuing friendship over friendliness; showing no favouritism. We move from greeting to eating, sharing our faith as we share our food.

4 / family ^{xi}

The church is not like a family, it is a family. We are a tight-knit community of brothers and sisters who share God as our Father. We don't merely get along, but seek to love each other just as Christ loved us. We don't gossip. We honour each other. We are quick to forgive, and even quicker to ask for forgiveness.

^{ix} Matt. 11:19; Rom. 13:10; Gal. 5:14; Heb. 13:2; Jas. 2:8; 1 Pet. 4:9; Rev. 7:9, 14:6

^x Luk. 10:39-27

^{xi} Matt. 5:23-24, 18:15-17; Rom. 12:10; Gal. 3:26-29; Eph. 4:32; 1 Jn. 3:1, 17, 4:11; 2 Jn. 5-6

helping people find follow Jesus.

—

We are
strategic missionaries
for Jesus.

*Go therefore and make disciples
of all nations*
Matthew 28:19

*in Jerusalem and in all Judea and
Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*
Acts 1:8

find &

5 / mission ^{xii}

We are not merely *church-goers*, but want to be known as a *going church*. Some may go to the nations, but everyone can go to their neighbours. Therefore we are *all* missionaries, no longer *of* this world but sent *into* it as ambassadors for Christ.

6 / strategy ^{xiii}

Where we live, work or play is no accident^{xiv}. We leverage these as unique opportunities to show and share Jesus in contexts that others may not have access to. As a church, we carefully consider how the never-changing Gospel is brought to bear on an ever-changing culture. We endeavour to use timely methods to best engage with society around this timeless truth.

^{xii} Jn. 1:41-42, 45-46; 2 Cor. 5:18-20

^{xiii} Mrk. 5:19; Jn. 4:39; Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 9:19-23; 1 Pet. 3:15

^{xiv} Mrk. 5:19; Jn. 4:39; Acts 17:26-27; 1 Pet. 3:15

helping people find & follow Jesus.

—

We are
disciples devoted
to Jesus.

*Go therefore and make disciples... teaching
them to observe all that I have commanded*
Matthew 28:19-20

*love the Lord your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with all your
mind and with all your strength.*
Mark 12:30

follow

7 / discipleship ^{xv}

As apprentices of Jesus our Master, we prioritize and reorganize our entire lives to *learn from* and *obey* Him. We are both at his feet as students and out in the field as practitioners. This relationship is personal, but not exclusive. Therefore we are always inviting others to join us in imitating Jesus along the way.

8 / devotion ^{xvi}

Spiritual disciplines and practices are the holy habits which characterize a life of devotion to Jesus. His life is an example of dedication to prayer, the scriptures, community, solitude and rest, to name a few^{xvii}. Through spiritual formation, we not only live *like* Jesus but also find ourselves deepening our relationship *with* Jesus.

