

# DISCIPLING



helping one another follow Jesus

# Discipling

## Matthew 28:18-20

- Disciples make other disciples – “go and make...”
- Learning Jesus is a process – “everything I’ve commanded you.”



# Stages of Growth

Two things to keep in mind:

- These stages are real, but not rigid.
- These stages don't correlate to physical age or to how long someone has been a Christian.

# Stage 1: Spiritually dead/unborn

Ephesians 2:1-4

Possible characteristics:

- not believing in God
- unaware of the Bible's teachings
- worldview formed by culture

# Stage 1: Spiritually dead/unborn

Needs: *“Come and see”*

- Secure relationship with a mature Christian
- To see Jesus lived out in the life of someone they trust/respect. ENGAGE.
- Answers to questions/objections
- Explanation of the Gospel. EVANGELIZE.

# Stage 2: Infant

John 3:3

Possible characteristics:

- “Sponges:” everything is new and fresh
- Learning foundational truths
- Mixing the Bible with other worldviews
- Dependent on others to teach & model

## Stage 2: Infant

Needs: *“Follow me”*

- Individual attention from a spiritual parent
- Explanation of new truths from the Bible
- Modeling of what the Christian life looks like in action

# Stage 3: Child

1 Thessalonians 2:11-12

Possible characteristics:

- Excitement about spiritual growth
- Focus tends to be on what / am learning and how / am growing
- New knowledge can produce unrealistic expectations or black-and-white views



# Stage 3: Child

Needs: *“Come and die”*

- Spiritual family
- Learn to self-feed spiritually
- Discover my identity in Christ
- Learn how God’s family works

# Stage 4: Young adult

1 John 2:12-13

Possible characteristics:

- Vision beyond themselves
- Eager to serve, often not strategic about developing others
- Can have rigid expectations of others

# Stage 4: Young adult

Needs: *“Multiply”*

- A place to serve, and a spiritual parent to de-brief with
- Ongoing relationships for encouragement, expectations, input
- Training on how to intentionally make disciples of others

# Stage 5: Parent

Matthew 28:19

Possible characteristics:

- Interest in where people are at with Jesus
- A “coaching” mindset
- Can bring the Bible to bear on peoples’ needs and issues

# Stage 5: Parent

Needs:

- Ongoing relationships with co-laborers
- Encouragement
- A church family they can be on-mission with

# Conversation Questions

Where are you in the process of spiritual development?

What would help you move further down that path?

