

# A Pathway to Spiritual Growth / Discipleship Development

## Spiritually Dead



Bridge: New Birth

Ephesians 2:1, "And you were dead in your trespasses and sins in which you previously walked according to this worldly age..."

### Symptoms:

- God seems far away
- The Bible makes no sense
- Does not believe the Bible or Jesus
- Church seems pointless

### Spiritual Needs:

- To understand the Gospel (Jesus' love, death, burial, resurrection, personal sin, repentance, forgiveness)
- Questions answered
- Dispel un-truths (only one God & Savior)
- Basic needs met
- Love and acceptance
- Christian friendship
- See a loving church

The Invitation to Discipleship: Matthew 28:16-20, Mark 1:16-20

## Spiritual Infant



1 Peter 2:2, "Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—"

### Symptoms:

- Does not hunger for God's Word
- Waits for others to feed them spiritually
- Not yet baptized
- Does not feel secure in salvation

### Spiritual Needs:

- Assurance of salvation
- Learn spiritual breathing: repentance and forgiveness
- Biblical Baptism
- Learn quiet-time habit
- Christian Community (join fellowship)
- Consistent accountability & teaching (discipleship rel.)
- Read the Gospels

## Spiritual Child



1 John 2:1, "My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate... Jesus Christ—"

### Symptoms:

- Knows how to eat spiritually but would rather someone else prepare his food
- Regular times of rebellion
- Does not think much about serving others
- Beginning to understand the Christian walk
- Unfaithful to local church

### Spiritual Needs:

- Daily Quiet Time
- Surrender areas of disobedience
- How to share faith, testimony, give, serve
- Discipleship accountability
- Read Gospels, Acts, Genesis, Psalms

## Spiritual Young Adult



"...Urge the younger men to be self-controlled. Show yourself in all respects a model of good works..." Titus 2:6-8

### Symptoms:

- Has regular QT, passion for and worships Christ
- Others centered, serves, burdened for lost, missions
- Some insecurity in witness
- Has times of rebellion but quickly returns to Jesus
- Looks to serve in local body

### Spiritual Needs:

- Regular discipleship
- Opportunities / Mentoring for service, regular witnessing, teaching, missions
- Praying to disciple others
- Encouragement in daily walk, accountability n purity
- Study Gospels, Acts, Pentateuch, Epistles, yearly Bible reading plan, etc.

## Reproducing Adult



"And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, commit to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." II Timothy 2:2

### Symptoms:

- Sold out. Obedient at all cost
- Life, family, occupation, hobbies, finances, relationships are for Christ and others centered
- Disciples others toward spiritual maturity with vision for them to disciple others
- Serves faithfully in local church

### Spiritual Needs:

- Regular encouragement / Discipleship accountability
- Opportunities to mentor, train, teach, share their experience.
- Deeper study of Gospels, early church, missions, theology, leadership dev.

# Model Witnessing by taking them with you!

## The 3-Thirds Discipleship Meeting

### 1/3 Personal Care

1. Open with prayer
  2. Encouragement and Accountability Question:
    - Where have you seen God at work this week? (Encouragement / Celebrate)
    - How is your relationship with Christ this week? (Encouragement)
    - Are you having your Quiet Time daily? (Encouragement/Accountability)
    - How are your relationships? (Accountability)
    - How is discipleship going with...? (Encouragement)
    - Have you shared your faith with anyone this week? (Accountability)
    - What is the greatest need for you right now? (Encouragement)
    - How can I (we) pray for you? (Encouragement)
    - Are you being faithful to our local church?
- Other Questions:
- How is your thought life? How is your dating life/marriage?
  - How is school/work/ministry?
3. Vision Casting
    - Always reminding why we are meeting...
    - Use Scripture

2/3

### Bible Study

1. Use Discovery Bible Study, or Dig Deep Discovery Journal, etc.  
Bible Study plans available at: [www.NationsChurchHouston.org](http://www.NationsChurchHouston.org)

Topics includes:

- Baptism and Assurance of Salvation (**Make a plan for Baptism immediately**)
- Understanding Prayer—Introduce Concordance
- Daily Devotions, How to Have a Quiet Time
- The Importance of the Church
- The First Discipleship Book—Matthew chapters 5-7, The Sermon on the Mount.
- Study God's Word—one book, one chapter at a time. Use the Bible Study questions below.

### 3/3 Practice Ministry Skills

1. Practice ministry skills until they are demonstrated — *skills are not successfully learned until they are reproduced!*
  - Personal testimony
  - Witnessing (EDQ—Evangelism Diagnostic Questions, 3 Circles, Romans Road, etc.)
  - Teach how to use: Bible Study questions, How to lead others in Bible study, Stages of Spiritual Growth.
2. Set goals and pray.
  - Having Quiet Time daily
  - Working on a specific skill
  - Who are you praying for?
  - Who will you share the gospel with this week?
  - When is our next discipleship meeting?
  - Go out witnessing together. Do ministry together.

Training Topics:

- Written Testimony (2 minutes / 5 minutes)
- Witnessing using EDQ, 3 Circles, etc.
- How to have a Quiet-time
- How to read the Bible (where to start)
- Journaling
- Praying
- Discovering Spiritual Gifts for service

Bible Study Topics:

- Assurance of Salvation

**Evangelistic Bible Study Plan:**

- Week 1: John 1:1-5, 1:10-18 “Who is Jesus?”
- Week 2: John 3:1-21 “Born Again”
- Week 3: John 6:1-20, 6:28-40 “Jesus is the Bread of Life”
- Week 4: John 12:44-50, 15:1-8 “Jesus is God, We are the Branches”
- Week 5: Ephesians 2:8-10, Revelation 3:20 “Saved by Faith”

Bible Study Question:

1. Who are the Characters?
2. What does the passage imply about the Characters? (pick one Character at a time)
3. What does this imply about God?
4. What does this passage imply for our lives?
5. What does this passage imply about discipleship?

For additional Discipleship tools go to:  
[NationsChurchHouston.org](http://NationsChurchHouston.org) (click on Discipleship)