

THE VALUE OF GRADING SYSTEMS

- I. GRADING SERVES AS AN EVALUATION TOOL, IDENTIFYING AREAS OF NEED AND GROWTH IN THE LIFE OF THE STUDENT
- II. GRADES HELP TO REFLECT A BALANCED CONCERN, FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE THREE AREAS OF ACADEMICS, FAITHFULNESS IN PARTICIPATION, AND PRACTICAL INVOLVEMENT
- III. IT HELPS YOU TO DETERMINE A FINAL GRADE FOR THE COURSE
- IV. IT HELPS YOU TO IDENTIFY DEFINITIVE STANDARDS FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE COURSE
- V. EXPLANATION OF EACH CATEGORY
 - A. Academics
 - B. Homework/Faithfulness
 - C. Attendance/Discipleship
 - D. Practical Assignments
- VI. GRADE CHART

Now I would like to share a little bit about the grading system . How do you grade a lesson series , and how do you arrive on the final grade for a student in each lesson series or a ? What does grading do for you? It assists you in several different ways:

I. IT HELPS YOU TO DETERMINE A FINAL GRADE FOR THE COURSE

II. IT HELPS YOU TO IDENTIFY STANDARDS FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE COURSE

Through grading you define the standards. Does anybody who sits there for sixteen weeks, or fifteen weeks, automatically finish the whole lesson series ? Do you say, "Well, your body was there, so I guess you must be a good student." This is probably not the best system.

III. GRADES HELP TO REFLECT A BALANCED CONCERN, FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE THREE AREAS OF ACADEMICS, FAITHFULNESS IN PARTICIPATION, AND PRACTICAL INVOLVEMENT

We want to create a balanced type of approach to spiritual growth. Naturally first is academics. You have to discover new mental things on which you can base your thinking. But we do not just want to grade on academics. In many university programs or stationary programs an exam simply reflects how well a student can regurgitate the lectures the professor has given. We do not think that is an accurate measure for a Christian. It is not even accurate for the academics. We are also interested in measuring **character development** and **ministry skills**. Character development is measured by faithfulness in participation.

IV. GRADING SERVES AS AN EVALUATION TOOL, IDENTIFYING AREAS OF NEED AND GROWTH IN THE LIFE OF THE STUDENT

So we look on it as a **tool**, not only good or bad. But if a person should get a low mark, then you know there are some areas for you to discuss with him, so he can grow spiritually and get a better grade the next time.

V. EXPLANATION OF EACH CATEGORY

There are 4 categories that need to be graded

A. Academics:

This basically covers the exams. This is the simplest and not really the most vital.

B. Homework/Faithfulness

This measures the disciple's personal interaction with the lesson material. It covers the actual study by the student of his, workbook, textbook, and the notes the student makes in a notebook. This thus includes all the academic homework that the student does in order to prepare himself for the discussion in the seminar. Is he spending several hours in diligent study? What it really measures is the student's FAITHFULNESS in participation.

The coach usually checks the students' books monthly to see if they are used, properly marked, and filled out as needed.

C. Attendance/Discipleship

This covers his being physically present but also his being mentally prepared and able to participate in the discussions. This measures the discipleship opportunities you have with him. If he is not there, how can you disciple him? How well does he participate in the discussions? Are his contributions valuable to others?

D. Practical Assignments

This includes some written assignments and some field assignments.

This measures the application of the things he is learning. This is crucial! Here is where the student is sharing the things he is learning with others. Here is where others are blessed as a result of his involvement in their lives. As others are blessed he will be thrilled with his spiritual success, his spiritual fruitfulness. This is what you want to measure. This is where the power and the testimonies of the Mentoring ministry lie.



VI. GRADE CHART

Here is a suggested grade chart that measures the overall growth and development of a disciple; student. You will need to divide your page into 6 horizontal categories.

We have the GRADE	Definitions	And the COMMENTS
GRADE 5 Overall excellent performance	Academics Homework/Faithfulness Attendance/Discipleship Practical Assignments	Excellent -- Average of 90% or above on exams Nearly 100% Nearly always Completed 100%
GRADE 4 Overall above average performance	Academics Homework/Faithfulness Attendance/Discipleship Practical Assignments	Good — Average of 80% or above on exams Very Faithful in participation Very Faithful Completed more than 90%
GRADE 3 Overall average performance	Academics Homework/Faithfulness Attendance/Discipleship Practical Assignments	Good — Average of 80% on exams Reasonably Faithful Reasonably Faithful Completed 80%
GRADE 2 Below average performance, but still acceptable as credit	Academics Homework/Faithfulness Attendance/Discipleship Practical Assignments	Minimally Acceptable —Average of 75% Low in participation Minimal oral participation Minimal effort. Completed only a minimum of 75%
For this reason, you definitely do not want a person with a grade of '2' to teach other groups.		
GRADE 1 Not sufficient to receive credit for the lesson series	Academics Homework/Faithfulness Attendance/Discipleship Practical Assignments	Below 75% average on exams Low -- Participation is a major concern. He does not attend seminars — Further participation in other courses is very questionable Below 60% completed
GRADE 0	Incomplete lessons series work not finished in any one of the 4 areas of grading	

You can see how accurate this measures the development of Christian character towards maturity in your students. For further assistance with this see the *Procedures Manual*, or the *Coach's Handbook*, and use the Monthly Study Planner.

May God bless you as you grow spiritual giants!

Blessings to you, our dear friends!