

## 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](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/>*
- 

**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.