

STAGE ONE: SEEKER

WHAT IS A "SEEKER"?

A seeker is someone who acknowledges there may be a God, and who is actively trying to discover what that God is like. Simply put, a seeker is someone who is seeking out God.

WHAT ARE SOME SIGNS THAT I'M A SEEKER?

- You sense that something is missing in life, and suspect it may be "God-related."
- You acknowledge that you don't have all the answers to the big questions of life.
- Where you once had negative thoughts about God, church, or Christianity you are now more open to the truths they represent.
- You engage in conversations about God, faith and what life is truly about.
- You desire to attend church worship services and hear about God and Christianity.
- You may begin talking with God (prayer).

WHAT SHOULD I DO NEXT?

- Talk with a friend who brought you to Journey's Crossing
- Embark on an honest, intellectual investigation of Christianity using resources offered by Journey's Crossing
- Get lingering questions answers from staff, leaders at JC or via a ____ weeks seeker small group
- Do a diligent study of the life of Jesus by reading one of the gospels (John)
- Check the "Contact me about a study for how to become a Christian"
- Respond to invitation to enroll in the class "Our Journey"
- Begin asking Jesus to come into your life
- Become more consistent in attending Sunday morning services
- Begin attending non-Sunday church activities
- Try an outreach project or mission trip

WHAT DOES JOURNEY'S CROSSING OFFER ME?

- We design Sunday with seekers in mind, and each week we provide you with a chance to pray to accept Christ as your personal Savior.
- We have recorded messages and resources that deal with specific questions you may have (e.g. "The Case for Faith").
- Our Evangelism Team, ministry leaders, small group leaders, Leadership Council and pastoral staff are available to answer any questions you may have regarding the Christian faith.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT BEING A SEEKER?

- Acts 17:27 – *God did this [created man and set out his life plan] so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.*
- Hebrews 11:6 – *And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*
- Matthew 7:7 – *Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.*

HOW DO I "LOVE GOD AND LOVE PEOPLE"?

- Simply acknowledging that there may be a God, and setting out to discover him are appropriate expressions of love for God at this stage.
- Consider participating in one of our Outreach Ministry projects to help those in the community.

ACTION STEPS:

- As of _____ (date), I believe I'm at the seeker stage.
- My next steps as a seeker should be _____.
- The person I will ask to help me continue to take my next steps on the journey at this point is _____.
- The Journey's Crossing resource I need to take advantage of right now is _____.

STAGE TWO: BELIEVER

WHAT IS A “BELIEVER”?

Believers are seekers who have come to recognize their sinful condition before God, believe that Jesus Christ is God himself who lived and died in their place. A believer accepts Christ’s death and resurrection as complete payment of their debt to God, as a guarantee of eternal life in God’s family.

WHAT ARE SOME SIGNS THAT I’M A BELIEVER?

- You have prayed to trust Christ as your personal Lord and Savior.
- You begin to experience the joy of new life in Christ.
- You feel grateful to God for the new relationship you’ve begun.
- You desire to know God more.
- You begin to evaluate your life in light of biblical principles and truths.

WHAT SHOULD I DO NEXT IF I’M A BELIEVER?

- Establish a regular habit of reading God’s Word and praying to Him.
- Complete our “NEW BELIEVER” course with a friend, in a small group, or in one of our Christian Growth courses.
- Follow Jesus’ example by getting baptized.
- Regularly attend Sunday services.
- Serve in some area of ministry.
- Start inviting your friends to church.

WHAT DOES JOURNEY’S CROSSING OFFER ME?

- NEW BELIEVER COURSE – (a 7 part study that covers the basics of the Christian life)
- Baptism services (typically quarterly)
- Sunday services (including past messages) which will continue to inform and challenge you
- Journey Groups so you can meet others
- Suggested Bible reading schedules and books (see our website at www.journeyscrossing.org)

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT BEING A BELIEVER?

- John 3:16 – *For God so love the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*
- John 5:24 – *Whoever hears my [Jesus’] word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.*
- Acts 16:31 – *Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.*
- 1 John 5:13 – *I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.*

HOW DO I “LOVE GOD AND LOVE PEOPLE” AS A BELIEVER?

- You love God by spending time with him (through prayer, worship, Bible study, etc.) and by obeying him.
- You love people by serving your neighbors and colleagues, by inviting them to attend church to hear the life-changing message of Jesus Christ, and by getting involved in serving at Journey’s Crossing.

ACTION STEPS:

- As of _____ (date), I believe I’m at the believer stage.
- My next steps as a believer should be _____.
- The person I will ask to help take their next steps on the Journey at this point is _____.
- The person I can begin to take next steps at this point is _____.
- The Journey’s Crossing resource I need to take advantage of right now is _____.

STAGE THREE: FOLLOWER

WHAT IS A "FOLLOWER"?

