

The Christian Growth Cycle

- Changed heart
- New focus
- New goals

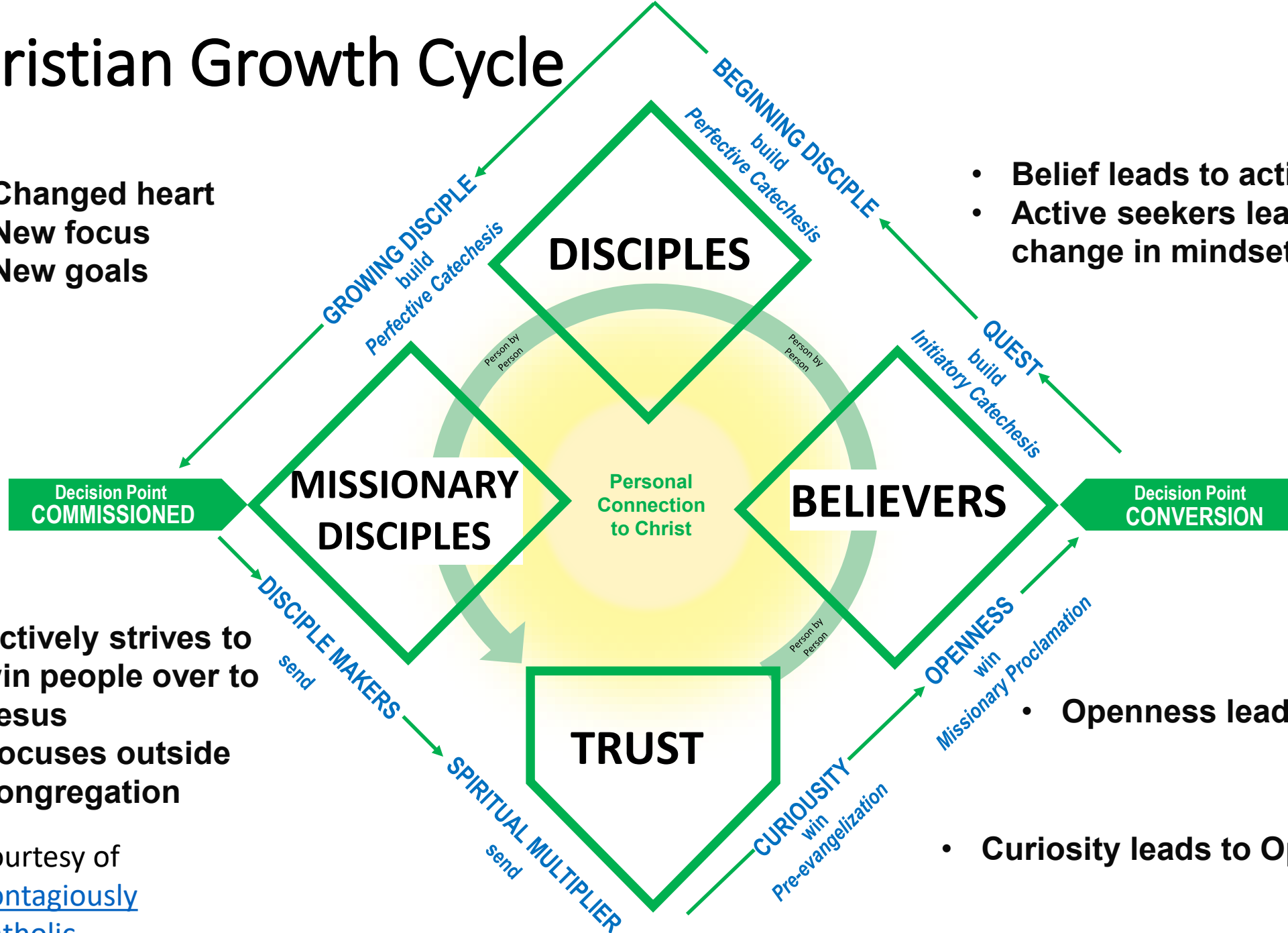
- Belief leads to active seekers
- Active seekers leads to a change in mindset

