

Understanding & Establishing
**The Pathway to
Discipleship**

*Following Jesus' Example of Multiplying
Disciples & Leaders for Ministry*

Prepared by:
Disciplemaking Committee
Southern District
of the C&MA



Important to Understand:

- ❖ There are 'Stages' in the spiritual growth of a Disciple of Jesus.
- ❖ These are similar to the stages of growth we all go through as we move from Infancy through Adolescence; then on toward Adulthood; and finally to Parent-hood & Grand-Parent-hood.
- ❖ In order to effectively make, mature and multiply Disciples, we need to understand the growth process and develop a plan by which we can help move them along the path to Christian maturity & multiplication.

- *What follows is a suggested approach to discipling -*



Spiritual Infant

Biblical References

(1 Peter 1:23)

(1 Peter 2:2-3)

(Hebrews 5:11-6:3)

(1 Corinthians 3:1-3)

New disciple

New life in Jesus

Has to be fed

Needs to grow

Reproduction limited

Key Areas of Maturity

❖ Life In Christ	Alive in Christ
❖ Spiritual Diet	Milk / Needs to be Fed
❖ Devotional Life	Learning Importance & Place of
❖ Biblical Knowledge	Limited & Elementary
❖ Spiritual Discernment	Limited
❖ Godly Wisdom	Needs Godly Understanding
❖ Place of Holy Spirit	Indwelt by
❖ Fruit of the Spirit	Budding
❖ Spiritual Gifts	Given
❖ Character	Shaped by World more than Christ
❖ Sanctity / Purity	Initial Changes in Behavior
❖ Love	Beginning Love for God & People
❖ Place of Self	Self Is Central / Initially Denied
❖ Place of Others	Others Recognized
❖ Service	Desires to Serve
❖ Sense of Mission	Learning about the Mission
❖ Personal Witness	Shares Personal Testimony
❖ Kingdom Focus	Living for God's Kingdom Desired
❖ Use of Resources	Some for God / Most for Self



Spiritual Adolescent

Biblical References

(1 John 2:12-14)
(2 Timothy 2:22)
(1 Timothy 4:12)

Growing disciple

Deepening life in Jesus
Learning to feed self
Needs to be trained
Reproduction emerging

Key Areas of Maturity

❖ Life In Christ	Growing & Maturing in Christ
❖ Spiritual Diet	Semi-Solid / Learning to Feed Self
❖ Devotional Life	Growing in Consistency & Content
❖ Biblical Knowledge	Growing Familiarity & Application
❖ Spiritual Discernment	Growing in Clarity
❖ Godly Wisdom	Godly Understanding Developing
❖ Place of Holy Spirit	Increasingly Influenced by
❖ Fruit of the Spirit	Beginning to Bear Fruit
❖ Spiritual Gifts	Discovered
❖ Character	Growing 'Christ-like-ness'
❖ Sanctity / Purity	Deepening 'interior' Changes
❖ Love	Growing Love for God & People
❖ Place of Self	Self Important/Increasingly Denied
❖ Place of Others	Others Considered
❖ Service	Learns to Serve
❖ Sense of Mission	Finding One's Place in the Mission
❖ Personal Witness	Able to Articulate & Share Gospel
❖ Kingdom Focus	Living for Kingdom Important
❖ Use of Resources	Most for God / Some for Self



Spiritual Adult

Biblical References	Ministering disciple
(1 Corinthians 13:11)	Jesus' life lived in us
(Ephesians 4:13-16)	Able to feed self & others
(Hebrews 5:11-6:13)	Needs to minister
	Reproduction possible