Followers are believers who have moved from simply believing in Jesus for their salvation, to someone who desires to respond to Jesus' call to "come and follow me" by ordering their life and decisions around what he calls them to do and be. Followers are becoming more intentional about seeing and celebrating what God is doing in their life, connecting with other followers in healthy community and serving by contributing at Journey's Crossing.

WHAT ARE SOME SIGNS THAT I'M A FOLLOWER?

- You begin to encounter God in personal and corporate worship.
- You grow in your understanding of God's love for you, his faithfulness, and his claim on your life.
- You intentionally develop relationships with non-believers in order to share Christ with them.
- You regularly spend time with God and seek to be filled (controlled) by the Holy Spirit.
- You examine your life in light of God and his Word, and make appropriate changes (obedience you're your habits, routines, and priorities).
- You start to experience victory over sin and temptation.

WHAT SHOULD I DO NEXT?

- Get connected into a small group for spiritual community and transformation.
- Establish a routine of spiritual practices like Bible study, scripture memorization, prayer, self-examination, and solitude.
- Find an area of contribution and get involved in it, based on God's leading in your life.
- Start giving back to God some of the financial resources he's given to you.
- Attend Christian Growth courses that will help you grow in your knowledge of God and his will for your life.
- Find a mentor or discipler who can help you grow in your faith.

WHAT DOES JOURNEY'S CROSSING OFFER ME?

- Small groups (e.g. Journey Groups, Study Groups, Ministry Groups and Support Groups)
- Classes (e.g. Contagious Christian, How to Study the Bible, ???)
- Worship on Sunday mornings
- Sunday messages, message tapes and CD's, books, and retreats
- See previous stage

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT BEING A FOLLOWER?

- Matthew 4:19 – Come, follow me! –Jesus
- John 8:12 – I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. – Jesus
- John 10:27 – My sheep know my voice; I know them, and they follow me. – Jesus

HOW DO I "LOVE GOD AND LOVE PEOPLE"?

- You love God by following him (in obedience) in all areas of your life (e.g. speech, finances, friendships, priorities, etc.).
- You love people by serving them in ministry, by building redemptive relationships with seekers, and by developing spiritual community with other believers.

ACTION STEPS:

- As of _____ (date), I believe I'm at the follower stage.
- My next steps as a follower should be _____.
- The person I will ask to help me continue to next steps at this point is _____.
- The person I can begin to help take their next steps on the Journey at this point is _____.
- The Journey's Crossing resource I need to take advantage of right now is _____.

STAGE FOUR: DISCIPLE

WHAT IS A “DISCIPLE”?

Disciples are growing followers who have begun to take personal responsibility for developing their own spiritual life and who seek out opportunities to learn God’s way and will in each area of their life. They are connected in a Journey Group and have a mentoring relationship with a small group leader and a small group. A disciple is someone who begins to orient their life around the pursuit of knowing God and becoming like Christ through deepening Celebration, Connection and Contribution.

WHAT ARE SOME SIGNS THAT I’M A DISCIPLE?

- You desire to go deeper in your faith, to truly understand it.
- You are actively involved in a small group that meets regularly for discipleship.
- You are integrating your faith with your work place, your relationships, and other areas of your life.
- You begin using the Bible to inform the decisions of your everyday life, as well as the lives of others.
- You realize that all you have (possessions, relationships, talents, etc.) are a gift from God to be used for his purposes.

WHAT SHOULD I DO NEXT?

- Pursue a course of growth through our Christian Growth Courses.
- Take our SHAPE COURSE to understand, develop and use your God-given gifts, abilities and resources.
- Establish relationships with other believers who will provide you with growth, feedback, and accountability.
- Begin to build a basic Bible study reference library.
- Begin to study Christian theology. You may want to start with our ??? CLASS.
- Regularly engage in spiritual practices to further your experience and knowledge of God.
- Examine your life regularly to discover where God desires to work.
- Share your faith with non-believers.

WHAT DOES JOURNEY’S CROSSING OFFER ME?

- Christian Growth CLASSES
- Retreats
- See previous stages
- Bookstore resources

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT BEING A DISCIPLE?

- 2 Peter 1:5-8 – Make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 2 Timothy 2:15 – Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.
- Hebrews 5:13-14 – Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

HOW DO I “LOVE GOD AND LOVE PEOPLE”?

- You love God by offering yourself (and all you have) back to him as a “living sacrifice,” and by living moment by moment in his presence.
- You love people by serving them, by pointing them to God’s Word, by sharing the gospel with them, and by investing your talents in the church. As you experience and understand more of God’s love for you, you respond by extending that love to others.

ACTION STEPS:

- As of _____ (date), I believe I’m at the disciple stage.
- My next steps as a disciple should be _____.
- The person I will ask to help me continue to take my next steps at this point is _____.
- The person I can begin to help take their next steps on the Journey at this point is _____.
- The Journey’s Crossing resource I need to take advantage of right now is _____.