- Actively strives to win people over to Jesus
- Focuses outside congregation

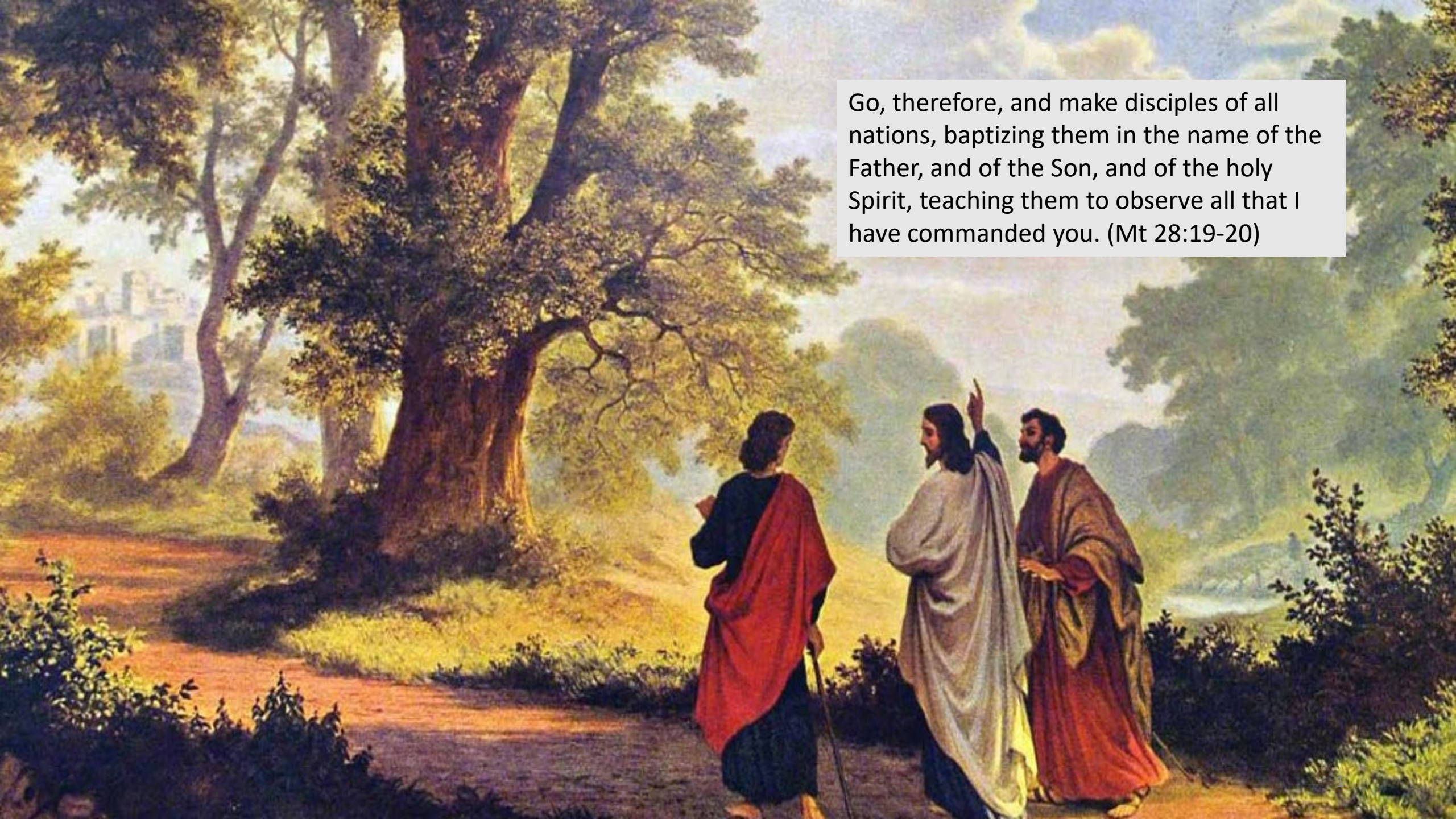
- Openness leads to Belief

- Curiosity leads to Openness

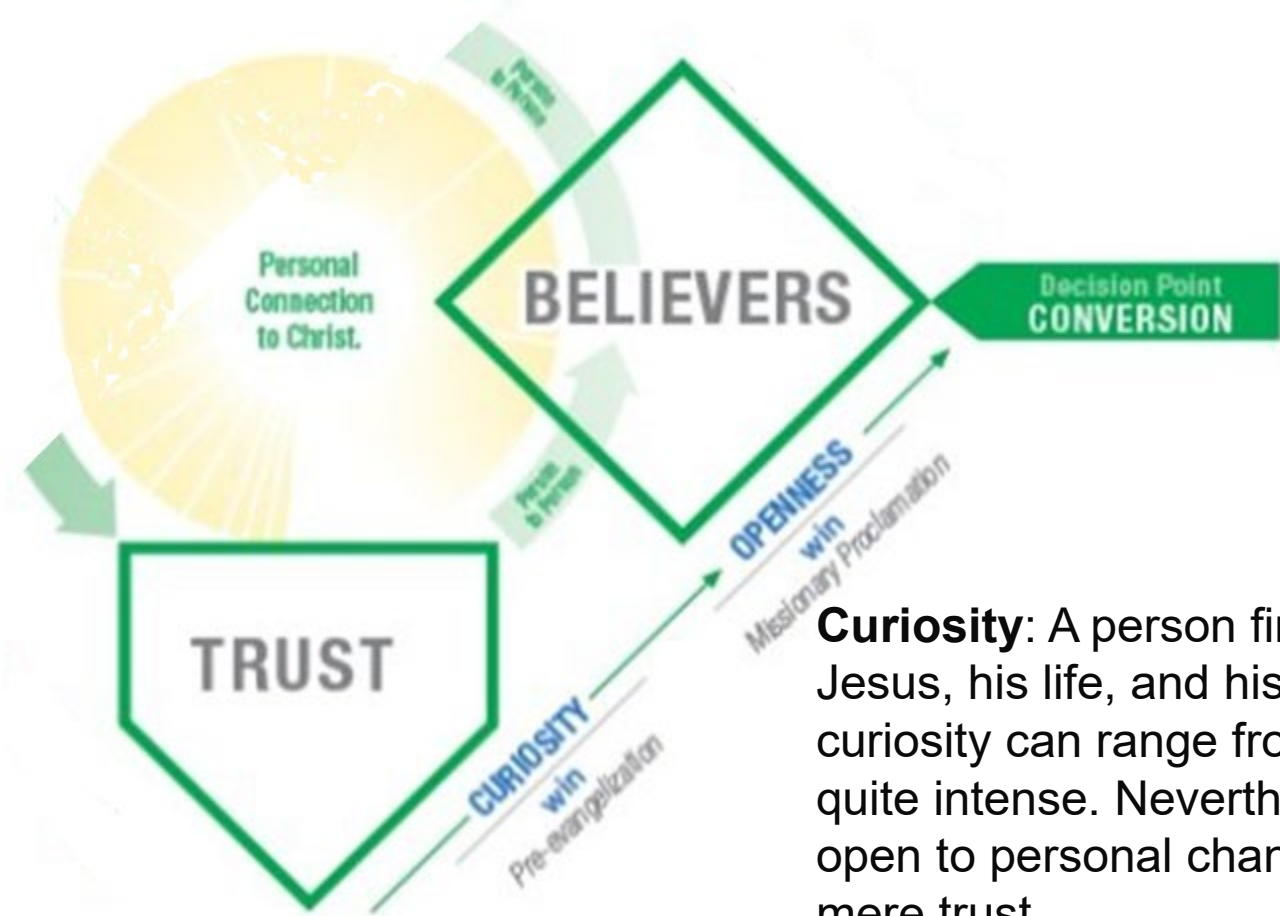
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Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. (Mt 28:19-20)



More Details



Openness: A person acknowledges to himself or herself and to God that he or she is open to the possibility of personal and spiritual change. This is one of the most difficult transitions for a postmodern nonbeliever. Openness is not a commitment to change. People who are open are simply admitting they are open to the possibility of change.

Curiosity: A person finds himself intrigued by or desiring to know more about Jesus, his life, and his teachings or some aspect of the Christian faith. This curiosity can range from mere awareness of a new possibility to something quite intense. Nevertheless, a person at the threshold of curiosity is not yet open to personal change. Curiosity is still essentially passive, but it is more than mere trust.

Trust: A person is able to trust or has a positive association with Jesus Christ, the Church, a Christian believer, or something identifiably Christian. Trust is not the same as active personal faith. Without some kind of bridge of trust in place, people will not move closer to God.

Beginning Disciple: At this stage, one begins to see the following characteristics:

- Change of attitude towards Jesus Christ and the Church He established (favorable) (Romans 10:8-10)
- Change of attitude towards sin (unfavorable) (1 John 1:5-9)
- Has made a verbal profession of commitment to Jesus Christ to others (Mark 5:18-20)
- Desires to grow spiritually (Philippians 4:8)
- Has received the sacraments of initiation or has gone to Confession if already a Catholic (Acts 2:37-38)



