

#10 Explanation of Spiritual Disciplines folder on the Spiritual Disciplines

The spiritual disciplines folder that is attached to the next section, (#11) in its original format was created at the Hatfield Church of the Brethren which sought new life. The head deacon Carl Holbert and Pastor David Young discerned that renewal would not take just a day but would take at least a season.

So work was done by the pastor and the church board to develop a spiritual disciplines folder with the Sunday texts of a season for Sunday worship, a theme drawn together from those scriptures and daily scriptures for everyone to use to read and re-read and meditate upon.

Along with that, there would be an insert where people could discern the next incremental step in their spiritual disciplines. In this case, the church board had the people sign the form and then on Easter Day commit themselves to this discipline.

In an act of dedication, persons took the forms forward and placed them at the foot of the white draped cross. Almost everyone in the congregation participated. And then they returned the next Sunday and out of that faithfulness renewal grew in the congregation.

The spiritual disciplines folder has become the basic tool for spiritual growth for the Springs initiative in church renewal. As all the persons participate by such daily reading of the scripture and take time to pray, the church feels like they have entered a spiritual journey and a new unity develops.

The particular folder on the disciplines is designed to be used with the book *Celebration of Discipline, The Path to Spiritual Growth* by Richard J. Foster. The Bible reading portions are taken from the study guide of that book and provide scripture reading for the "discipline of the week."

More about this tool for spiritual growth can be found in the book *Springs of Living Water, Christ-Centered Church Renewal* by David S. Young. The folder itself in both English and Spanish is found in Appendix 10. References to the folders and how to design them for your church are found in the index.

The Springs initiative just asks that you carry the copyright at the bottom of the folder giving credit to the Springs work as found on the bottom of the attached spiritual disciplines folder. These folders are dedicated to God that all who utilize them will grow in faith individually and corporately.