## Summary of Profile of Each Stage of Spiritual Growth

### General Characteristics of the Stage

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<tr>
<th>SPIRITUAL STAGE</th>
<th>Characteristics</th>
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</table>
| Dead            | • Unbelieving  
|                 | • Rebellious    |
| Infant          | • Ignorant      
|                 | • Confused      
|                 | • Dependent     |
| Child           | • Self-centered, Self-absorbed  
|                 | • Idealistic    
|                 | • Prideful      
|                 | • Low view of self  
|                 | • Interdependent |
| Young Adult     | • Action/service-oriented  
|                 | • Zealous       
|                 | • God-centered  
|                 | • Other-centered |
|                 | • Mission-minded but incomplete in his/her understanding  
|                 | • Independent   |
| Parent          | • Intentional    
|                 | • Strategic     
|                 | • Reproduction-minded  
|                 | • Self-feeding  
|                 | • Mission-minded  
|                 | • Team-minded (unity matters)  
|                 | • Dependable    |

### Typical Beliefs, Behaviors, and Attitudes of The Stage

<table>
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<tr>
<th>SPIRITUAL STAGE</th>
<th>Beliefs, Behaviors, and Attitudes</th>
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| Dead            | • Disbelief of the supernatural, or belief in many forms of the supernatural (multiple deities, interactions with the dead, superstitions, astrology and so on)  
|                 | • Disbelief in God (atheism) or belief in the possibilities of God (agnosticism) or belief in a different God (member of a cult or the occult)  
|                 | • Belief in one God but many ways to get to Him  
|                 | • Anger toward Christians or the church or family  
|                 | • Confusion about God, Jesus, and the church  
|                 | • Ignorance regarding biblical truth (spiritually blind)  
|                 | • Belief that the answers they are seeking lie in worldly prestige, power, fame and so one  
|                 | • Belief that they are as good as anyone else so they don't need a savior  
|                 | • Belief that they have done too much wrong so fear they can't be saved |
| Infant          | • Ignorance about what they need and what the Bible says about life and the purpose of a Christian |
### Summary of Profile of Each Stage of Spiritual Growth

| Infant (cont.) | • Ignorance about or frustration toward Christianity and the church  
|               | • Belief that Christians make no mistakes: unrealistic expectations of themselves  
|               | • Belief that they are defined as the culture would define them  
|               | • Worldly perspective about life with some spiritual truth mixed in  
| Child         | • Excitement over having deep relationships  
|               | • Disillusionment because of their high expectations of others  
|               | • Belief that feelings are most important, which leads to spiritual highs and lows  
|               | • Lack of wisdom about how to use what they are learning - for example,  
|               |   too aggressive when sharing their faith, or too legalistic in their approach  
|               |   to dealing with their friends and family  
|               | • Belief that people are not caring for them enough  
|               | • Tendency to mimic mature Christians' behaviors in order to look good and gain praise  
|               | • Tendency to serve others in a ministry as long as the benefit outweighs the cost  
|               | • Enthusiasm about new teachings  
|               | • Confusion and unyielding nature regarding complex issues because they have an incomplete view of biblical subjects  
|               | • More knowledge about what Christians say than what the Word says  
| Young Adult   | • Desire to serve others for others' good and the glory of God  
|               | • Tendency to feel responsible for how others respond to the pride if a person accepts the message and possible message; possible discouragement if he or she doesn’t  
|               | • Desire to serve but not strategic about how to train others  
|               | • Naivety about others believers - for example, they believe that others are on fire for Jesus because everyone seems to be "fine" at church  
|               | • Tendency to be black-and-white about what should happen in a church  
| Parent        | • Ability to think in terms of what a team (rather than an individual) can do  
|               | • A coaching mindset  
|               | • Desire to see the people they work with mature and become fellow workers who love them but aren't dependent on them to complete the mission  

### The Spiritual Needs of the Stage

| SPIRITUAL STAGE | • A secure relationship with a more mature believer  
|                 | • A picture of the real Jesus lived out in front of them  
| Dead           | • Answers, evidences for Christianity  
|               | • An explanation of the gospel message  
|               | • An invitation to receive Christ  
| Infant         | • Individual attention from a spiritual parent  
|               | • Protection  
|               | • An explanation of the truths (new truths) found in the Word of God  
|               | • An explanation and modeling of the habits of a growing believer  

