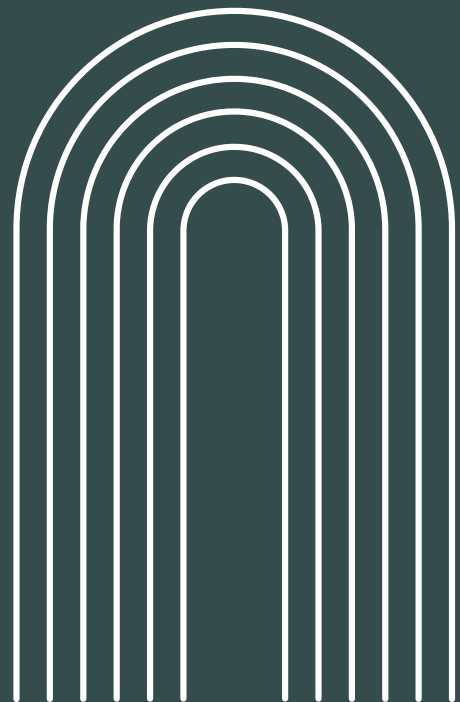




SALEM ALLIANCE CHURCH

# DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY





# WHAT IS A DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY?

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Simply put, discipleship is the journey of following and becoming more like Jesus. While there is no cookie-cutter formula for this journey, there are some common experiences that we will encounter along the way—these are what we call the Discipleship Pathway. Knowing the pathway can help us navigate each stage as well as inform us how to take our next step.

# HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

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There are four steps to using this resource:

**01 - Look at the Discipleship Pathway graphic (pg 2).**

This is a visual representation of what the discipleship journey can look like.

**02 - Read through the Discipleship Pathway descriptions (pg 3-4).**

You may want to highlight any words or phrases that resonate with you.

**03 - Answer the Reflection Questions (pg 5).**

Answer these questions based on where you are rather than where you'd like to be. Try to be as honest as you can with yourself.

**04 - Process your reflections in community.**

Connect with a Discipleship Coach (see details on pg 6) and/or discuss in your Life Group to process your reflections and discern your next steps.

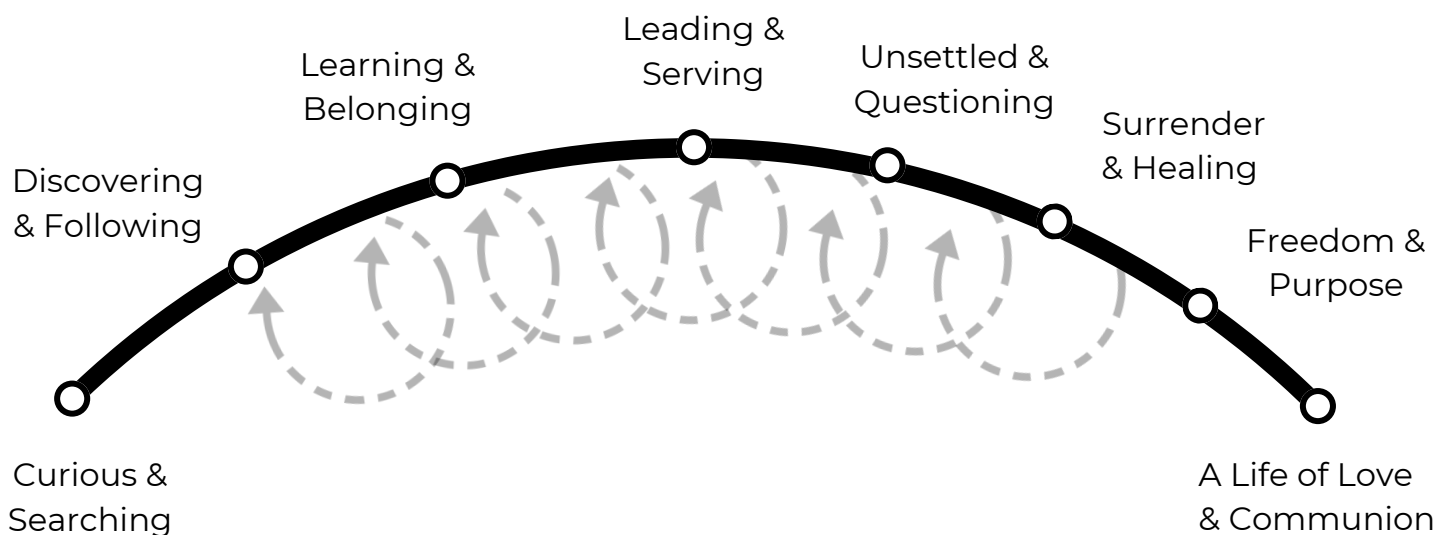
As you engage with the Discipleship Pathway, please remember:

