



Center for Scripture Engagement

# CHRISTIAN LIFE SURVEY

The Taylor University Center for Scripture Engagement is making available the *Christian Life Survey* to interested Universities for use with undergraduate students.

Many Christian Universities look for a variety of means to measure student and programmatic effectiveness for enhancing student spiritual growth. Measurements are important for both self-evaluation and for reporting to various invested constituencies.

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## THE MEASURING DEVICE

**THE *CHRISTIAN LIFE SURVEY* IS AN ONLINE SURVEY FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS AT CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITIES DESIGNED WITH SPECIFIC INDEXES TO MEASURE:**

- Levels of involvement in various Spiritual Disciplines (i.e., worship, evangelism, Christian study, prayer, fasting, etc.).
- Levels of Scripture Engagement. There is good evidence that the spiritual discipline most correlated with spiritual formation in the life of a Christian believer is the process of reflecting on Scripture referred to here as Scripture engagement. One of the strengths of the *Christian Life Survey* is the depth of measurement of the frequency of exposure to the Bible and of the levels of Scripture engagement in the life of the student.
- Focus on God. Students are asked about their beliefs and attitudes about God.
- Focus on Others. Students are asked about their level of care and service towards others.
- Christian Identity. Christian identity focuses on students' perception of how deeply they identify with the Christian constructs of Community, Service, Stewardship, and Morality.

## PROCESS

### THE PROJECTED TIMELINE FOR ADMINISTRATING THE SURVEY IS AS FOLLOWS:

- Fall 2012 – work out all necessary details before administrating the survey (e.g., school approval, process for delivering the survey to participants, incentive plan, etc.)
- Spring 2013 – make survey available  
Summer 2013 – results provided to participating Universities

## COST

The cost of administrating the Christian Life Survey is \$1,000. \$500 dollars will be used to incentivize students to participate in the survey and \$500 will be paid to Taylor University to help defray administrative costs.

## NEXT STEPS

If you are interested in having the Christian Life Survey administered at your school please contact Dr. Phil Collins, [phcollins@taylor.edu](mailto:phcollins@taylor.edu).

## FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE CENTER AND RESEARCH BRIEFS GO TO

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## THE MEASURING DEVICE (CONT'D)

Along with descriptions of levels of student involvement for each of the indexes, the *Christian Life Survey* tests how spiritual disciplines (most specifically Scripture engagement) are related to the three outcomes in the Christian life of a focus on God, a focus on caring about others, and the development of a Christian identity.

SPIRITUAL  
DISCIPLINES  
AND SCRIPTURE  
ENGAGEMENT

FOCUS ON GOD,  
FOCUS ON OTHERS,  
CHRISTIAN  
IDENTITY

### THE CHRISTIAN LIFE SURVEY HAS BEEN PILOT TESTED AT TWO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITIES.

The survey gives strong evidence for being both reliable and valid in measuring the described constructs. More detailed information about the survey and the indexes is available at the Taylor Center for Scripture Engagement website at <http://tucse.taylor.edu/> under the "research" tab. To see the actual questions of the survey you can go to the following link to take the survey:

[https://taylorcfse.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_3gxYta6LC2SB87G](https://taylorcfse.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_3gxYta6LC2SB87G)

## WHAT PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE

### SCHOOLS WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE SURVEY WILL RECEIVE DATA THAT WILL ALLOW THEM TO CONSIDER IF THE RANGE OF VALUES LOOKS LIKE WHAT WAS EXPECTED AND ALLOWS FOR SEEING WHAT A STUDENT POPULATION LOOKS LIKE SPIRITUALLY.

Each University will receive summary scores for that individual school (not to be reported to any other participating school) and the overall combined scores from all other participating Universities. Each participating school will receive a data set of all the actual data from that school. It will be possible for each school to merge these data sets with other data provided by the same students to see new patterns (for those students who have given permission to do so).

Along with the diagnostic benefits to the participating Universities, the *Christian Life Survey* also can benefit the participants who take the survey. At the end of the survey participants will receive their own personal scores on a set of indexes constructed out of the sets of questions. Participants will also receive some overall numbers for all the participants in the survey who have taken the survey. It is assumed in the survey that there are no right or wrong answers – the survey can function as a mechanism for students to reflect on their spiritual life and consider if they are where God wants them to be.