

Review:

Lesson 1: The Commission

Lesson 2: The Cost

Lesson 3: Origin Stories

Lesson 4: Being Born Again

Lesson 5: Baptism

Lesson 6: Early Growth

Becoming Mature

Colossians 1:9–11, 28b–29; 4:2–4; Ephesians 4:11–16; James 1:2–4

One measure of spiritual maturity for the Christ follower is the degree to which his/her character _____ the true _____ of Christ Himself. For Christ followers, this character growth is something that happens to us as we make more and more daily decisions to align our will with His.

Discussion 1. Reflecting on your life, what kinds of circumstances have had the greatest impact on growing your character to be more like Jesus? What relationships have had the greatest impact on growing your character to be more like Jesus?

A critical indicator, i.e., a “vital sign” of my spiritual maturity as a Christ follower is my _____. For believers, regular, intimate connection with God is more than a discipline; it is as important as life itself.

Discussion 2. What kinds of things (bowed head, closed eyes, raised hands, singing, reading scripture, being outside, being inside, etc.) help you connect intimately with God? Do you think this is more about how we are wired individually or about how we learned to pray growing up? What are your next steps for even more intimacy with God?

For Christ followers, there is a critical element of our spiritual growth and maturity which is community-based. It is not a maturity that belongs to any of us individually; rather, it is a _____ of the _____ as a whole rooted in the unity of that church.

Discussion 3. If our spiritual maturity depends upon our healthy relationships within a body of believers, then what kinds of disciplines and programming are important for growing and maintaining those healthy relationships?

Another measure of our spiritual maturity is our ability to see painful or difficult seasons/circumstances as opportunities for _____.

Discussion 4. If you are able to see your current painful circumstances as an opportunity for spiritual growth, does that make the circumstances any less painful? Why or why not?