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Discipleship Leader Training - Summary and Profile of Each Stage of Spiritual Growth  

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## Summary of Profile of Each Stage of Spiritual Growth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Profile</th>
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</table>
| Child      | • A spiritual family  
• Help for how to start feeding themselves  
• Teaching about who they are in Christ  
• Teaching about how to have relationship with Christ  
• Teaching about how to have relationship with other believers  
• Teaching about appropriate expectations concerning other believers |
| Young Adult| • A place to learn to serve  
• A spiritual parent who will debrief them about ministry experiences  
• Ongoing relationships that offer encouragement and accountability  
• Help for establishing boundaries  
• Guidance regarding appropriate expectations of people they will serve  
• Help in identifying their gifts  
• Skills training |
| Parent     | • An ongoing relation with co-laborers  
• A church family  
• Encouragement |

### The Phrase from the Stage

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Phrases</th>
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| Dead       | • "I don't believe there is a God."  
• "The Bible is just a bunch of myths."  
• "Evolution explains away a need for God."  
• "I am not a Christian because Christians are responsible for all the wars in history."  
• "There are many ways to get to God."  
• "I am a Christian because I go to church and I am a good person."  
• "I have been a good person, so I will be okay." |
| Infant     | • "I believe in Jesus, but my church is when I’m in the woods or on the lake."  
• "I don't have to go to church to be a Christian."  
• "I gave my life to Jesus and I go to church, but I don't need to be close to other people."  
• "People have hurt me, so it's just me and God."  
• "My spouse is my accountability partner. I don't need anyone else."  
• "I pray and read my Bible. That is good enough for me."  
• "My ministry is my work. I provide for my family. I don't have time for the church."  
• "I didn't know the Bible said that." |
| Child      | • "I love my small group; don't add any more people to it."  
• "Who are all these people coming to my church? Tell them to go somewhere else!"  
• "I am not coming to church anymore. It has become too big; it has too many people."  
• "My small group is not taking care of my needs."  
• "I don't have anyone who is spending enough time with me; no one is discipling me."  
• "I didn't like the music today. If only they did it like..." |
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child (cont.)</td>
<td>• &quot;I am not being fed in my church, so I am going to a church that meets my needs better.&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Young Adult</td>
<td>• &quot;I love my group, but there are others who need a group like this.&quot;</td>
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<td>• &quot;I think I could lead a group with a little help... I have three friends I have been</td>
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<td>witnessing to, and this group would be too big for them.&quot;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• &quot;Look how many are at church today - it's awesome! I had to walk two blocks from the</td>
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<td></td>
<td>closest parking spot.&quot;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• &quot;Randy and Rachel missed group and I called to see if they are okay. Their kids have the</td>
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<td>flu, so maybe our group can make meals for them. I'll start.&quot;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• &quot;In my devotions, I came across something I have a question about.&quot;</td>
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<td>• &quot;I noticed that we don't have an old folks' visitation team. Do you think I could be</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>involved?&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parent</td>
<td>People talk about what they love. When spiritual parents talk about what God is doing with</td>
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<td></td>
<td>them, it is not bragging or name-dropping. Humility is evident.</td>
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<td>• &quot;This guy at work asked me to explain the Bible to him. Pray for me.&quot;</td>
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<td>• &quot;We get to baptize someone from our small group tonight. When is the next 101 class? I</td>
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<td>want to get her plugged into ministry somewhere.&quot;</td>
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<td>• &quot;Our small group is going on a mission trip, and I have given each person a different</td>
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<td>responsibility. Where do you think we should go?&quot;</td>
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<td>• &quot;I realized discipleship happens at home, too. Will you hold me accountable to spend</td>
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<td>time discipling my kids?&quot;</td>
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<td>• &quot;I have a person in my small group who is passionate about children. Can you have the</td>
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<td>children's ministry people call me?&quot;</td>
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