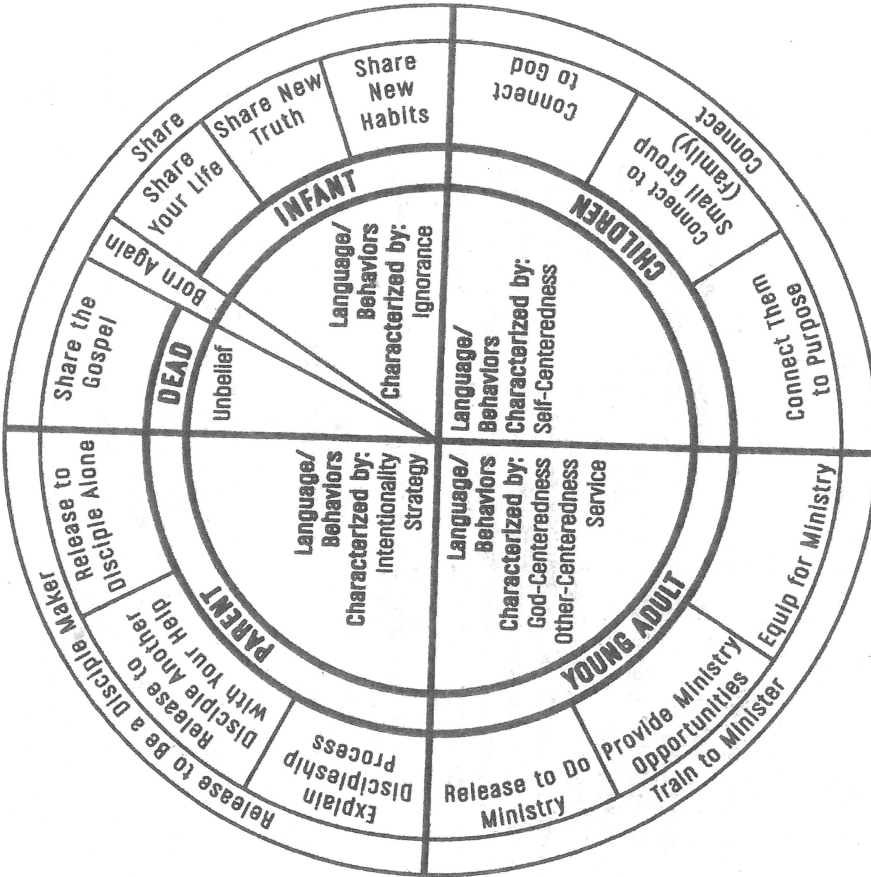


The Five Stages of Discipleship

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Level 1: Spiritually Dead, Eph 2:1-5

Characterized by	Unbelief, no life of Jesus within. May reject God, may be seeking God, may call themselves spiritual, may even claim to know God or call themselves Christian, but there is no true fruit in their lives. They may claim to know Jesus, but they do not have the Holy Spirit living in them. Our expectations should be set accordingly.
Phrases from the stage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I Don't believe there's a God, hell, Bible Religion is a crutch for the weak. Christians are just intolerant and homophobic people There are many ways a person can get to God I've been a good person. I'll take my chances with the big guy

Level 4: Spiritual Young Adult, 1 John 2:13-14—Cont.

Phrases from the stage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In my devotions, I came across something I have a question about. I really want to go to Uganda on a mission trip this summer. I know I'm ready for it. God has big plans for my life I just love being a worship leader. I think God has gifted me in it. I have 3 friends I am witnessing to. Would you pray for them? Look at how many are at church today—it's awesome! I need to start parking farther away to make it easier.
Needs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A place where they can learn how to serve. A spiritual mentor to coach and debrief on ministry experiences. Deep, ongoing relationships for encouragement and accountability Help establishing boundaries Guidance in responding to expectations of people they serve

Approach: Train to Minister

Level 5: Spiritual Parent, 2 Tim 2:1-2

Characterized by	Reliable disciples who have grown and matured to the point of where they are now qualified to teach others. Has a solid understanding of God's word, a deep, abiding relationship with God, and a desire to be involved in raising up other disciples. Live out God's Word in daily lives. Kingdom-centered and God-dependent. Not perfect. Intentional about building relationship with Jesus and relationship with someone to make a disciple. Feed themselves and others with God's Word. Know how to determine where someone is on spiritual journey. Understand ongoing need for spiritual family, even despite church's imperfections. Keep learning and training to spiritually parent.
Phrases from the stage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I think God's leading me to invest in Bill and help him mature in his faith I want to help this guy at work. He asked me to explain the Bible to him. Pray for me as I spend time in the Word with him. We get to baptize someone from our small group! I need to get him plugged in so he can grow. I want to be conscious of the influence of my words and actions at the game this week. I need to be consistent. I have a spiritual child in my small group who is causing conflicts. Pray that I will have patience as I lead them through this tough stage. I have a young adult who is ready to be an apprentice in our group. It won't be long until we can branch another group
Needs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Close peer relationships with other spiritual parents who are involved in making disciples, for encouragement. Peer accountability and ongoing training to hone skills Learning how to delegate responsibility To be celebrated and honored

Approach: Release to Make Disciples!

