



**GET
STARTED**

DiscipleMaker Stages

Stages Christians go through to find God and follow Jesus

Insights into the diagram *(suggestions for using diagram in blue)*

- the diagram is primarily for DiscipleMakers, giving practical helps for someone investing in the Curious, Believers and Disciples
- the stages show how to progress spiritually; as we go deeper in Christ, we move into more challenging stages; Not Curious and Servant are not stages, but lifestyles, states of being
- explain the diagram so your friend can pinpoint where they are, where they want to be *(draw the diagram, explain it, get interaction, then ask where they'd place themselves)*
- stages overlap like the rings do; they're not clean and simple like the diagram
- becoming a Disciple is messy & confusing for a new Believer *(ask what's clear, what's not)*
- help Believers get a sense of God's Dream for them (see **Disciple Dream**) *(ask what it would take for them to move up to Disciple-Maker stage; emphasize the Dream)*
- most Christians are unaware of God's Dream for their life; as a result they get discouraged and don't become a Disciple
- no stage is automatic; each demands a conscious, **Yes, Lord** *(encourage them to continue to say Yes by faith)*
- we need God's help at each stage;
- the Holy Spirit is the true DiscipleMaker, giving all of us the desire and power to move forward; we DiscipleMakers are his apprentices
- some move through the stages quickly; others get stuck *(ask, "are you stuck? How long?")*

Not Curious: not a stage, more a state-of-being, a lifestyle. They show little/no interest in God or spiritual things; may be in another religion or actively hostile to Christ.

- the app has helps to work with those who have no interest; a DiscipleMaker should pray and be salt and light

Curious: *seek and you will find*

- a person becomes a seeker, a spiritual detective searching for God, asking questions; key word is **search**; insist that they search and offer to help

- ask the Curious if they want help to discover God (*eg use Curious, 10 Clues; John's 7 Signs, etc*)

- use the Clues to make them aware of God (*use Curious, Design, Beauty, Information, Fine-Tuning, etc*)

- expect spiritual questions (indicator of the Curious) (*eg Curious, Intermediate, Answer Questions*)

- ask good questions to help them search (*eg Curious, Intermediate Asking Questions*)

- the Curious often believe in God first, then in Jesus (*use Signs emails, gospel of John, etc*)

- explain the Good News of Jesus to them (*eg Curious, Advanced, One Verse; Believer, Intermediate, Bridge; or, 6 Relational diagram emails; eCube, etc*)

- a DiscipleMaker does the work of an evangelist, asking/answering questions, explaining the gospel, pointing the way to Jesus

Believer: *love follows knowledge*

- key word is **know**; there's much to learn about God and new life

- it can be a long process to know about God and trust in Jesus; be patient

- once a Seeker receives Christ, help them start growing (*eg: Believer, Basic, Following Christ; Believer, Basic, First Steps*);

- like babies, new Christians need hands-on attention – expect messes, give lots of feedings and love, change their spiritual diapers

- explain baptism (eg: **Believer**, Basic, *5 First Steps*; **Disciple**, Basic, *baptism*);
- remember, believers often get stuck after baptism
- a Believer must come to know God/Jesus (eg: **Believer**, Basic, *Who God Is*; **Believer**, Intermediate, *Spirit 1&2*; **Believer**, Intermediate, *Jesus 1&2*)
- everyone has their own pace of growing; unlike natural growth, Christian growth is a choice. It's often slower than we wish. Don't get discouraged. The Spirit is the primary growth agent, not us

Disciple: love responding to love

- a Believer deepens in intimacy with Jesus in this stage
- key to the Disciple stage: **love**; loving Jesus back for his love, becoming enthralled with him, desiring to live out the **Dream** God has for us
- four basic disciplines (there's more – giving, fasting, etc – but these are basic):
 - Get Alone:** Silence and Solitude
 - Get Together:** Study and Worship (eg: *Discipling emails every week for these disciplines*)
- **Get Alone** trains disciples to practice **Silence and Solitude**, giving undistracted time to God, listening/talking to him.
- **Get Together** trains disciples to spend time with others in **Study and Worship** with them
- evaluate where a Believer is re disciplines (*on a scale of 1 – 10 where would you put yourself? where can I help you?*)
- God's **Dream** for us has at least two components:
 - becoming more and more like Jesus (others will see what Jesus would look like, living out your life) (eg: **Disciple**, Intermediate *Dream*; read and discuss Romans 8.29, 2 Cor. 3.18 with them)
 - partnering with Jesus in this great adventure to help the Curious become Believers and Believers, Disciples
- **get-a-buddy**: Disciples need others to pray and process life with (eg: **Disciple**, Intermediate, *10-10-10*; *ask who their buddy is/will be – have them ask God about this*)

DiscipleMaker: *laboring so others get it spiritually*

- Key word: **work**; deeply involved with the Not Curious and Curious (not just baptized Believers), Believers and Disciples
- Jesus' default for all Christians: *go... make disciples of all nations... (Matt. 18.19a)*
- it's labor to invest in Seekers and Believers – often messy, can be discouraging, can seem unrewarding
- help a Disciple dream big dreams – they get to work with the Spirit to change their world, one person at a time
- leaders in worship, administration, teaching, serving should be DiscipleMakers (*how true is this in your church?*)
- Christian parents are the primary DiscipleMakers for their children
- **stories** are the primary indicator that a person is becoming a DiscipleMaker; not books read, seminars attended, positions held, titles given; no, **stories...**

Servant: *giving yourself away for the Gospel*

- key word: **sacrifice**; a Christian is passionate about the Gospel
- a Servant hears and obeys God's call, whatever the consequences; can mean entering a new culture, learning a new language, moving to another country (ie, becoming a missionary)
- this should be what all Christians aspire to, the place of highest privilege as a Christian, to be servant of all
- Servants get to hang around with Jesus – this is who he is, where he is

Extra thoughts concerning the diagram

- there's many Curious, many Believers, fewer Disciples, few DiscipleMakers (*how can you change this?*)

- few reach the Servant stage; at Saul's conversion God said he'd become a Servant (Acts 9) – should be our destination too
- Christians can shrink instead of stretch; we can stop being a Disciple (let's not...)
- the Servant serves everyone – we **descend to greatness**
- to be first, we must be servant of all, says our Lord, who modeled Servant stage
- if a person wants to hang around Jesus, encourage them to be a Servant; this is where to know him best
- it's hard labor to be a DiscipleMaker; takes time/energy and sacrifice to be a Servant:

Oh, my dear children! I feel as if I'm going through labor pains for you again, and they'll continue until Christ is fully developed in your lives. Galatians 4.19

- Believer stage is like child-birth, requiring exhausting labor on the part of a DiscipleMaker. Disciple stage is like child-rearing. As with parenting, the reward for discipling comes later