STAGE FIVE: MINISTER

WHAT IS A “MINISTER”?

A Minister is a maturing disciple who sees their entire life as one of Contributing to God and others. Their focus is on seeing God’s name and kingdom enhanced, and seeing people around them experience the joy and power of a transformed life through the power of Jesus Christ.

WHAT ARE SOME SIGNS THAT I’M A MINISTER?

- You’re growing in humility as you understand God’s grace to you.
- You understand God’s calling on your life, especially as it relates to your ministry.
- You experience fulfilling, fruitful ministry in your area of giftedness, passion, and temperament.
- You consistently step out in faith, knowing that God will show up.
- You can discern God’s voice as it relates to your life, and to those around you.
- You no longer see ministry as just something you do at, or for, church.

WHAT SHOULD I DO NEXT?

- Develop your spiritual gifts and your ministry skills.
- Develop a Christian worldview.
- Learn the major themes of the Old and New Testaments.
- Develop your relational skills in order to better minister to those around you.
- Develop a life mission statement.
- Maintain balance in the different spheres of your life (relational, occupational, ministry, financial, recreational, educational, etc.).
- Give and live sacrificially.
- Instill in those around you a passion for God and His kingdom.

WHAT DOES JOURNEY’S CROSSING OFFER FOR ME?

- Ministry Training and Leadership Community
- Advanced COURSE
- OFF SITE CONFERENCES
- Coaching/Mentoring
- Books/Tapes/Videos
- See previous stages

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT BEING A MINISTER?

- Mark 10:43-45 – *Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*
- 2 Corinthians 5:20 – *We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.*
- Philippians 4:8 – *I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for who sake I have lost all things.*
- Philippians 4:13-14 – *Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*

HOW DO I “LOVE GOD AND LOVE PEOPLE”?

- You love God by making him the central focus of your life and ministry, and by pursuing him through regular use of the spiritual practices. You increasingly live by faith and demonstrate unwavering trust in him.
- You love people by serving them sacrificially (just as Christ would serve them), by modeling Christ-like behavior and attitudes, and by discerning and speaking God’s truth into their lives.

ACTION STEPS:

- As of _____ (date), I believe I’m at the minister stage.
- My next steps as a minister should be _____.
- The person I will ask to help take their next steps on the Journey at this point is _____.
- The person I can begin to help take next steps at this point is _____.
- The Journey’s Crossing resource I need to take advantage of right now is _____.

STAGE SIX: LEADER/COACH

WHAT IS A “LEADER”?

A Leader is a growing minister who is investing in and encouraging the spiritual growth of others who are now reproducing what they have experienced in the spiritual growth of another generation of believers. Leaders/Coaches have been intentionally assigned to mentor and care for a group or team of followers, disciples or minister so that they are regularly prayed for and encouraged to take their next steps in the areas of celebrating, connecting and contributing and become more like Jesus.

WHAT ARE SOME SIGNS THAT I’M A LEADER?

- You spend significant time training and teaching others in key areas of the Christian life.
- You are modeling the life of a fully devoted follower (in worship, evangelism, discipleship, stewardship, service, and fellowship).
- You view people with their God-given potential to impact the world and the kingdom of God.
- You truly understand the strategic importance of reproducing in the mission of the church.
- You regularly see evidence of God using your ministry to develop others who are developing others.

WHAT SHOULD I DO NEXT?

- Keep on course, and encourage those you’re investing in to begin reproducing themselves.
- Maintain your own spiritual fitness by consistent and strategic use of the spiritual practices.

WHAT DOES JOURNEY’S CROSSING OFFER ME?

- Ministry training
- Ongoing CLASSES, especially in the area of leadership development
- Coaching relationships
- Leadership Community
- Conferences
- Books/Tapes/Videos
- (see previous stages)

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT BEING A LEADER?

- 2 Timothy 2:2 – *And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.*
- John 15:16 – *You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last.*
- 1 Thessalonians 1:6-7 – *You became imitators of us and of the Lord...and so you became a model to all the believers.*

HOW DO I “LOVE GOD AND LOVE PEOPLE”?

- You love God by consistently and passionately pursuing him and surrendering every known area of your life to his will. You love him by investing in the lives of those around you and by extension into the lives around them.
- You love people by sacrificially investing in them in order to help them walk toward maturity in Christ, and by intentionally helping them reproduce what they’re learning and experiencing in the lives of others.

ACTION STEPS:

- As of _____ (date), I believe I’m at the leader stage.
- My next steps as a leader should be _____.
- The people I can begin to help take their next steps on the Journey at this point are _____.
- The people who can help me take my next steps are _____.
- The Journey’s Crossing resource I need to take advantage of right now is _____.