Key Areas of Maturity

❖ Life In Christ	Mature & Ministering in Christ
❖ Spiritual Diet	Solid Food / Feeds Self
❖ Devotional Life	Habitual & Defining
❖ Biblical Knowledge	Biblically Literate
❖ Spiritual Discernment	Clear & Incisive / Sees Real Issues
❖ Godly Wisdom	Godly Insight & Counsel Evident
❖ Place of Holy Spirit	Increasingly Filled with
❖ Fruit of the Spirit	Bearing Fruit
❖ Spiritual Gifts	Confirmed & Utilized
❖ Character	Evident 'Christ-like-ness'
❖ Sanctity / Purity	Change in Thought, Motive & Desire
❖ Love	Established Love for God & People
❖ Place of Self	Self Is Peripheral / Regularly Denied
❖ Place of Others	Others Important
❖ Service	Heart of a Servant
❖ Sense of Mission	Taking One's Place in the Mission
❖ Personal Witness	'Owns' & Shares Gospel Message
❖ Kingdom Focus	Living for God's Kingdom Central
❖ Use of Resources	All Belongs to God & His Purposes



Spiritual Parent

Biblical References

(1 Cor. 4:15-16)
(Philippians 2:19-22)
(1 Timothy 1:2)
(3 John 4)

Reproducing disciple

Jesus' life lived thru us
Feeds self & others
Needs to multiply
Reproduction realized

Key Areas of Maturity

❖ Life In Christ	Mature & Multiplying in Christ
❖ Spiritual Diet	Solid Food / Feeds Self & Others
❖ Devotional Life	Habitual & Defining
❖ Biblical Knowledge	Biblically Literate & Competent
❖ Spiritual Discernment	Helps Others See the Real Issues
❖ Godly Wisdom	Godly Counsel Given to Others
❖ Place of Holy Spirit	Filled with to Overflowing
❖ Fruit of the Spirit	Bearing More Fruit
❖ Spiritual Gifts	Utilized Effectively
❖ Character	Obvious 'Christ-like-ness'
❖ Sanctity / Purity	Ongoing 'Heart-Level' Changes
❖ Love	Lifestyle of Love for God & People
❖ Place of Self	Self Is Last / Daily Denied
❖ Place of Others	Others Primary
❖ Service	Lifestyle of 'Servant-hood'
❖ Sense of Mission	Living Focused on the Mission
❖ Personal Witness	Lifestyle of Sharing Gospel
❖ Kingdom Focus	Living for God's Kingdom Primary
❖ Use of Resources	All God's / Used for Him & Others



Spiritual Leader

Biblical References

(Ephesians 4:11-13)
(Acts 11:25-26 / 13:1-3)
(2 Timothy 2:1-2)
(Titus 1:5)

Multiplying disciple

Jesus' life lived thru us
Feeds feeders of others
Needs to mentor
Reproduction ongoing

Key Areas of Maturity

❖ Life In Christ	Multiplies/Matures Others in Christ
❖ Spiritual Diet	Solid Food/Feeds Feeders of Others
❖ Devotional Life	Habitual & Defining
❖ Biblical Knowledge	Model Biblical Literacy/Competence
❖ Spiritual Discernment	Teaches How to See the Real Issues
❖ Godly Wisdom	Godly Counsel Sought by Others
❖ Place of Holy Spirit	Filled with & Overflowing to Others
❖ Fruit of the Spirit	Bearing Much Fruit
❖ Spiritual Gifts	Utilized Fully
❖ Character	Models 'Christ-like-ness'
❖ Sanctity / Purity	Ongoing / Helps out of Experience
❖ Love	Teaches/Models Loving God/People
❖ Place of Self	Self is Last / Daily Denied
❖ Place of Others	Others Foremost
❖ Service	Teaches/Models Servant Leadership
❖ Sense of Mission	Leading Others in the Mission
❖ Personal Witness	Teaches Others to Share Gospel
❖ Kingdom Focus	Living for Kingdom Exemplified
❖ Use of Resources	All God's / Used for Him & Others

THE GROWTH STAGES OF A DISCIPLE

KEY AREAS OF MATURITY



Spiritual Infant

New disciple
New life in Jesus
Has to be fed
Needs to grow
Reproduction limited

(1 Peter 1:23 / 2:2-3) (Heb. 5:11-6:13)
(1 Corinthians 3:1-3)



Spiritual Youth

Growing disciple
Deepening life in Jesus
Learning to feed self
Needs to be trained
Reproduction emerging