^{xv} Matt. 6:24, 10:24-25; Jn. 13:14-16, 15:15; Eph. 6:5, 9; Col. 4:1

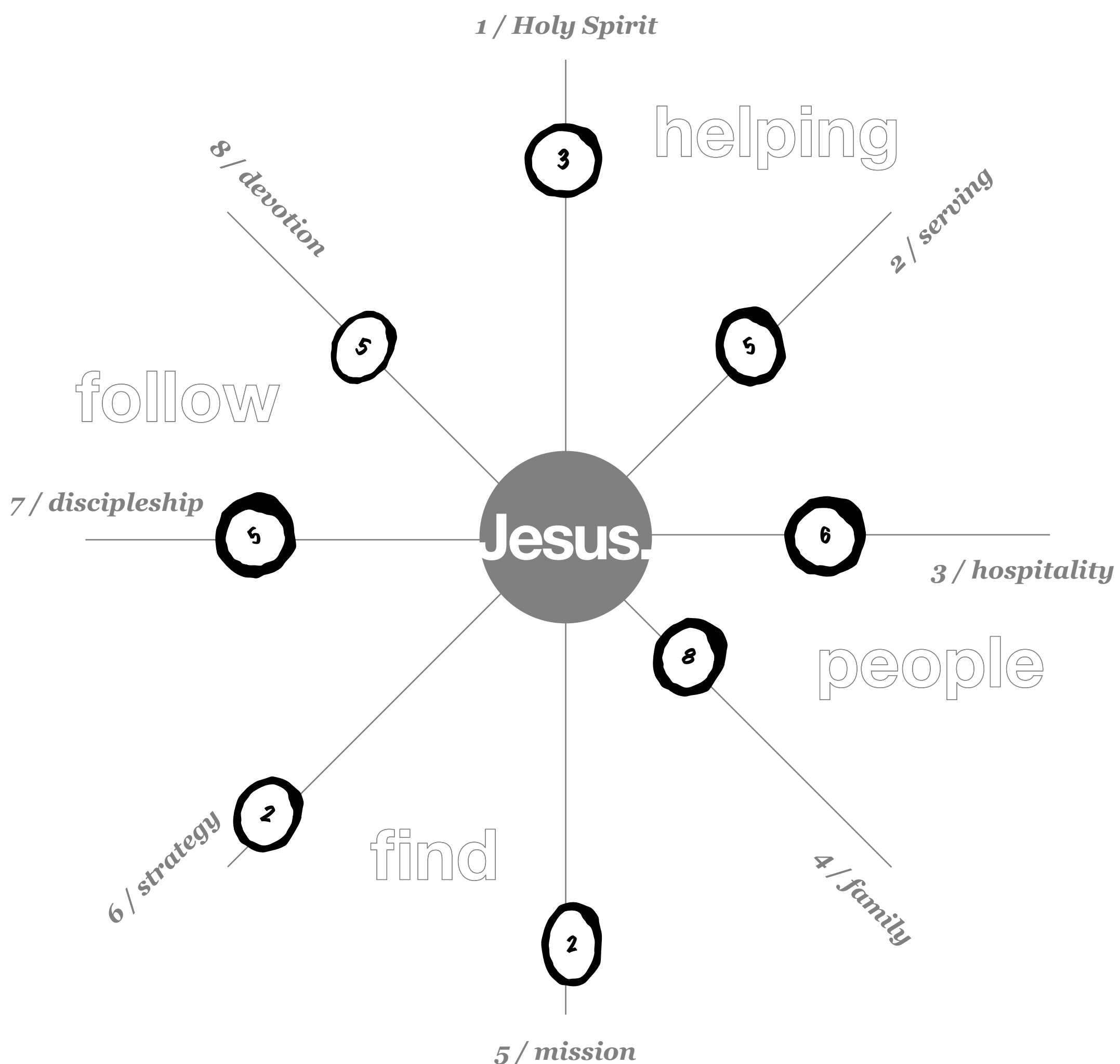
^{xvi} Luk. 2:37, 16:13; Jn. 8:31, 15:5; Acts 1:14, 2:42, 17:11; Gal. 5:16-17, 24-25; Eph. 6:18; Phil. 4:6; Col. 4:2; 2 Tim. 3:16

^{xvii} Matt. 9:10, 35; 14:23; 26:40-41, 55; Mk. 1:35, 4:38, 6:46, 9:29; Luk. 4:17-19; 5:16; 6:12; 9:28; 11:1-4; Jn 2:2; 21:9-12; 1 Cor. 11:23-25

self assessment.

Please take a moment to reflect on each of our 8 values. Draw a circle on each arm that best represents how well you believe you are doing in that value. The better you think you are doing, the closer to the centre you should mark your circle. If you think you still have a way to go, then mark the circle further away from the centre on that arm^{xviii}. Repeat this step for each of the 8 values.

