



# Spiritual Growth

Quick Reference Guide



PATH



# Introduction

The Bible's best-known command to evangelize is in Matthew 28:18-20. It's also a command to make disciples (v. 19). That's because evangelism leads to disciples.

The PATH environment helps to clarify areas of focus in discipleship. It is not an end-to-end discipleship approach, but a great way to help someone get started and move toward becoming a mature, multiplying disciple, with measurements to help track progress along the journey.

## Overview

In PATH, you and your contact make the decision together to commit to a discipling relationship.



Verify their trust in Christ alone for salvation.



Ask if they are willing to work with you in a program designed to help them grow in their faith. They agree to remain in touch, be honest about challenges and pray for each other.



Mark on the Spiritual Growth chart where they are for the metrics.



As they grow, update the chart for each level on a regular basis.





# Definitions

**SALVATION** - Discipleship doesn't begin until this box is checked, indicating that you are assured they have come into a saving relationship with Jesus.

## **BIBLE:**

Explained - you've shared the importance of the Bible

Sometimes - the disciple reads the Bible for reference and inspiration

Consistent - the disciple has started reading the Bible on a regular basis

Life Application - the disciple has started applying Biblical principles to life

## **CHURCH:**

Explained - you've shared the importance of regular worship attendance

Occasional - the disciple attends a church or other assembly (-ies) but not on a regular basis

Consistent - the disciple has started attending weekly services and is involved

Serving - the disciple is using the spiritual gifts in service within the church



# 3.3 Billion People

It is estimated that 42% of the world's population is considered  
unreached by the Gospel



## **HOLY SPIRIT:**

Explained - you've explained about the person and role of the Holy Spirit

Understands - the disciple shows understanding of the role of the Holy Spirit

Filled - disciple knows how to be filled with the Holy Spirit and seeks to be filled with the Spirit

Walking - disciple is consistently living a spirit-controlled life

## **PRAYER:**

Explained - you've explained the importance and purpose of prayer

Self-Focused - the disciple prays are self-focused, not consistent and generally about having personal needs met

Regularly - the disciple begins to pray on a regular basis to develop relationship with God, not just about personal needs

Interceding - the disciple is praying for the needs of others and the will of Christ in the world

## **SHARE:**

Explained - you've explained the importance of sharing faith and personal testimony

Concerned - the disciple begins to show concern about friends and family members who do not have a relationship with Jesus

Preparing - the disciple is aware of our responsibility to share the gospel and is equipped to do this

Active - the disciple finds ways to share the Good News and invites others to trust Jesus as Savior

# Getting Started

*How do you get started?*

*It is imperative that you:*

*Pray consistently for your disciple*

*Pray for their understanding of God's Word*

*Pray for provision of a biblically-based church fellowship*

*Pray for them to learn to pray and study*

*Pray they begin to share their new life with others*

*Share your prayers with them in your messages to them as the New Testament writers did*

## How do I know where a disciple is in each of the areas?

Asking a question is one of the best ways to start a conversation. If you ask questions that prompt your disciple to explain or describe rather than provide a one-word answer, their answers reveal their honest feelings. This gives you a way to share practical, biblical solutions and build trust. This is a key part of the process of helping someone begin to think differently. Your goal to teach them more about Christ and how to grow in that relationship with Him begins with a relationship built on prayer and mutual trust.

**BIBLE:** You've explained that the Bible is the living and inspired Word of God. To encourage a person to begin reading it, you might ask a few leading questions like:

1. *Explained:* Have you ever thought about the relationship of God to His Word? What does it mean to you to seek God through His Word?
2. *Sometimes:* Have you noticed any situations in which your time in the Bible provided practical help for a situation you faced?
3. *Consistent:* D.L. Moody said, "The Bible will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from the Bible." Can you think of a situation in which this was true in your life? Do you often go to your Bible to learn and grow?
4. *Life Application:* If the Holy Spirit will "guide us into all truth" and "only speaks what He hears," (John 16:13), do you think the Bible is part of that process? In what way? How do you see the Bible guiding you?

