

Stages of Spiritual Growth / Discipleship Development

Spiritually Dead



Ephesians 2:1, "And you were dead in your trespasses and sins in which you previously walked according to this worldly age..."

Symptoms:

- God seems far away
- The Bible makes no sense
- Does not believe the Word or Jesus
- Church seems pointless

Spiritual Needs:

- To understand the Gospel (Jesus' love, death, burial, resurrection, personal sin, repentance, forgiveness)
- Questions answered
- Dispel un-truths (only one God & Savior)
- Basic needs met
- Love and acceptance
- Christian friendship
- See a loving church

Spiritual Infant



I Peter 2:2, "Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—"

Symptoms:

- Does not hunger for God's Word
- Waits for others to feed them spiritually
- Not yet baptized
- Does not feel secure in salvation

Spiritual Needs:

- Assurance of salvation
- Repentance and forgiveness
- Biblical Baptism
- Learn quiet-time habit
- Christian Community (fellowship)
- Consistent accountability & teaching (Discipleship)
- Learn to pray (Oikias map)
- Read the Gospels

Spiritual Child



I John 2:1, "My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate... Jesus Christ—"

Symptoms:

- Knows how to eat spiritually but would rather someone else prepare his food
- Regular times of rebellion
- Does not think much about serving others
- Beginning to understand the Christian walk

Spiritual Needs:

- Daily Quiet Time
- Surrender areas of disobedience
- How to share faith, testimony, give, serve
- Regular Discipleship
- Read Gospels, Acts, Genesis, Psalms

Spiritual Young Adult



"...Urge the younger men to be self-controlled. Show yourself in all respects a model of good works..." Titus 2:6-8

Symptoms:

- Has regular QT, passion for and worships Christ
- Others centered, serves, burdened for lost, missions
- Some insecurity in witness
- Has times of rebellion but quickly returns to Jesus

Spiritual Needs:

- Regular Discipleship
- Opportunities / Mentoring for service, regular witnessing, teaching, missions
- Praying to disciple others
- Encouragement in daily walk, accountability n purity
- Study Gospels, Acts, Pentateuch, Epistles, yearly Bible reading plan, etc

Reproducing Adult



"And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, commit to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." II Timothy 2:2

Symptoms:

- Sold out. Obedient at all cost
- Life, family, occupation, hobbies, finances, relationships are for Christ and others centered
- Reproducing. Disciples others toward spiritual maturity

Spiritual Needs:

- Regular encouragement / Discipleship accountability
- Opportunities to mentor, train, teach, share their experience.
- Deeper study of Gospels, early church, missions, theology, leadership dev.

The Discipleship Meeting

1/3 Personal Care

Model Witnessing by taking them with you!

1. Open with prayer
2. Encouragement and Accountability Question:
 - Where have you seen God at work this week? (Encouragement / Celebrate)
 - How is your relationship with Christ this week? (Encouragement)
 - Are you having your Quiet Time daily? (Encouragement/Accountability)
 - How are your relationships? (Accountability)
 - How is discipleship going with...? (Encouragement)
 - Have you shared your faith with anyone this week? (Accountability)
 - What is the greatest need for you right now? (Encouragement)
 - How can I pray for you? (Encouragement)Other Questions:
 - How is your thought life?
 - How is your dating life/marriage?
 - How is school/work/ministry?
3. Vision Casting
 - Always reminding why we are meeting...
 - Use Scripture
 - T4T Vinettes

2/3 Bible Study

1. Discipleship University 2020-21 (See below)
2. NCH online Bible study series www.nationsofHouston.org or go to www.T4Tonline.org
 - Baptism and Assurance of Salvation (Make a plan for Baptism immediately)
 - Understanding Prayer—Introduce Concordance
 - Daily Devotions, How to Have a Quiet Time
 - The Importance of the Church
 - God is the Heavenly Father (Protection)
 - Spreading the Gospel,
3. Study God's Word—one book at a time.

3/3 Practice

1. Practice ministry skills until they are demonstrated — *skills are not successfully learned until they are reproduced!*
 - Personal testimony
 - Witnessing (Roman Road)
 - Discipling others
2. Set goals and pray.
 - Having Quiet Time daily
 - Working on a specific skill
 - Who are you praying for?
 - Who will you share the gospel with this week?
 - When is our next discipleship time?
 - Go out witnessing together. Do ministry together.

Training Topics:

- Written Testimony (2 minutes / 5 minutes)
- Witnessing using Roman Road, other
- How to have a Quiet-time
- How to read the Bible (where to start, the Bible)
- Journaling
- Praying
- Discovering Spiritual Gifts for service

Bible Study Topics:

- Assurance of Salvation
- Baptism
- What is the Gospel?

Spiritual Breathing: Repentance & Forgiveness

- Tithing / Giving / Stewardship
- Serving others
- The Church: Why belong?
- Life Mission: The Great Commission
- Purity
- Marriage / Singleness
- Spiritual Warfare
- Discipling others

Recommended Study Tools:

- Use the Bible Study Questions below
- Gospels, Acts, Romans, Epistles, Genesis, Exodus, Psalms, Pvs. etc.

DISCIPLESHIP UNIVERSITY 2020-21

1. James: Faith/Works Study by Matt Chandler
2. How to Read the Bible for all It's Worth by Gordon Fee
3. The Gospel of Luke

Bible Study Question:

1. Who are the Characters?
2. What does the passage imply about the Characters? (pick one Character at a time)
3. What does this imply about God?
4. What does this passage imply for our lives?
5. What does this imply about discipleship?