

Four Stages of Discipleship

Pre-Evangelization

Initial encounter of a teenager with the Church that typically involves meeting a teen where they are at through **inculturation** and providing an opportunity to get their foot in the door.

Most pre-evangelization efforts are not spiritual or religious in nature but involve engaging a teenager primarily in a social setting. Examples include church-sponsored sports, community activities, outings such as laser tag or white water rafting, etc.

“The Pharisees and their scribes complained to his disciples, saying, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners? Jesus said to them in reply, “Those who are healthy do not need a physician, but the sick do.”

-Luke 5:29-31

“He began to teach by the sea. A very large crowd gathered around him so that he got into a boat on the sea and sat down. And the whole crowd was beside the sea on land. And he taught them at length in parables”

-Mark 4:1-2

Evangelization and Catechesis

Presenting Church teachings through a dynamic and engaging way that is both educational and experiential. This stage allows a teenager to begin to go beyond the pre-evangelization stage and begin to learn and discuss the faith.

Examples include weekly or monthly youth nights, Bible studies, or other interactive learning experiences

Prayer and Spirituality

Once an individual has begun to learn about Jesus, it is now time for them to know Jesus. Our role should be to place them in a position where they can have a deeper spiritual encounter with the Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit.

Examples include retreats, Steubenville Youth Conference, Eucharistic Adoration, Confession, etc.

“So they said to him, “[So] how were your eyes opened? He replied, “The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and told me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So I went there and washed and was able to see”

-John 9:10-11

“He said to them, “Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.” At once they left their nets and followed him.

-Matthew 4:16-20

Discipleship

Ministry to youth should ultimately be aimed at making disciples. If we have properly fostered a teen to be in a position to meet Jesus, they now have the choice to give their life to Him and become fully incorporated into the mission of the Church