



**HOW WE  
GROW**

**THE SIX STAGES** OF A DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY

## STAGE 1

CONVERTED LIFE

### CHARACTERISTICS

Disciples in the **Converted Life** are new in their faith. They are usually enthusiastic and excited. They feel as if they are invincible yet struggle with insecurity. They are vulnerable, and in need of mentorship and leadership.

### HOW YOU PROGRESS...

Those in the **Converted Life** must realize they are not alone. God is calling them to be a part of the local church.

## STAGE 2

LEARNING LIFE

### CHARACTERISTICS

Disciples in the **Learning Life** are curious and hungry for information. They typically experience accelerated growth, but may incorrectly believe that programs = discipleship.

### HOW YOU PROGRESS...

Programs do not equal discipleship. Disciples must realize this and move past the "us v. them" mentality that often comes with accelerated growth. God is calling them to use what they know for His Kingdom.

## STAGE 3

PRODUCTIVE LIFE

### CHARACTERISTICS

Disciples in the **Productive Life** realize they can use their gifts to serve God and be deployed in ministry. They will often find themselves pridefully focused on success, activism, ministry size and impact. They are focused on what they are doing for God.

### HOW YOU PROGRESS...

When encountering the wall, those in the **Productive Life** will either; enter a period of discouragement and burnout, give-up on ministry, or sit and surrender their efforts to Jesus. Getting over the wall requires surrender.

## INTERLUDE: THE WALL

is a period in a believers life where the Holy Spirit is very intentionally moving them into a period of questioning. Ego starts to be stripped away. This process can be painful and disillusioning. Previously they have seen productivity as their highest priority. When they hit the wall, they think they must have missed something. When believers fail to progress, they will tend toward legalism and burnout. Getting past the wall requires surrender rather than striving.

### STAGE 4 INWARD LIFE

#### CHARACTERISTICS

Disciples in the **Inward Life** are characterized by a deliberate journeying inward. This usually involves a reorientation of their understanding of God. They will be deeply introspective, less busy and less frantic. This does not however, imply they are less productive.

#### HOW YOU PROGRESS...

When encountering the wall, those in the **Productive Life** will either; enter a period of discouragement and burnout, give-up on ministry, or sit and surrender their efforts to Jesus. Getting over the wall requires surrender.

### STAGE 5 OUTWARD LIFE

#### CHARACTERISTICS

Disciples in the **Outward Life** appear restful and are focused on enjoying Jesus. They are living on mission, but are not carrying the weight of ministry they once held. They are assured that the results are in Jesus' Hands.

#### HOW YOU PROGRESS...

Disciples in the **Outward Life** really only progress to the extent they fall deeper in love with Jesus. They are letting go of the earthly things that once were important to them. They may appear disconnected at times, but that is just an assurance they are citizens of a different Kingdom.

### STAGE 6 LIFE OF LOVE

#### CHARACTERISTICS

When Disciples are truly living the **Life of Love**, they are fully mature in their faith and saturated in God's love. This doesn't mean they are perfect. In fact they may be very aware of their brokenness. They are marked by compassion, abandon, obedience, security, and wisdom.

#### HOW YOU PROGRESS...

Disciples in this stage simply learn to get out of the way and be a conduit for the Holy Spirit to do His work.

