

DISCIPLESHIP CHECK-IN

Growth in the Christian life happens through God's grace, not our own effort or power, so it is important to remember that "you are where you are" right now. You always have the potential to grow as a disciple in your walk with Jesus. As a community of disciples, the Catholic Church offers us many ways to progress farther and deeper in our discipleship walk with Jesus.



Passive Pre-Disciple
Woman at the Well.

John 4:1-42



Active Pre-Disciple
Nicodemus

John 3: 1-21, John 19:39



Growing Disciple
Centurion

Luke 7:1-10, Matt 8:5-13



Missionary Disciple
Mary Magdalene

Luke 8:1-3, John 19:25-20:18



Disciple Maker
St. Paul

Acts 9

In the Scriptures, we see examples of disciples at different stages of their journey.

PHASES OF DISCIPLESHIP

Passive Pre-Disciple Woman at the Well

The Woman at the Well develops an initial trust in the man who dares to speak to her - intrigued by him. The Samaritan Woman becomes gradually open to the possibility of change as Jesus reveals himself to her. Throughout their interaction, there is something about Jesus which draws her to him. (CCC 1427)



Active Pre-Disciple Nicodemus

When he approaches Jesus at night (John 3), Nicodemus seeks clarity about who Jesus is. Scripture does not record the moment of his conversion, but after Jesus' death (John 19) we find Nicodemus publicly revealing his discipleship. His cooperation with the Holy Spirit has allowed him to pass from confusion to conviction to conversion. (CCC 1, 1431)



- Has a favorable change of attitude towards Jesus Christ & the Church He established.
- Leads to change of attitude towards sin and turns away from it.
- Leads to a verbal profession of commitment to Jesus Christ to others.
- Has a desire to grow spiritually.
- Receives the sacraments of initiation or goes to Confession if already a Catholic.

Growing Disciple Centurion

The centurion who begs Jesus for healing - not for himself, but for his slave - demonstrates the amazing power of discipleship (Matthew 8: 5-11). The centurion is open to having his life, including his status and power, transformed by his faith in Jesus. He truly has begun to live out the guiding principles that Jesus sets forth for his disciples. (CCC 1428, 1694)



- Has developed a heart for God that motivates his/her attitudes and actions.
- Is willing to make any sacrifices to grow, even change his/her schedule.
- Is consistent in continually growing in the basic habits of the Christian life: Scripture, Sacraments, virtues, accepts suffering, spiritual and corporal works of mercy, open to the Holy Spirit.

Missionary Disciple Mary Magdalene

Mary Magdalene becomes a disciple after encountering Jesus' healing power in her life (Luke 8). Out of love, Mary Magdalene remained near Jesus during his Passion, and she is the first witness to the resurrection (John 20). She is the first messenger who announced the Lord's resurrection to the Apostles. As a missionary disciple, she goes with apostolic zeal to announce his merciful love which is stronger than evil and death. (CCC 905)



- Has decided to answer the call to take an active part in the mission of the Church.
- Is actively striving to win people over to Jesus and His mission, to equip them and to send them out to do the same (John 15:8).
- Has regular participation in personal prayer and sacramental life of the Church; fulfills vocational commitments; leading a life of evangelization and discipleship; lives an influential life of faith, in the parish, community, and workplace.

Disciple Maker St. Paul

After his encounter with Jesus Christ, repentance, and the healing he receives from the Holy Spirit, we learn that St. Paul, "immediately proclaimed Jesus" (Acts 9:20). He continued throughout his life to bring people into relationship with Jesus, suffering hatred, slander, ridicule, beatings and stoning rather than be thwarted on his mission. (CCC 3)



- Has led someone to commit his/her life to Jesus Christ and His mission and is helping them engage in the work of evangelization, disciple making and friendships through a mentoring relationship.
- Has developed a heart for God's people and is willing to make any sacrifice to help another grow, even change his/her schedule (1 Thessalonians 5:11).
- Is making life decisions (vocation, location, relationships, etc.) based upon how he/she can most effectively fulfill the Great Commission.
- Has been the major influence in helping others become disciple makers (has produced a strong third generation).

MY GROWTH AS A DISCIPLE

It is important to remember that God is guiding the steps of each person's journey of discipleship. By virtue of our baptism, through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are called to go further and deeper in our journey of discipleship.



Where do you feel you are on your current discipleship journey? Where do you feel God is calling you to grow? Why?

What do you need to STOP doing to grow as a disciple?

What do you need to KEEP doing to grow as a disciple?

What do you need to START doing to grow as a disciple?

Do you have someone in mind who might help you to grow in faith? Name that person (s):

Note any other thoughts that come to mind