- This is NOT a program or test that you can pass or fail. This journey with Jesus is lifelong and is not graded.
- This is NOT a tool to assess how you measure up to other people. We are each on our own unique journey.
- Perfection isn't the goal. Becoming a person of Christ-like love in communion with God in every stage is the goal.
- God loves you, and He likes you.

# THE DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY

**Although there is a sequential order to the stages on the Discipleship Pathway, they are also cyclical and cumulative, building on one another over time.**

Like a spiral, it's common to go back and revisit previous stages in a deeper or different way. You also may experience more than one stage at a time. That said, there will most likely be a stage that best characterizes and describes your current experience on your discipleship journey.



**The goal of our discipleship journey is to become a person of Christ-like love, who experiences communion with God in all its fullness.**

This isn't something that happens only when you arrive at the final stage. Instead, in each stage, there is an invitation into a deepening experience of communion with God, who loves you and likes you, as well as opportunities to be increasingly formed into the image of His perfect love.

| Discipleship Pathway                  | Characteristics of this stage   |  |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Curious &amp; Searching</b>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asking questions about life/faith</li> <li>• Searching for deeper meaning</li> <li>• Openness to relationship with those who hold a different worldview</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discontentment</li> <li>• Crisis</li> <li>• Feelings of guilt/burden</li> <li>• A sense of need</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Discovering &amp; Following</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acknowledgment of Jesus as King (may be gradual or sudden)</li> <li>• A change of desires and direction</li> <li>• Greater meaning in life</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feelings of newness &amp; vitality</li> <li>• A sense of awe and wonder</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Learning &amp; Belonging</b>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engaging with a faith community</li> <li>• Increasing in knowledge of God and the Bible</li> <li>• Being apprenticed by others</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning to practice the lifestyle of Jesus</li> <li>• Growing security in faith</li> <li>• A sense of connection</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Leading &amp; Serving</b>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apprenticing others as they learn to follow Jesus</li> <li>• Using unique gifts, passions, and story to serve others</li> <li>• Engagement in ministry and mission</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feelings of fulfillment &amp; impact</li> <li>• A sense of responsibility and productivity</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Unsettled &amp; Questioning</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pain/hardship</li> <li>• Abrupt change/life transitions</li> <li>• Loss of certainty in aspects of faith</li> <li>• Questions/doubts</li> <li>• God no longer fits in a box</li> <li>• Reevaluating previously held beliefs</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How you are doing it is no longer working</li> <li>• Disorientation</li> <li>• Lack of direction</li> <li>• A sense of abandonment and isolation</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Surrender &amp; Healing</b>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognizing you can't change on your own</li> <li>• Experiencing God's love in places of pain and woundedness</li> <li>• Forgiveness of self/others</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overcoming fear and family sin patterns</li> <li>• Deliverance</li> <li>• Embracing discomfort</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Freedom &amp; Purpose</b>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Living on mission from a place of wholeness</li> <li>• Surrendered to God's will</li> <li>• Calm &amp; stillness</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A sense of calling</li> </ul>   |
| <b>A Life of Love &amp; Communion</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constant communion with God</li> <li>• A life overflowing with unconditional love towards others</li> <li>• Deep wisdom gained from life's struggles</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steadfast in trials</li> <li>• Detached from worldly distractions</li> <li>• Courage, obedience, sacrifice</li> <li>• A spiritual parent to others</li> <li>• A sense of mystery and contentment</li> </ul> |

## Questions to ask yourself

## Feelings when stuck in this stage

## Signs you may be ready to move to next stage

- What about life/faith are you interested in exploring?
- How would you describe your search for deeper meaning in life?

