

Ministry Development Plan Spiritual Component

(Sample)

I. Goal

A. Emphasis for Professional Goal

Consider first your status as a blood-bought child of God, one whose faith continues to grow through the Holy Spirit's work in word and sacrament. Consider also your role as one who is called to share God's saving message with children and families. Identify personal, formal, and professional study opportunities that will help you grow in your understanding and application of God's Word – first for yourself as you guard your heavenly treasure and gain a greater appreciation of your Savior's sacrifice. Then also as a way to better equip yourself to speak and share the saving message with those you serve. And finally, as an opportunity to model a joyful response to hearing and learning God's Word.

Use the definitions below as you choose options that will enable you to grow in faith, be equipped for service, and guard against unbelief.

- *Personal* study is done privately and enables daily contact with God's law and gospel.
- *Formal* study is done together with others but does not result in a written record. Formal study provides the called worker with fellowship, mutual encouragement, and outside perspectives.
- *Professional* study is conducted through an institution that provides a record of completion. Professional study encourages a deeper understanding of God's word by sitting at the feet of experts and completing assignments.

Note: The three categories are listed to provide options for spiritual growth, not as a requirement that each MDP include all three.

B. Goal Statement

Write a goal statement using the "I will ... so that" format which includes:

- Area of emphasis
- Anticipated effect on your ministry

I will improve my ability to connect Scripture promises with the book of the Bible from which they come **so that** I can be prepared to give a witness to students, parents, and others when the situation arises.

C. Rationale

Please include the following elements:

- Background for your goal
- Connection to your ministry
- Connection to your school's mission

As a Lutheran teacher, my students, parents, and congregation members share with me their concerns, joys, and heartaches. I often am at a loss sharing spiritual advice and end up saying, "I'll keep you in my prayers." While that is good, I believe God has called me to also share specific promises from God's word. Our school mission is to *prepare children to live as disciples of Jesus*, and I want to do that by seizing the informal opportunities that occur each day. I need to re-connect myself with as many of God's promises as I can so that when someone comes to me for spiritual help, I am ready to provide a promise from God's word that applies.

II. Timeline

Personal

Planned Activity	Anticipated Timeline	Completed
Daily family devotions	ongoing	
Chronological Bible study subscription from biblegateway.com	July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2018	

Formal

Planned Activity	Anticipated Timeline	Completed
Sunday AM Bible Study at church	Weekly	

Professional

Planned Activity	Anticipated Timeline	Completed
New Testament Theology from MLC	Summer 2017	

III. Year-End Summaries

Year 1

Summary of Activities: I attended Sunday morning Bible class most Sundays except during the basketball season. Practices and games took so much time during the week that I needed Sunday morning time to make sure I was ready for my week's classes. Our family devotion time was often interrupted by school meetings and basketball. Once we got out of a routine, it was hard to get back into it. I was able to follow the BibleGateway Bible study at least three days each week.

Connections to your Ministry and your School's Mission: I am called as a spiritual leader in the school and classroom. Being a spiritual leader requires that I prioritize my spiritual growth and that of my family.

Adjustments and/or Additions: In the second year, I will seek to establish a more regular routine for family devotions.

Next Steps:

- Establish a regular routine for family devotions and encourage my family to keep it even if I am gone at a meeting or basketball practice.
- Continue personal and Sunday morning Bible study routines.

Year 2

Summary of Activities: My family was much more regular in home devotions. If I was unable to be home, my wife kept the devotion time. The kids would fill me in on what I missed the next time we were together for a devotion. Sunday morning and personal Bible study continued much the same as the previous year. Pastor asked me to fill in for a few Sunday Bible studies when he was unavailable. I really enjoyed that.

Connections to your Ministry and you School's Mission: The congregation is seeing me as a spiritual leader in the congregation.

Adjustments and/or Additions: I will continue the routines already established. I am planning to take the course *New Testament Theology* this summer. I'm considering working on a Master of Arts in Theology degree.

Next Steps:

- Sign up for the theology course.
- Continue the regular Bible study.
- Look into what would be required of a Master of Arts in Theology degree.

Year 3: Final Summary

Please include the following elements:

- Summary of how you grew in understanding and applying God's Word
- Examples of how your learning affected your ministry

I have really enjoyed getting into a regular routine with Bible study as a family and personally. I continue to attend Sunday morning Bible study, take time at least three days per week for personal Bible study, and our family has a devotion almost every day. Our devotion has really helped us discuss spiritual topics as a family and pray together for others.

I completed the theology course and really enjoyed it. I'm not ready to commit to a degree program just yet, but I will be adding more courses in my next ministry development plan. I was invited by pastor to turn the topics of my theology class into a Bible study for the congregation. The congregation responded really well to my four-week series. I plan to take *Religions of the Far East* next year and develop a Sunday Bible study series based on what I learn.