Level 3: Spiritual Child, 1 Thess2:10-12

Characterized by Are continuing to grow in their relationship with God and they are beginning to grow in their relationships with other Christians. They have learned enough of the Christian "language" to be able to converse with other believers. They are beginning to apply God's Word to their lives and walking with other growing disciples, but much of their spiritual life revolves around them—their needs, their desires, their interests. Still quite self-centered, not yet oriented to the focus on others that marks people who are living in maturity in God's kingdom and family. It is not the amount of time passed that marks the difference, it is what has happened or not happened during the time. Can be dogmatic, seeing the world in rigid, black-and-white terms, even things that are not black and white. Can be overconfident, prideful, full of self, insecure, timid, shy, self-loathing, defeated. May connect to church family, but church revolves around themselves. May serve at church, but because it is expected or benefits themselves through affirmation and approval or it is rewarding.

- Phrases from the stage**
- I don't know if this church is meeting my needs anymore. Maybe I should go to a different church that does better.
 - Don't branch my small group into two. We won't get to be with our friends
 - Why do we have to learn new songs? I didn't like the music today.
 - No one ever says hi to me at church or calls to check on me.
 - I wasn't fed by that sermon today
 - My small group is not taking care of my needs like they should.
 - Why don't they have a ministry to singles? They must not care.
 - I would join the worship team, but no one's ever asked me.
 - I was helping in children's ministry but they didn't appreciate me.
- Needs**
1. Primarily, a strong relational connection to a mature believer so they can make the transition to a more God—and kingdom-focused life.
 2. Teaching about who they are in Christ, how to have close friendships with other believers, and what to expect from other believers
 3. Learn to trust God in obedience, doing what the Word says rather than what their feelings tell them

Approach: Connect to Christ, Church, Community, Cause

Level 4: Spiritual Young Adult, 1 John 2:13-14

Characterized by Making a shift from being self-centered to being God—and other-centered. Beginning to reorient their lives around God's Word and his people and mission. Starting to understand God has called them to give to the body of Christ, rather than simply take. They are involved in ministering to others, putting their needs first, and being doers of the Word, all for the right reasons. Serve God with zeal, energy and joy provided by the Spirit. Understand God has created them for a purpose. Priorities have changed. Look for places to serve. Growing less judgmental and find it easier to overlook others' faults. Learning to be faithful, even when lacking desire, fitting their skills and passions in God's kingdom purposes.

Level 1: Spiritually Dead, Eph 2:1-5—Cont.

- Phrases from the stage**
- There is no absolute right or wrong. Something right for you may not be right for me.
 - I am spiritual, but I don't connect with any one religion
- Needs**
1. love through honest friendships with believers
 2. To be introduced to Jesus and see Gospel lived out
 3. Answers to their questions about Bible, God
 4. A clear explanation of the gospel
 5. An invitation to trust and follow Jesus
 6. A Believer's love and prayer

Pre-conversion discipleship
Approach: Share

Level 2: Spiritual Infant, 1 Peter 2:2-3

Characterized by Spiritually alive, have made a decision to follow Jesus, that's about it. Can be brand new believers, but may include longtime "Christians" who have remained stagnant in their faith. Lack knowledge about what Jesus taught. Not unintelligent, simply uninformed and in need of truth. Often the product of the culture they live in. Holy Spirit is working in them, there is a receptivity to what the Word says. May have gotten mixed up with the philosophies of the world and combined them with Scripture in a hybrid that works for them (or thinks so.) Their lives are generally all about them and what they think works to fulfill their perceived needs. Trained by the world to consume, they often look to their church as a service that will cater to their needs. They are messy and need a lot of care and attention and time to mature.

- Phrases from the stage**
- I've never heard of needing to go to church, read Bible, or pray regularly. How do I do that?
 - I didn't know the Bible says that.
 - I need someone to regularly care for me
 - I always connected to God in nature. Being outdoors is my church.
 - I don't need anyone else. Just me and Jesus
 - I know Jesus is God, but isn't karma real too?
 - Tithing? What's that?
 - Trinity? Huh? Now you've got me confused
- Needs**
1. Someone to care for and feed them so they can grow and thrive.
 2. Personal attention of a spiritual parent
 3. Protection, guidance through Satan's deceptions
 4. The truths of true Christian faith taught and modeled
 5. New habits to form patterns for living as a follower of Christ.

Approach: Share