

A JOURNEY GUIDE FOR  
**New Believers**

Interview Guide

Copyright © 2001 by TOUCH® Outreach Ministries, Inc.

This product is a free download from the TOUCH® Outreach Ministries website  
and may be freely copied and distributed in its entirety.

TOUCH® Outreach Ministries  
*The Cell Group People™*  
P.O. Box 19888 • Houston, TX 77224-9888  
800-735-5865 or 281-497-7901

## ***Introduction***

WHO SHOULD USE THIS JOURNEY GUIDE:

New or Young Christians.

WHO LEADS THE INTERVIEW:

Cell Leader and/or Mentor.

HOW TO USE THIS JOURNEY GUIDE:

Give a copy of *The Journey Guide for New Believers* to new/young Christian, and let him fill it out privately.

HOW TO FOLLOW-UP:

Set up an interview with the new Christian.

WHEN YOU SHOULD HAVE THE MEETING: 2 CHOICES

- 1) During a *Spiritual Formation Weekend* (see TOUCH® website).
- 2) At an arranged time and place mutually agreed upon.

HOW LONG THE MEETING SHOULD TAKE:

One to one and a half hours.

*The Journey Guide for New Believers* is a tool that will help you evaluate the spiritual life of a new believer. It will help you and the new Christian understand where he or she is beginning the journey into freedom in Christ.

As a cell leader it is your job to come alongside this baby Christian and guide him. The questions asked in the *Journey Guide* are designed to give you a clear view of where a new believer is in his walk with the Lord. Once you have gone through this booklet with a new believer, you should know what their past Christian experiences have been as well as what possible strongholds remain in his life. This is a tool to help people see where they are coming from and help them start the journey!

BEFORE YOU BEGIN: THE INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CELL LEADER

Read this guide provided for you from the last page of *The Journey Guide for New Believers* before you meet with your new believer. It contains practical advice and will help you get a feel for the material before you start ministering to her.

*The Journey Guide for New Believers* is designed to help you understand the spiritual, emotional, and intellectual background of your cell members. When you learn these things, you will be able to minister to them more effectively.

Give a copy of this booklet to all incoming cell members. Ask the new members to take it home and prayerfully complete each page. Explain that there are no right or wrong answers. The purpose of going through the booklet is to help pinpoint where they are in their spiritual journey and to help equip them for a fruitful life in Christ.

Schedule a time when you can meet and go through the completed *Journey Guide*

*for New Believers* together. For this meeting, you will bring along the Mentor who will be a weekly support and encouragement for this person. If the Mentor cannot come, ask your intern to accompany you. Tell them that the meeting will only last about an hour and that you want to see where God has brought them so that you can better minister to them.

Begin with prayer. Then go through each page, explaining what each page means and asking if they have any questions. Ask the person to share what they checked off. Tell them that they don't have to share anything that they are not ready to share. You can also bring along a *Journey Guide* you have filled out in the past and share some of what you have checked off.

As you go through the pages, make a mental note of the areas of victory and the areas of special need. Do not write anything down during the meeting because this makes people uncomfortable. This is not a time to minister or pray for every need that arises as you move through the booklet. The point is to get to know your cell member, discover what God is doing in his or her life, and see what needs he or she might have. You might pray for one or two specific needs, but don't expect to meet every need in this meeting.

End your time together with prayer and encouragement. For some people they are taking a big risk in sharing their life with you. Encourage your new cell member by sharing how you see God moving in his or her life.

### ***Section One: About Your Past . . . (pages 2-3)***

This section is designed to reveal a very basic overview of a new believer's past exposure to Christianity. You will learn whether or not this person comes from a Christian family and whether or not she has been baptized. Walk your new Christian through these questions and listen to their responses. Pay special attention to the last three questions. If this person has had "past religious or supernatural experiences" find out more about them. What kind of experience was this, and how has it affected the life of your new member? Also examine the answer to the "three people who have significantly influenced your life." This question will show you much about your member if you question them further about why and how this person impacted her life. Finally, see how she responded to "How do you share your faith with others." Find out why she is or is not comfortable sharing her faith with others. Take this opportunity to pray together for those who have not yet come to Christ.

