

9. Making Disciples Stage by Stage

Main message: Let us disciple others from new birth to spiritual adulthood.

Recap from session 8: Last time we discussed reaping a harvest. How do you feel about the possibility of serving with another Christian to lead someone to Christ?

You may want to mention the value of inviting others to eat together or the Christmas Café or helping at the Street Café.

Video: Watch the video of how Mairi is motivated by compassion to make disciples. You can find the direct link on our YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8vOtak0E2QA&list=PLhAYaDlJmBTN8rOTCYBzdGRg2_zS_ybK5X&index=5

Opening question: Can you think of someone who invested time to help you grow?

People grow by stages and we need to help them on to the next stage. *Remind the group of the main message of this discussion.*

Scripture: Read **John 1:35-46**. "Birth" stage.

Question: How do Andrew and Philip help others in their initial stage of Christian experience?

- *They sought them out and invited them to consider Jesus. They said to Peter and Nathanael, "Come and see" (v.39, 46).*
 - *People are more likely to enter the Christian life when they've been invited to encounter Jesus for themselves.*
 - *Our Path of Disciples (POD) covers various stages of Christian experience. POD 1 covers this foundational stage. <https://pathofdisciples.org/>*
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Scripture: Read **1 Corinthians 3:1-5**. "Leaving-behind-dirty-nappies" stage.

Question: Based on this passage, what teaching would you give to a spiritual infant?

- *We teach about the new life in the Spirit, as we consider that the old life of "the flesh", (i.e., giving way to our sinful desires) is over.*
- *We help people to walk in dependence on God through spiritual disciplines e.g. worship, prayer, the Word, fellowship.*
- *We encourage them to look directly to God for their growth, not expecting you or others to bring about their growth.*
- *POD 2 covers this stage.*

Scripture: Read **Mark 8:34-38**. "Becoming-an-adult" stage ... to be like Christ in his death.

Question: Christ has been with his disciples for two or three years. How would you sum up his call to them (and to the crowd!) in your own words?

- *POD 3 covers this stage.*

Question: What do you think might hinder us from speaking like this to someone we are discipling?

- *Perhaps we are unwilling to follow Christ in this way ourselves. To remain a spiritual infant may feel more convenient.*
- *Perhaps we are concerned that the other person may not be willing or ready to hear the need to give their life for Christ and his Gospel.*
- *We can be inclined to avoid critical conversations, due to fear.*
- *We may think that it is someone else's role to call people to be like Christ in his death.*

Prayer in small group: Read **2 Timothy 2:2** and pray that you might be reliable and faithful in nurturing others to spiritual adulthood.

Great Commission challenge: Pray the Lord shows you someone you can disciple **or** for the person(s) you are currently discipling that they might move on to the next stage.

Leader, you may want to remind the group of this activity during the week!

In our final discussion (#10) we will look further at how to disciple others in practice.