(1 John 2:12-14) (2 Timothy 2:22)
(1 Timothy 4:12)



Spiritual Adult

Ministering disciple
Jesus' life lived in us
Able to feed self & others
Needs to minister
Reproduction possible

(1 Corinthians 13:11) (Ephesians 4:13-16)
(Hebrews 5:11-6:13)



Spiritual Parent

Reproducing disciple
Jesus' life lived thru us
Feeds self & others
Needs to multiply
Reproduction realized

(Philippians 2:19-22) (1 Timothy 1:2)
(1 Corinthians 4:15-16) (3 John 4)



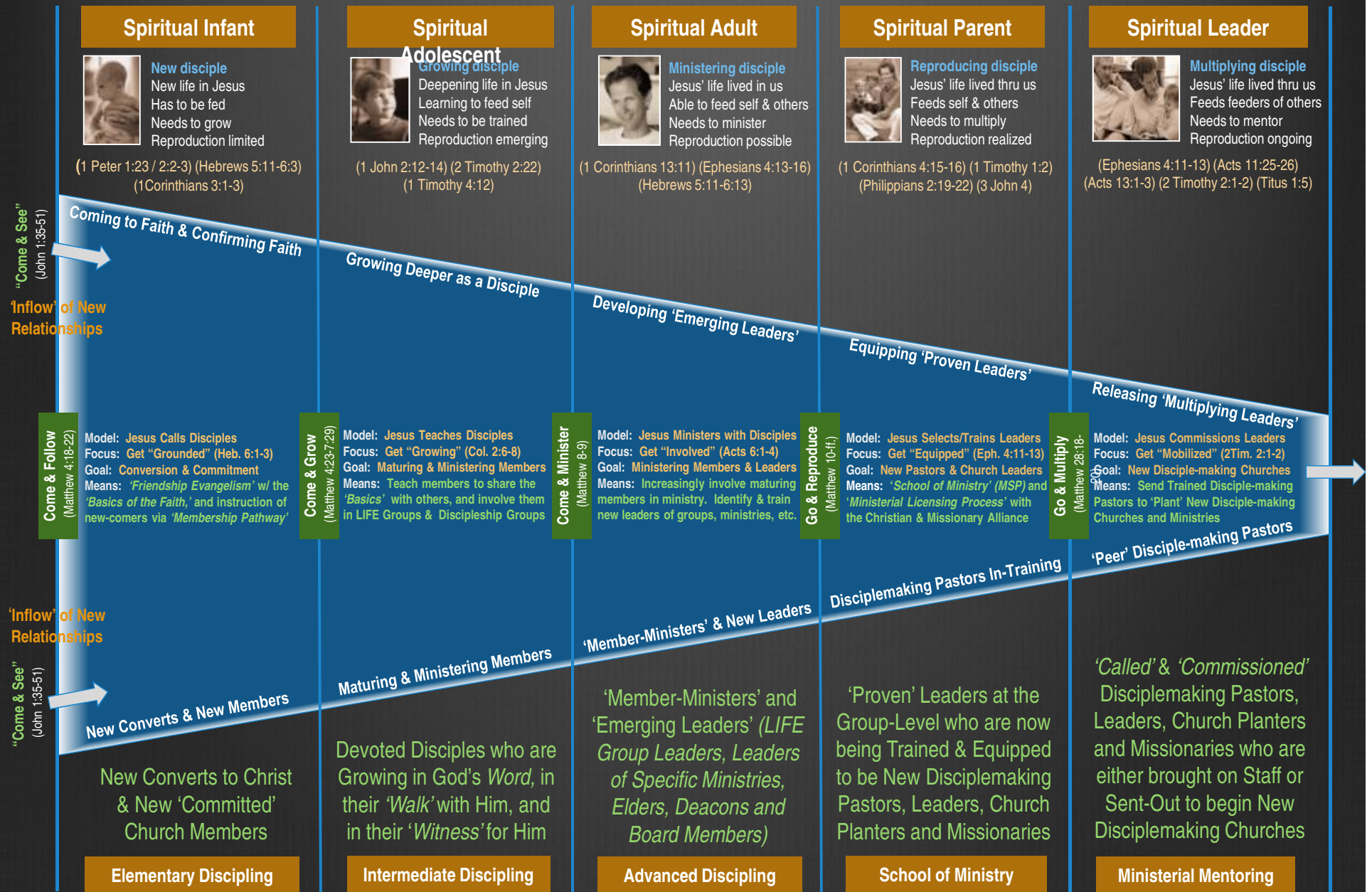
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(Acts 13:1-3) (2 Timothy 2:1-2) (Titus 1:5)