### ***Section Two: Previous Church Experience (page 4)***

The title says what you want to discover here. Does this person have previous church history, and if so what is it? What you will really want to find out here is whether or not past exposure to the church has been good or bad. Have previous experiences left the new believer with emotional baggage? Focus on the final question. How does the new believer respond? Reassure him that these do not need to be spectacular or miraculous things. Also, if he is not sure what is meant by this question, take the time to share about God's blessings in your life.

### ***Section Three: Bible Knowledge Quiz (page 5)***

This section should give you a good idea of the biblical knowledge of your new believer. Make sure that she knows that this is not designed to make her look bad but to help you know what examples you can use. For instance, citing the Bible as an explanation for something may not carry much weight if the new believer has little or no exposure to the Bible.

### ***Section Four: How Would You Characterize Your Life? (pages 6-7)***

The questions of this section focus on relationships. Seek to find out how your new believer relates to other people through the first four questions. If relationships are challenging for him, why is this so? Why is his relationship with his parents the way it is? If he has difficulty being transparent, is there a reason behind it? See if there are any underlying issues that might need to be dealt with. The next questions examine his relationship to money, the church/cell group, others, and God. See why these relationships are the way they are, and focus most of your attention on how this person relates to God. If he is struggling in his walk with the Lord, encourage him. If his Mentor is there, let him know that his Mentor will support him and help him through rough times. Reassure him that knowing Jesus is a lifelong process; share a story from your own life experience if it is appropriate and timely.

### ***Section Five: How Do You Learn? (page 8)***

These questions are for your benefit as much as your new believer's. By discovering her learning style, you and she can make sure that the information she is given to learn appeals to her learning style. Learning is a positive experience; let your new believer know that this will not solely be a matter of reading and memorization (especially if that is not how they learn) by letting her know that she will have a Mentor who will teach by example and modeling.

### ***Section Six: Strongholds (pages 8-9)***

Everyone struggles with strongholds; it is a part of growing in the Lord. Most new believers will have checked at least one box. You will want to find out why they have checked this particular box and see how satan is attacking them so that you can be supportive and encouraging. (Note: they will be expecting this question so be sure to ask!) Reassure him that strongholds can be overcome through prayer and accountability even though it can be a long and difficult process. Encourage conversation that leads toward healing in his life but be sure not to indulge any tendencies to be overly self-critical. If the new believer does not feel comfortable sharing everything that she checked, do not force her to share. Encourage her that it is alright to feel uncomfortable and when she is ready to share, she can.

## ***Section Seven: Cell Group Life is Important to You (page 10)***

Talk to your new believer about cell group life and modeling. Let her know that the cell will be there for her no matter what. Encourage them to ask questions about the cell and then answer them to the best of your knowledge. This can be a good time to let her know that while the group is an edifying body, its mission is also to reach out to non-believers and disciple them. Let her know that the group will multiply and reach more people. This can help prevent false notions that the cell group is a clique where people get together just to “feel good.”

## ***Section Eight: “Would You Be My Mentor?” (page 11)***

Mentoring is a vital part of cell life. Check and see if your new believer has any questions about mentoring and how it works. Encourage the person and share with him that he too will be a Mentor someday. This is a perfect time to introduce him to his own Mentor again to reaffirm their bond to one another. Make sure that they both understand the responsibilities of mentoring: to build each other up and hold each other accountable.

## ***Section Nine: Your Journey Map (pages 12-14)***

Where on the journey is this new believer? What stages is she struggling the most in? Does she have any particular questions about any of the stages? Walk through each stage to see if she has understood what is being said. If not ask her to reinterpret her answer based on this new information though she need not necessarily change her answer on the page unless she wants to. You may also want to give some advice on areas where she has questions. For instance, if she is struggling in the area of personal devotions you could share a prayer plan or simple devotional structure to get her started. Be sure to be supportive and encouraging; the journey can seem daunting to a new believer.

## ***Section Ten: How to Prepare Your Personal Testimony (page 15)***

Make sure that he understands the value of sharing his testimony with others as well as God’s commission to reach the lost. Go through the information that he has written down about his testimony and help him form it into a cohesive whole. You may want to have him share his testimony with you as if you were one of his friends, but be sure to let him know that it is his heart that matters when he shares, not his presentation. Answer any questions that he might have and then pray together about possible friends whom he can reach out to.