Over time, the discussions you have with your disciple will give you a good idea of where he/she is in understanding the Bible, becoming consistent in reading it, and learning to apply biblical truth to life each day.

**CHURCH:** You have explained the Bible teaches the importance of gathering together with other believers. You may have referenced Hebrews 10:25 about how necessary it is to have fellowship with other Christians and Acts 2:42-48 for what this can look like if it follows the ideal model. To help establish this teaching with your disciple, you might include some of these questions in your discipleship process:

1. *Explained:* Do you have any misgivings about church? To you, what is church?
2. *Occasional:* What is the most impacting part of the church service for you? What are some identifying characteristics of a sound church?
3. *Consistent:* Are there any things that keep you from going to church or participating in church regularly?
4. *Serving:* Describe how you stay encouraged as you exercise your gift(s) in ministry.

# Getting Started

**HOLY SPIRIT:** You have had an opportunity to explain the Person and functions of the Holy Spirit. It's important for your disciple to understand that the Holy Spirit is essential to their Christian life. He exalts Christ in and through them, speaking to their hearts and minds. He convicts them of sin; He teaches and guides them; and He brings truth to their mind. Some questions you might consider for your discipleship time are:

1. *Explained:* What does God's Word say about Who our Comforter is in our life? Does the Holy Spirit indwell all believers? (Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 1:13)
2. *Understands:* Tell me what is meant in John 14:16 when Jesus prays and asks the Comforter to come? (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate) Is this role optional, or "only when we really need it?" Or is it essential? (Galatians 3:3; John 15:5; Romans 7:18, 24-25)
3. *Filled:* When someone is filled with the Holy Spirit, can you tell by the way they live their life? (Galatians 5:16-17; Ephesians 5:18-21) According to Galatians 5:22-23, there are characteristics. What are those?
4. *Walking:* If the Holy Spirit is given to all believers at the moment of salvation and becomes the seal of our eternal life, (Ephesians 1:13), what is the difference between those who are "full of the Holy Spirit" like Barnabas (Acts 11:24) and Stephen (Acts 6:3) and those who "quench" or "grieve" the Holy Spirit? (1 Thessalonians 5:19; Ephesians 4:30)

**PRAYER:** Your disciple understands that prayer is conversation with God and that it's crucial to their relationship with Him. Talking with God every day about everything is vital to spiritual growth.

You should begin to see changes in the way your disciples prays and in the focus of the prayers. A few questions to ask your disciple to help guide in this area may be:

1. *Requests:* Aside from your salvation prayer, what are some of the things most important to you that you are asking God to do or provide?
2. *Self-Focused:* Have you established a regular place to pray and a specific time or day to pray?
3. *Regularly:* Are you praying for anyone now on a regular basis?
4. *Interceding:* What prayers have you seen God answer? What do you do when He doesn't answer the way you'd like Him to?

**SHARE:** Sharing the way to have a new life in Christ with others is an important mark of a growing believer in Christ. We want everyone to know about the victorious life available in Him. You have shared this with your disciple and perhaps told your own story of your journey with Jesus. You have shared examples of how God is working daily in your life. To encourage your new disciple to embrace this call to the Christian mission, you might ask a few questions like this:

1. *Explained:* Why do you think that Jesus, who longs for us to be with Him and experience His glory (John 17:24), has left us in this fallen world? (2 Corinthians 5:15,18). What does it mean to share your story with others?
2. *Concerned:* How do you feel when you think about people you know who do not know Jesus as Savior? Do you remember how you felt when someone shared the good news with you?
3. *Preparing:* Share with me how you might begin a conversation with your friend or family member about your experience.
4. *Active:* May I help you prepare some brief guidelines to help you? (Assist your disciple with understanding Romans 3:23 (all have sinned), Romans 6:23 (wages of sin is death) Romans 5:8 (God loves sinners), Ephesians 2:8-9 (salvation by grace); Romans 10:9-10 (confess Jesus); 2 Corinthians 5:17 (new life in Christ) Are you asking God to lead you to someone today?