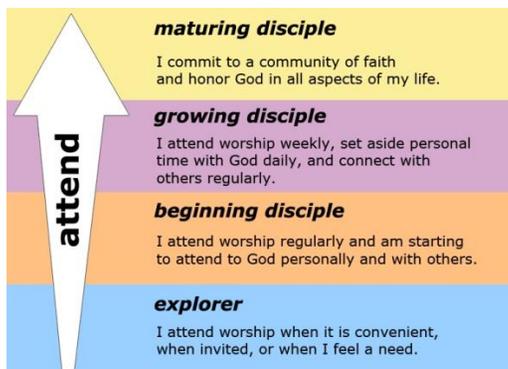


We believe everyone is on the path of Discipleship. This path moves through four *Life Stages*: Explorer, Beginning Disciple, Growing Disciple, Maturing Disciple. These *Life Stages* are revealed primarily through five *Life Points*: **attend**, **grow**, **give**, **serve**, and **witness**.

How people experience the five *Life Points* differ depending on their *Life Stage*. As you read through, this pamphlet the legend at the top of each page will give you an idea of how each *Life Point* matures through each *Life Stage*.

If you have any questions, please contact Adam Estep at the church office or [aestep1014@gmail.com](mailto:aestep1014@gmail.com).



### attend

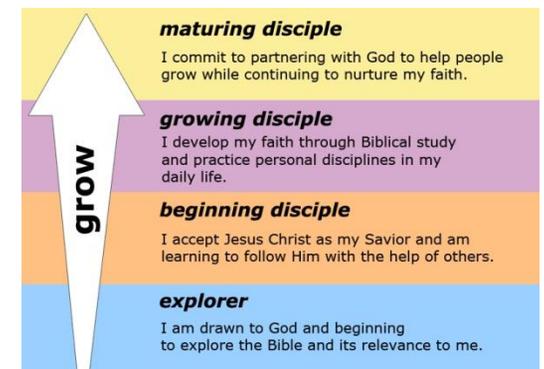
*For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them. —Matthew 18:20*

Attending as an Explorer is simply being present. Getting up and being at church on Sunday morning is a win. As Explorers grow, attending becomes less about “Sunday mornings” and more about attending to God and others throughout the week.

Beginning Disciples who are maturing into Growing Disciples are developing regular habits of spending time with God through prayer and Scripture study. This can happen through personal devotions, small groups, and other connection opportunities. Growing Disciples strive to connect with other disciples to grow together.

Finally, the Maturing Disciple sees all aspects of life as opportunities to connect with God and other disciples. The community of faith is crucial in his or her life as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

To mature in this *Life Point*, consider daily devotionals, joining a small group or class, or asking someone to mentor you into greater growth. The most important part, though, is to be present. Join others for worship and other connection opportunities throughout the week.



### grow

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship... —Acts 2:42a*

From the beauty of nature to the kind words of a friend, God is reaching out to everyone. God wants a relationship with us. God speaks in multiple ways, and eventually, we decide whether or not to move forward as disciples. Beginning Disciples take the first steps in growth by accepting Jesus Christ as Savior and learning how to follow in His footsteps.

As a Beginning Disciple growth is often aided by others, but eventually, Growing Disciples take ownership of his or her own growth. Disciples grow to realize they can then reach out to and assist others mature as some have done for them.

Maturing Disciples seek to invest in the lives of others to help them **grow**. They may be teachers, mentors, or take on other roles to aid in the growth of others.

In many ways, this *Life Point* is similar to **attend**. We cannot **grow** if we are not present. While **attend** focuses on connecting with others, **grow** focuses on connecting with God.

To mature in this *Life Point*, consider the suggestions included with other *Life Points*. Growth will occur along with the opportunities within each *Life Point*.



## serve

*For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve... –Mark 10:45*

Many people want to make a difference, whether they are disciples of Christ or not. The question is, what makes serving as a disciple different?

Explorers begin to **serve** because they want to help others. As disciples mature, the motivation is less out of personal desires, and instead, focuses more on what God wants.

Beginning Disciples learn how God has gifted people throughout their lives and how those gifts can be used to **serve** God and others. As Beginning Disciples become Growing Disciples, they may explore opportunities to **serve** in different areas of mission and ministry. This helps to discern and clarify where God may be calling them to **serve** regularly.

Mature Disciples are willing to submit themselves to be used by God no matter the location, the duties, or the timing.

To mature in this *Life Point*, in combination with **give**, consider setting time aside to **serve** in a mission or ministry. Start with a one-time event or shadow someone to get a sense if this is where God intends you to **serve**.



## witness

*...you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. –Acts 1:8b*

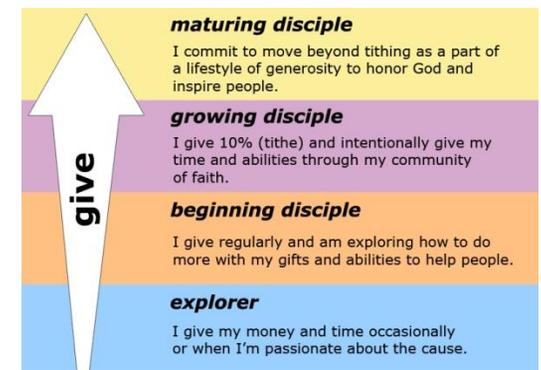
Witnessing is sharing. It's that simple. We share good news all the time from the birth of a child to recognition at work. Witnessing is simply sharing what God has done and is doing in people's lives.

Explorers receive the **witness** of disciples sharing how they have experienced God in their lives. This draws people into the community of faith. In response, people can begin their own journey of discipleship.

Beginning Disciples learn how God's story connects with each person's individual story. They learn how to live out their story before others. Then when maturing into Growing Disciples, they begin to share their story in existing relationships to inspire people to become disciples of Jesus.

Maturing Disciples create relationships beyond the church and find ways to share God's story through their every day life.

To mature in this *Life Point*, consider getting involved in service to build relationships. Small groups can also be a supportive atmosphere to practice sharing God's story and your story.



## give

*...for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the Lord. –1 Chronicles 29:9b*

Giving involves all resources, from finances to talents and abilities to our personal and professional development. Disciples mature to understand that they are called to **give** back as a part of what they have received.

Explorers **give** what they can, when they can, or when they are motivated. Through growth, Beginning Disciples **give** more intentionally, and it becomes a consistent part of who they are as disciples. Generosity is a natural response to how God has touched our lives.

Maturing in how we **give** requires aligning our priorities with God's. This impacts everything from budgets to time management. Beginning Disciples want to learn how to **give** more of ourselves. As disciples know and experience more of God, they want to **give** out of our desire to honor God rather than out of an obligation. When they are touched by all God has done for us, they grow in their desire to **give** their time and resources even when it may not be convenient or easy.

To mature in this *Life Point*, consider taking a Financial Peace University class or explore a number of lending library resources in Janie's Place or our small group curriculum in Room 6.