

A JOURNEY GUIDE FOR

Growing Christians

Interview Guide

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Introduction

WHO SHOULD USE THIS JOURNEY GUIDE:

- 1) Older Christians who are just now entering cell group life.
- 2) Young Christians who have gone through *The Journey Guide for New Believers* and who are preparing to start mentoring a new believer.
- 3) Growing Christians who are going through the *Touching Hearts Weekend*.

WHO LEADS THE INTERVIEW:

Cell Leader and/or Mentor.

HOW TO USE THIS JOURNEY GUIDE:

Give a *Journey Guide for Growing Christians* to him, and let him fill it out privately.

HOW TO FOLLOW-UP:

Set up an interview with the growing Christian.

WHEN YOU SHOULD HAVE THE MEETING: 2 CHOICES

- 1) At an arranged time and place mutually agreed upon.
- 2) During a *Touching Hearts Weekend*.

HOW LONG THE MEETING SHOULD TAKE:

An hour to an hour and a half.

The Journey Guide for Growing Christians is a tool that will help you evaluate the spiritual life of a growing Christian. It will help you understand where he is on the journey into freedom in Christ. It will help both of you evaluate what progress he has made and what steps he needs to take to keep moving forward.

As a cell leader or Mentor, it is your job to come alongside this growing Christian and guide him. The questions asked in the *Journey Guide* are designed to give you a clear view of where he is in his walk with the Lord. Once you have gone through this booklet with him you should know what his walk with Christ is like as well as what possible strongholds remain in his life. It will help you see how well he operates in relationships and ministry and whether or not he is ready to step forward in mentoring.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN: THE INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE MENTOR (ON THE LAST PAGE)

Read this guide provided for you from the last page of *The Journey Guide for Growing Christians*. It contains practical advice and will help you get a feel for the material before you start ministering.

The Journey Guide for Growing Christians is designed to help you understand the spiritual, emotional, and intellectual background of your Protégé. Once you learn these things you will be able to minister to him or her more effectively.

Give a copy of this booklet to your Protégé at your next mentoring session. Ask him or her 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 your Protégé pinpoint where he or she is on the spiritual journey and to help you understand how to mentor him or her effectively.

You can also use this *Journey Guide* with new cell members who have been faithful Christians for a while.

Carefully go through the booklet at the beginning of your next mentoring session. Begin with prayer, and then go through each page asking if your Protégé has any questions. Have the person share what they wrote and why. *Assure him that he need not share anything he is not ready to share.* Feel free to bring along a *Journey Guide* that you filled out and share along with them.

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 very uncomfortable. This is not the time to minister to the specific areas of need that arise as you move through the booklet. That will come in God's time. The point is to determine where your Protégé is on his or her spiritual journey and to see what he or she needs in order to keep progressing. You might pray for one or two specific needs, but don't expect to address 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 Protégé by sharing how you see God moving in his or her life.

Section One: Your Walk with Christ (pages 2-3)

This section is designed to show you how this person came to the Lord and what they are doing to develop their walk with Christ. You will also learn how this person deals with challenging situations in his life and whether or not he is learning to seek the Lord in all things. Pay careful attention to the question that asks him to "think of a recent personal time with God that was significant." What made this time so memorable to him? What can this question tell you about his spiritual life? Take some time to learn more about this person. What is his personal time with God like? Is there any encouragement that you can give to strengthen him? If so, do not hesitate to share.

Section Two: Your Relationships (page 4)

This brief section is entirely about relationships. Does this person have a strong family life? Listen carefully to her answer. Why does she think her family is close or not close? Is she hiding any resentment? Have any previous experiences left her with emotional baggage? Focus in on the last two questions. How does she act in the company of others? Is she sensitive and open? How will this help or hurt her if she becomes a mentor? Reassure her that a strong Christian does not have to be an extrovert to succeed. Communicate that it is a love for God and others that are the foundations of solid Christian relationships.

Section Three: Testing Your Bible Knowledge 1 & 2 (pages 5-6)

This section should give you a good idea of the biblical knowledge of the growing Christian. It is designed to show what the person has learned so far. Make sure that he knows that this is not designed to make him look bad or feel stupid but to help show where he needs to learn more. How willing is he to read his Bible and learn the things that he missed on this little test. Most growing Christians should do fairly well on the first test but most will not do well on the second test until they have been studying the Bible for quite a while. On test two in particular, make sure that he knows that this is not designed to make anyone feel inferior.

Section Four: Your Ministry (pages 7-8)

What ministry has a growing Christian participated in? The basic thrust of this section is to discover which areas of ministry this person has been involved in. The first three questions will relate facts to you about what she has done. The next six are the most critical. These questions will let you know how this growing Christian acts in ministry. Focus especially on the three questions on page 8 that ask for longer answers. These answers should relate actual patterns of behavior; probe her responses to see what emotions lie behind her answers. Listen to her responses carefully and see if there is any area of ministry that you can get her plugged into that would take advantage of her strengths.

Section Five: Lingered Struggles (pages 9-10)

This is one of the most important sections of this *Journey Guide*. It provides an in-depth look at the struggles that people face in their lives. Its purpose is to help you see what difficulties this Christian needs to overcome in order to continue growing in Christ. This section has been placed here to help transition people from young Christians into leadership candidates. Be sure that your growing Christian does not feel uncomfortable sharing these things with you. Encourage him and remember that it is your responsibility to show him that God can help him overcome any struggle. With that said, walk him through, the areas of struggle. Are there any areas where he struggled in the past but no longer struggles? If so, warn him that satan often uses these areas to attack us when we are not expecting it. Be sure to let him know that everyone struggles with strongholds in their lives; it is a part of growing in the Lord. 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.

Section Six: Iron Sharpens Iron (page 11)

Mentoring and accountability are vital parts of cell life. Check and see if she has any questions about mentoring or accountability and how they work. If she does not yet have an accountability partner, encourage her to find one; if she is open to suggestions, you may know someone compatible who is also looking for such a relationship. Accountability is also closely tied to mentoring. The best solution may be to encourage her to become a Mentor and accountability partner to a new believer. You be the judge, what is this person ready for?

Section Seven: Your Journey Map (pages 12-15)

Where on the journey is this growing Christian? If he has a previous *Journey Guide*, have him get it out to see how far he has come in the Lord. Walk through each new stage to see if he has understood what is being said. If he has not, help explain each step to him and then ask him to reinterpret his answer based on this new information (he need not change his answer on the page unless he wants to). Look at the three areas he has checked and feels need immediate attention. Is there any instruction or encouragement you can give to help give him a start on this phase? For instance, if he is struggling with following up on new believers, are there any resources you could share or personal advice you could give? Be sure to be supportive and encouraging, the journey can be challenging even to a Christian who is growing in the Lord.