Life In Christ	Alive in Christ	Growing & Maturing in Christ	Mature & Ministering in Christ	Mature & Multiplying in Christ	Multiplying & Maturing Others in Christ
Spiritual Diet	Milk / Needs to be Fed	Semi-Solid / Learning to Feed Self	Solid Food / Feeds Self	Solid Food / Feeds Self & Others	Solid Food / Feeds Feeders of Others
Devotional Life	Learning Importance & Place of	Growing in Consistency & Content	Habitual & Defining	Habitual & Defining	Habitual & Defining
Biblical Knowledge	Limited & Elementary	Growing Familiarity & Application	Biblically Literate	Biblically Literate & Competent	Models Biblical Literacy & Competence
Spiritual Discernment	Limited	Growing in Clarity	Clear & Incisive / Sees the Real Issues	Helps Others See the Real Issues	Teaches How to See the Real Issues
Godly Wisdom	Needs Godly Insight & Understanding	Godly Understanding Developing	Godly Insight & Counsel Evident	Godly Counsel Given to Others	Godly Counsel Sought by Others
Place of Holy Spirit	Indwelt by	Increasingly Influenced by	Increasingly Filled with	Filled with to Overflowing	Filled with and Overflowing to Others
Fruit of the Spirit	Budding	Beginning to Bear Fruit	Bearing Fruit	Bearing More Fruit	Bearing Much Fruit
Spiritual Gifts	Given	Discovered	Confirmed & Utilized	Utilized Effectively	Utilized Fully
Character	Shaped by World more than Christ	Growing 'Christ-like-ness'	Evident 'Christ-like-ness'	Obvious 'Christ-like-ness'	Models 'Christ-like-ness'
Sanctity / Purity	Initial Changes in Behavior	Deepening 'interior' Changes	Change in Thought, Motive & Desire	Ongoing 'Heart-Level' Changes	Ongoing / Helps Others from Experience
Love	Beginning Love for God & People	Growing Love for God & People	Established Love for God & People	Lifestyle of Love for God & People	Teaches/Models Love for God & People
Place of Self	Self Is Central / Initially Denied	Self Is Important / increasingly Denied	Self Is Peripheral / Regularly Denied	Self Is Last / Daily Denied	Self is Last / Daily Denied
Place of Others	Others Recognized	Others Considered	Others Important	Others Primary	Others Foremost
Service	Desires to Serve	Learns to Serve	Heart of a Servant	Lifestyle of 'Servant-hood'	Teaches/Models 'Servant Leadership'
Sense of Mission	Learning about the Mission	Finding One's Place in the Mission	Taking One's Place in the Mission	Living Focused on the Mission	Leading Others in the Mission
Personal Witness	Shares Personal Testimony	Able to Articulate & Share Gospel	'Owns' & Shares Gospel Message	Lifestyle of Sharing Gospel	Teaches Others to Share Gospel
Kingdom Focus	Living for God's Kingdom Desired	Living for God's Kingdom Important	Living for God's Kingdom Central	Living for God's Kingdom Primary	Living for God's Kingdom Exemplified
Use of Resources	Some for God / Most for Self	Most for God / Some for Self	All Belongs to God & His Purposes	All God's / Used for Him & Others	All God's / Used for Him & Others

THE PATH TO DISCIPLESHIP



Important Questions:

What's your *Plan*'or *Pathway* for
Making & Multiplying Disciples?

What are *You* going
to do about it?



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