

Series: Discipleshift

Sermon: Part 2: From Reaching To Making (Shift 1)

Date: Sunday, February 18th, 2024

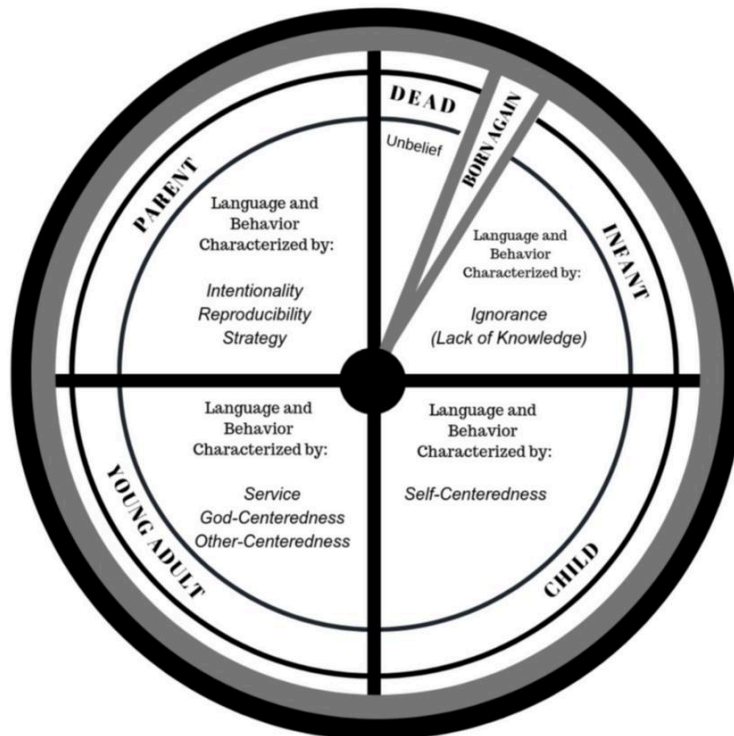
Physical maturity does not equate to _____ maturity.

“Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of people.” (Matthew 4:19 NASB)

Biblical Discipleship:

- a. Actively following Jesus and being transformed by Him
- b. Actively following Jesus with others and being transformed by Him in community
- c. Actively helping others to follow Jesus so they can be transformed by Him

5 Stages of Spiritual Growth and Maturity:



Stage 1: Spiritually Dead

The word that describes this stage best is _____.

Common Phrases From This Stage:

- "I don't believe there is a God."
- "The Bible cannot be trusted and is full of myths."
- "Evolution and science explain away a need for God."
- "Christians are hypocritical and are responsible for all the problems and wars in history - why would I be a part of that?"
- "There are many ways to get to God and not just one way."
- "As long as I'm a good person, God will forgive me and accept me."
- "When I die, I will just end up in the ground."
- "If there is a Hell, I'd rather be there and party with my friends."

Yet to all who did receive Him [Jesus], to those who believed in His Name, He gave the right to become children of God... (John 1:12)

The Needs of Someone Who is Spiritually Dead:

- a. A secure relationship with a more mature believer
- b. A person who can emulate what it means to follow Jesus in front of them
- c. A person who can give legitimate answers to their questions about life and God
- d. A person who can explain the Gospel message to them and give them an invitation to receive Christ for themselves
- e. A person who will show love and speak truth into their lives

Stage 2: Spiritual Infant

The words that describe this stage best are _____ and lack of knowledge.

Common Phrases From This Stage:

- "Why do I need to go to church on a regular basis?"
- "I really don't have time for God right now because I am too busy with..."
- "I've been hurt by people, so I would rather it just be me and God."
- "If I pray and read my Bible, will I be good enough?"
- "I don't really have time for church."
- "I'm a good person, certainly better than some others I know."
- "I don't need to serve, that is someone else's job."

Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the Gospel of God but our lives as well. (1 Thessalonians 2:7-8)

The Needs of a Spiritual Infant:

- a. A lot of Biblical content in order to grow
- b. To learn how to pray, read, study and apply God's Word to their life and situations
- c. A place to ask questions and get legitimate answers as they are growing in their faith
- d. Mentors to model what following Jesus is like so they can emulate what they see with the decisions they make
- e. Help to understand why serving and giving of their time and resources matter for the benefit of others and in growing the Kingdom of God

Stage 3: Spiritual Child

You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into His Kingdom and glory. (1 Thessalonians 2:10-12)

The word that describes this stage best is _____.

Common Phrases From This Stage:

- "Don't split my life group into two groups! I want to stay with all my friends."
- "This church is getting too big - who are all these new people coming in?"
- "I didn't like the worship music today, why can't they just play..."
- "This church isn't giving me what I want; I'm going to go to a church that meets my needs."
- "That sermon today, it didn't make me feel good, I didn't like it."
- "I was serving but no one appreciated me so I quit."
- "I don't like the fact that there are other people in my Life Group who aren't at the same spiritual level as me."

The Needs of a Spiritual Child:

- a. A relational connection to a church family who can walk with them
- b. Help to start feeding themselves spiritually
- c. Teaching about who they are in Christ and how to have a growing relationship with Him
- d. Modeling of how to be in healthy relationship with other believers

Stage 4: Spiritual Young Adult

The words that describe this stage best are service, _____, and others centeredness.

Common Phrases From This Stage:

- *"I love my life group, but there are others who need a group like this so I'm willing to help lead a group so others can join in."*
- *"I came across something in the Bible during my time with God this morning that I don't understand. I am going to get an answer for this."*
- *"Look at how many people are in church today - I had to park a block away! This is awesome!"*
- *"I noticed we don't have this certain ministry at our church. I am going to help get it started."*
- *"A family in our life group is all sick this week; I will take them a meal and get others to do so, too."*
- *"I have been sharing my faith with my non-Christian friend. I cannot wait for them to come to church and meet my friends and community."*

The Needs of a Spiritual Young Adult:

- a. A place to learn how to serve like Jesus
- b. A spiritual parent who will frequently meet with them and debrief experiences with them
- c. Ongoing relationships that offer encouragement and accountability
- d. Help with identifying their spiritual gifts so they can more effectively serve others

Stage 5: Spiritual Parent

The words that describe this stage best are intentionality, _____, and strategy.

Common Phrases From This Stage:

- *"A coworker asked me questions about God. Please pray for me as I talk with her."*
- *"A person in my life group was baptized this weekend. I am going to invest in coming alongside him so he can grow in his faith."*
- *"I know discipleship starts at home, will you hold me accountable to spend time discipling my kids?"*
- *"Do I have any blind spots that I need to know about that I can address so I can have better relationships with others?"*
- *"There is a spiritual child in my life group that is causing conflict and bringing drama. Please pray that I can have patience to lead them through this difficult stage."*

"I am writing this not to shame you but to warn you as my dear children. Even if you had ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the Gospel." (1 Corinthians 4:14-15)

The Needs of a Spiritual Parent:

- a. Ongoing peer relationships with other spiritual parents
- b. Peer accountability. Continued avenues to learn and train
- d. Learning how to delegate responsibilities so they can rest and avoid getting burned out
- e. Encouragement that what they are doing matters now and for eternity

Our Spiritual Maturity Directly Impacts:

1. Our relationships within the family of God, the church
2. Our relationships at home
3. Our relationship with the world

Bottom Line: *Our goal in following Jesus is to be transformed into full maturity in Christ.*

Questions to reflect on this week or with others:

1. *Honestly, what spiritual stage are you currently in? What evidence would give light to that?*
2. *Do you have a desire to mature? What would that require of you and what shifts would need to be made on your part?*
3. *If you were to evaluate if your faith has any influence over your relationships with the family of God, your relationships at home, and your relationships with the world, what would you say? Is God influencing such relationships or is He nowhere to be found?*
4. *What is at stake if you stay in the current spiritual stage you are in? How will you be affected and how will it affect those around you?*

Songs used in service: Good Good Father (Chris Tomlin), It Is Well With My Soul (Horatio Spafford), The Jesus Way (Phil Wickham), Build My Life (Pat Barrett)

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Any prayer requests?

Name _____ **Date:** _____ **Email:** _____

What can we be praying for you about?