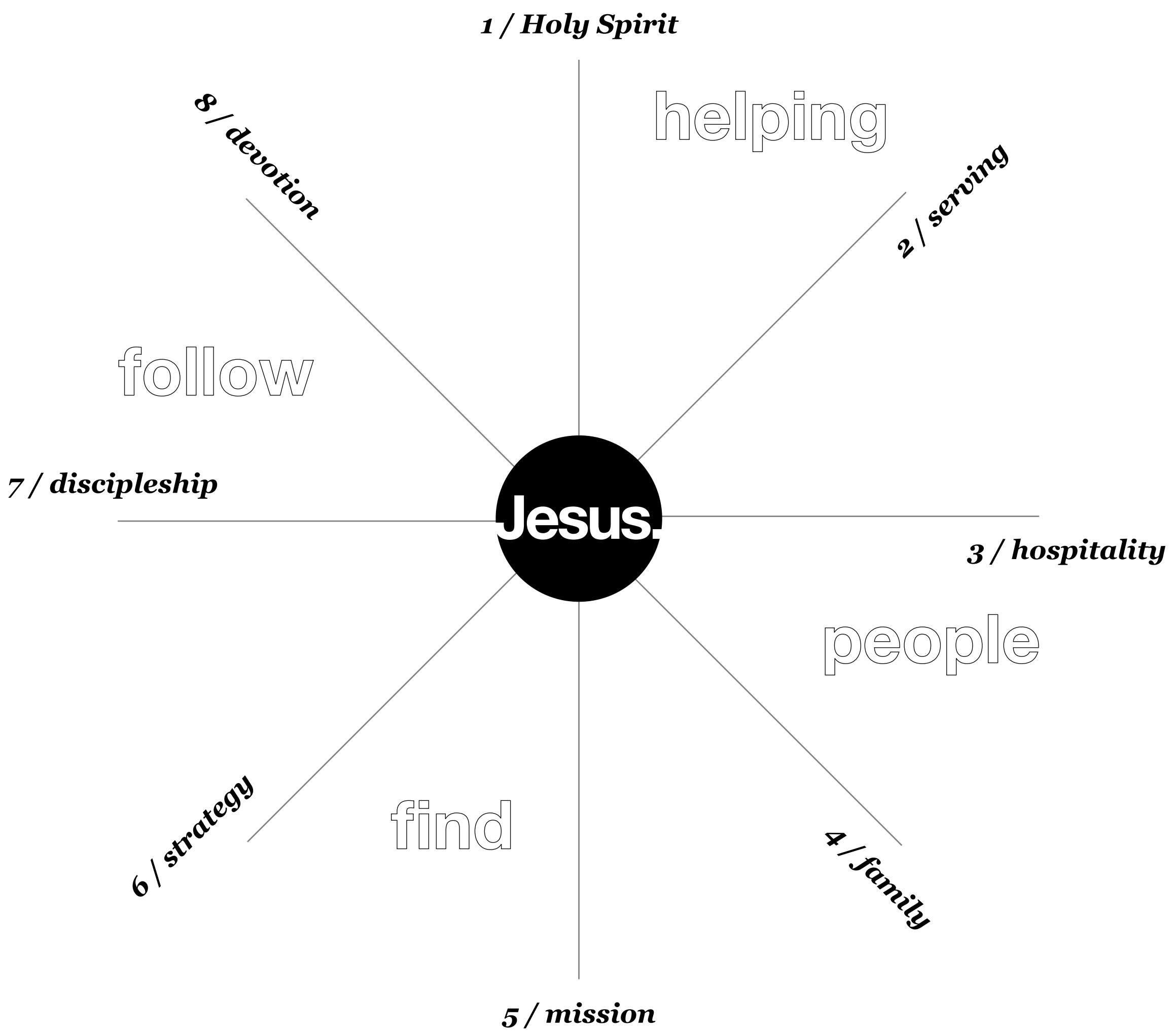
our / example



^{xviii} On a scale of 1-10, where 1 is poor and 10 is great, a 10 would be next to the centre and a 1 would be the furthest away.

my assessment.

Remember that this is a tool to help^{xix} you, not a test to pass!



name **date**

Take another moment to reflect and ask Jesus *which two or three categories He wants you to grow in* this upcoming season. Be realistic, as it's likely not possible to focus on all of them at once! Don't know what to do? Check out our list of *growth opportunities*.

^{xix} Maybe ask someone you trust (like a spouse or friend) to fill in how *they* think you are doing as well.

growth opportunities.

helping

We are Holy Spirit empowered servants *like* Jesus.

1 / *Holy Spirit*

- Attend our *Prayer Meetings* (Pre-service weekly, Corporate monthly)
- Complete our *Gift Gauge*^{xx} tool + ask a leader about possible next steps
- Ask to be filled with The Holy Spirit

2 / *servicing*

- Join a Sunday Serving Team** ^Δ
- Commit to giving financially** ^Δ
- Sign up for ministries like *Silver Linings*^{xxi} or serve on *Alpha*^{xxiii}
- Volunteer at *The Waypoint*^{xxii} or at events like *RunAjax*

people

We are the hospitable family *of* Jesus.

3 / *hospitality*

- Share a meal with neighbour / co-worker
- Invite someone to your *Community Group*
- Meet a friend / Volunteer at *The Waypoint*^{xxii}

4 / *family*

- Join a Community Group** ^Δ
- Host / Lead a Community Group
- Read / Practice our “One Another Charter”
- Sign up for our *Annual Retreat*

^Δ Minimum expectations for members

^{xx} citygates.ca/mygifts

^{xxi} citygates.ca/silverlinings

^{xxii} tothewaypoint.ca

find

We are strategic missionaries *for* Jesus.

5 / *mission*

- Invite someone to *Alpha*^{xxiii}
- Invite someone to your *Community Group*
- Invite someone to a *Church service*
- Serve at an *Alpha*^{xxiii}

6 / *strategy*

- Commit to praying for 3 friends who are not yet following Jesus
- Leverage more of your life (where you *live*, *work* and *play*) for mission
- Prepare a 30 sec. and 3 min. testimony of how Jesus rescued you

follow

We are disciples devoted *to* Jesus.

7 / *discipleship*

- Be baptized**^{xxiv} **as a believer** Δ
- Commit to noticing & influencing the spiritual growth of a #citygater
- Pray about stepping into a leadership role, then speak to a leader about it
- Sign up for *Bible Lab*^{xxv}, *The Good Fight*^{xxvi} or other learning contexts

8 / *devotion*

- Commit to prioritizing our gatherings** Δ
- Attend our *Prayer Meetings* (Pre-service weekly, Corporate monthly)
- Start a bible reading plan (*CBR Journal*, *BIOY app*, *Read Scripture app*)
- Start practicing *other* spiritual disciplines (Fasting tech/food; Solitude, etc)
- Start a gratitude / prayer journal

Δ Minimum expectations for members

^{xxiii} citygates.ca/alpha

^{xxiv} citygates.ca/baptism

^{xxv} citygates.ca/biblelab

^{xxvi} citygates.ca/goodfight



we are
all in
this
together.

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citygates.ca