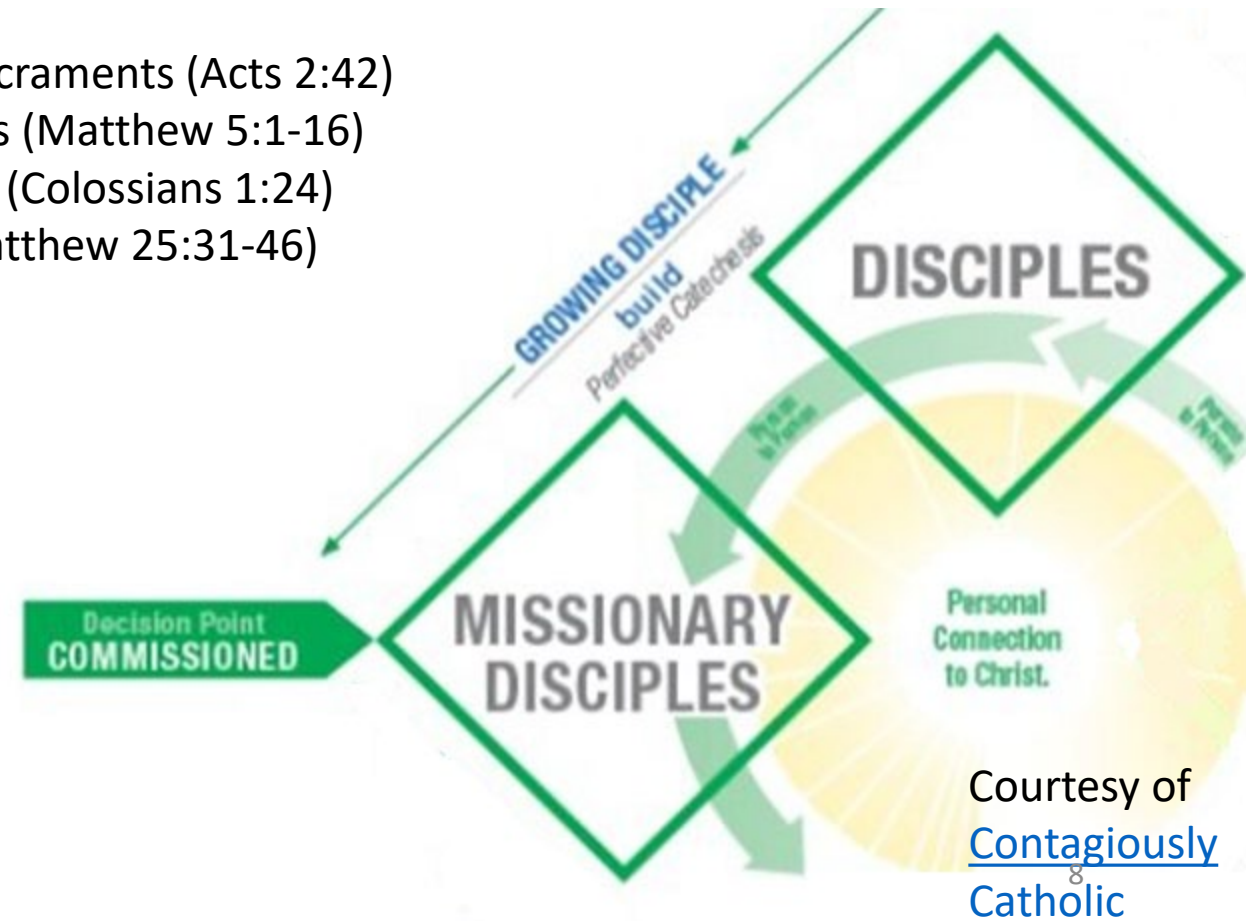
Quest: The person moves from being essentially passive to actively seeking to know the God who is calling him or her. It is, if you will, “dating with a purpose” but not yet marriage. Seekers are asking, “Are you the one to whom I will give myself?” At this stage, the seeker is engaged in an urgent spiritual quest, seeking to know whether he or she can commit to Christ in his Church.

Growing Disciple: At this stage, one exhibits the following characteristics:

- 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
- Observable changes in attitudes and actions can be seen
- Is committed to chastity, sobriety, and excellence in their state of life
- Consistent in continually growing in the basic habits of the Christian life, including but not limited to:
 - Seeks interior growth through daily prayer with Scripture and spiritual reading (John 1:1-18; Ephesians 6:18)
 - Grows in sanctification through the reception of the sacraments (Acts 2:42)
 - Builds character through the virtues and the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-16)
 - Accepts suffering and uses it to unite him/her to Christ (Colossians 1:24)
 - Practices the spiritual and corporal works of mercy (Matthew 25:31-46)
 - Is open to the Holy Spirit (John 16:7; 12-13)

He/she becomes “Commissioned” through decision to answer the call to take part in the mission of the Church.

- Actively striving to win people over to Jesus and His mission
- Builds them up in small-group Bible studies
- Send them out to spiritually multiply (see John 15:8)



Disciple Maker: exhibits the following characteristics:

- 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 (2 Timothy 2:2)
- 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)
- Makes life decisions (vocation, location, relationships, etc.) based upon how he/she can most effectively fulfill the Great Commission
- Is like Paul to the Thessalonians: "So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us." (1 Thessalonians 2:8)

Spiritual Multiplier: exhibits the following characteristics:

- Has been the major influence in helping others become disciple makers (has produced a strong third generation)
- Has been trained and equipped to go to another location and remain active in lifelong Catholic mission in which this process is repeated
- Regular participation in personal prayer and sacramental life of the Church; Fulfills Vocational commitments; Leading a life of evangelization and discipleship through small groups; Lives an influential life of faith, parish, community, and workplace
- Takes seriously the command of Paul to Timothy: "and what you have heard from me before many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." (2 Timothy 2:2)

