

## HOME CHURCH OR SMALL GROUP/CLASS QUESTIONS

1. "BREAKING THE ICE" question: (group facilitator)
2. CHECK-INS: What's been happening in your week(s) since last meeting? Introduce yourself if new/new people in group, check in with each other
3. CARE: Needs in the group; name needs and sentence prayers at end
4. COMPASSION: What compassion work is the group planning? Are you inviting your neighbors to join?
5. GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS: (church-wide and group-only)
6. DIG IN: Any reflections, discernments, disagreements from last week's teaching (or since you last met)? Look at the Bible passage(s) again and read some of them out loud in the group (and other verses that may have been mentioned). What jumps out at you? These questions are only guides. You may go other directions based on the Bible passage and teaching as well!

✦ Opener: Some people find traveling delightful and others stressful desiring to get to the destination. Where are you on this spectrum and why do you think you are that way right now?

✦ Re-read and share initial reactions to Matthew 28:19, 1 Cor. 4:14-21, Mark 10:17-22. What points to the spiritual life as unfolding in these passages?

✦ How does the idea of stages help or hinder your spiritual awareness and growth?

✦ When have you been confused about your spirituality or faith and experience as group or leader helping you discover the insight or answer you were seeking?

✦ Who are the spiritual heroes and heroines, teachers, etc that you follow right now or in the past?

✦ How have your early religious/spiritual experiences shaped you? What feelings do they bring up? Do you seek to get relief from their pain or re-experience them as joyful? The good news is you cannot actually go back, but you can re-member and remember through Jesus in order to move forward.

✦ We talked about being caged or stuck at this stage. False holiness, judgement of the other, lots of getting our identity by "who we are not like", switching a lot, or always searching. Do you see yourself now or at anytime in these "caged" modes of spiritual life? Or anyone you know (no names please!)?

**7. End and Homework: Final questions, prayer huddles for personal requests. Consider breaking into small groups (huddles) of 2-4, by gender, if large enough.**



THE CRITICAL JOURNEY

# STAGES OF FAITH

NO. 2 LIFE OF DISCIPLESHIP

I. Recap of 1: Recognition of God

II. Stage 2: Life of Discipleship/Power by Association

1. Biblical Examples

- A. Rich young ruler Mark 10:17-22
- B. Samaritan Woman John 4:20
- C. Ruth
- D. The church's call Matt. 28:16-20

2. What's happening individually

- A. Faith is...
- B. Characteristics
  1. Meaning from belonging
  2. Answers found in leaders
  3. A sense of rightness
  4. Security in our faith

C. Beliefs and Behavior

1. We believe we are on the path
2. We depend on leader, structure and traditions...
3. We work to become...
4. Discipleship programs/ ministries

D. Creed

E. How we experience God's grace/love

F. Involvement

G. The Goal

1. Learn...

2. Power and stewardship

3. The Church's Role (all of us together)

A. Motivation

B. Admonition

C. Helping us see...

D. Helping us connect

E. Provide strong leadership

F. Help people move through the stage by...

4. Stuck or Caged at Stage 2

A. Fear and insecurity causes rigidity

B. Others are wrong and/or bad

1. We start negatively defining ourselves

2. we fight over personal morals

3. Fundamentalist readings or liberal readings

4. Trapped into charismatic leader personality cults

C. Become a "switcher"

D. Stay a "searcher"

The major difference between people caged at stage one and two is this: at stage one, we think we are wrong and weak. At two, we think we are right and strong; others are weak and wrong. -J. Hagberg

5. Ways to Keep Moving Forward

A. Recognize

B. Discover

C. Accept and serve

D. Lead in some areas

III. So What? Now What?

*The Critical Journey*  
**STAGES OF FAITH**  
No 3



**PRODUCTIVE LIFE**  
POWER BY ACHIEVEMENT

*The Critical Journey*  
**STAGES OF FAITH**  
No 6



**LIFE OF LOVE**  
POWER BY WISDOM

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**STAGES OF FAITH**  
No 2



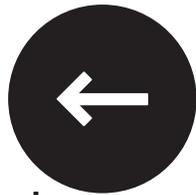
**LIFE OF DISCIPLESHIP**  
POWER BY ASSOCIATION

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**STAGES OF FAITH**  
No 5



**JOURNEY OUTWARD**  
POWER BY PURPOSE

*The Critical Journey*  
**STAGES OF FAITH**  
No 1



**RECOGNITION OF GOD**  
POWERLESSNESS

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**THE WALL**  
INNER CHOICES

**PILGRIM CHURCH**  
*The Critical Journey*  
**STAGES OF FAITH**  
*Authors of Hoping & R. Blush*

*The Critical Journey*  
**STAGES OF FAITH**  
No 4



**JOURNEY INWARD**  
POWER BY REFLECTION