- Busy/Distracted
- Comfortable
- Fearful of change

- Encounters with God
- Conviction that leads to repentance
- Desire to follow Jesus

- How and when did you first recognize Jesus as King?
- How is Jesus transforming your desires and direction in life?

- Feeling of not measuring up
- Lack of understanding
- Isolation

- Eager to learn more about the story of God and how to follow Jesus
- Desire to be part of a spiritual community

- How are you engaging in a faith community?
- What do you desire to learn more about God and the Bible?

- “Us” against “them” mindset
- Focus on learning but not applying truth
- Inconsistency
- Reluctance to lead/take responsibility

- See yourself as a contributor
- Beginning to identify gifts, passions, and story
- Willing to lead and/or apprentice others

- Which of your gifts are you aware of and are using to live on mission?
- How are you apprenticing others as they learn to follow Jesus?

- Overly zealous
- Burnout
- Maintaining outward appearances
- Self-reliant

- Being confronted with an unsettling experience
- Losing your sense of certainty
- Feeling lost/looking for direction

- In what ways is your faith/life being unsettled?
- What questions/doubts are you currently wrestling with?
- How is your perception and experience of God changing?

- Always questioning
- Consumed by self-assessment
- Afraid to journey inward
- Denial of faith
- Bitterness/Resentment

- Desire wholeness through inner healing
- Courage to address fears, lies, and wounds in your life
- Determination to do “the work”

- How are you inviting God to heal areas of pain and woundedness in your life?
- In what ways are you learning to let go of control and surrender to God’s will?

- Self-effort
- Consumed by guilt/shame
- Despair that things will never change

- Able to let go of control
- Increasing love for self, God, and others
- Walking in freedom and wholeness
- Rediscovery of God

- How would you describe what God is calling you into in this season?
- How has experiencing healing from woundedness to wholeness shaped the way you now live on mission?

- Seeing God in all things
- Reflecting Jesus’ love to others clearly and consistently

- Where are you noticing the unconditional love of God overflowing through to the world around you?

# REFLECTION QUESTIONS

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Having read through descriptions of the stages on the Discipleship Pathway (pg 3-4), what stage do you think best describes where you are on your discipleship journey?

What words or phrases most resonate with you from the stage you identified above? Why?

How would you answer the "Questions" (see pg 4) for the stage of the Discipleship Pathway you find yourself in?

On the next page, circle the response that best expresses where you are right now.



As you finish engaging with the Discipleship Pathway, you'll probably find yourself in one of the following places:

**1. I need more help discerning the stage I'm in.**

That's okay! It can often be challenging to see ourselves clearly in isolation. Who can you invite into this discerning process with you to get a clearer picture of the stage you are in?

**2. I have a good grasp of the stage I'm in.**

That's great! Awareness is an important first step in the journey; however, it's just the beginning. The next step is engagement. What does it look like for you to fully engage with the stage you are in?

**3. I feel stuck in the stage I'm in.**

Well done for being able to name this. That's not easy. It's as we admit that we are stuck that we can begin to take steps toward getting unstuck. What are the signs and symptoms you are experiencing that communicate you are stuck?

**4. I sense I'm moving into a different stage.**

Transition from stage to stage can feel exciting, and it can also feel daunting. You are moving beyond your current experience into the unknown. What resources could help you learn to navigate this new stage?

**5. I'm cycling back into a previous stage.**

Don't be surprised or discouraged by this. This is a common experience. How is God inviting you to engage with this previous stage in a different or deeper way?

Wherever you find yourself, we highly encourage you to connect with a Discipleship Coach—someone who is familiar with the Pathway and can help guide you into greater awareness, engagement, and movement. To schedule a session with a coach, scan the QR code or email Cary Wood at [cwood@salemalliance.org](mailto:cwood@salemalliance.org).



# YOU'RE INVITED TO JOURNEY WITH US AS WE PURSUE LIFE WITH JESUS, TOGETHER AND ON MISSION.

## JESUS

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- Baptism Class
- Exploring Faith Ministries
- Healing & Prayer Ministries

## TOGETHER

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- Weekend Services
- Partner Class
- Life Groups
- Age & Stage of Life Ministries

## ON MISSION

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- In Church
- In the Neighborhoods
- In the Nations
- Baraka (Refugee Ministries)



Find out more

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