Stage 1: Exploring Christ

The people in this stage of spiritual growth have a basic belief in God, but they’re unsure about Christ and his role in their lives. Therefore, for people in this stage to move to Growing in Christ, it is important for them to:

Believe these Biblical Truths:
+ Salvation by Grace
+ The Trinity
+ Personal God
+ Christ is First
+ The Authority of the Bible

Involving themselves in these Church Activities:
+ Serve in my Church
+ Attend Worship Services
+ Participate in Group Life

Practice these Spiritual Disciplines:
+ Reflect on Scripture
+ Read the Bible
+ Pray for God's Guidance
+ Confess Sins
+ Develop Spiritual Friendships
Stage 2: Growing in Christ
The people in this stage of spiritual growth have a personal relationship with Christ. Through the power of the Holy Spirit they trust him with their salvation and for their eternity, but they are just beginning to learn what it means to be in a relationship with Him. Therefore, for people in this stage to move \textit{Closer to Christ}, (Stage 3) it is important for them to:

\textbf{Believe these Biblical Truths:}
- Personal God
- Salvation by Grace
- The Authority of the Bible
- Christ is First
- Their Identity is in Christ

\textbf{Involve Themselves in these Church Activities:}
- Serve in my Church
- Serve Those in Need through my Church
- Attend Adult Education Classes on Spiritual Topics
- Participate in Group Life

\textbf{Practice these Spiritual Disciplines:}
- Prayer for God's Guidance
- Reflect on Scripture
- Tithing
- Solitude
- Read the Bible
- Evangelism
- Spiritual Mentorship
- Serving Those in Need on my Own

Stage 3: Close to Christ
The people in this group depend on Christ daily for their lives. They see Christ as someone who assists them in life. On a daily basis, they turn to him for help and guidance for the issues they face. Therefore, for people in this stage to move to \textit{Christ Centered}, (Stage 4) it is important for them to:

\textbf{Believe these Biblical Truths:}
- Giving away my Life
- Christ is First
- Their Identity is in Christ
- The Authority of the Bible
- Stewardship of Life

\textbf{Involve Themselves in these Church Activities:}
- Serve Those in Need through my Church
- Attend Additional Teaching/Worship Services
- Serve in my Church

\textbf{Practice these Spiritual Disciplines:}
- Reflect on Scripture
- Solitude
- Read the Bible
- Prayer for God's Guidance
- Tithing
- Evangelism
- Spiritual Mentorship
- Serving Those in Need on my Own

Stage 4: Christ-Centered
The people in this stage identify their relationship with Christ as the most important relationship in their entire lives. They see their lives as fully surrendered to Jesus and his agenda, subordinating everything to his will and desires. Their relationship with Jesus is the most important relationship in their life. This Christ-Centered relationship guides everything they do.

The Missing Movement:
Far from God to Exploring Christ: It is the churches’ and the individual Christian’s mission to reach out to those least likely to be tuned in to the message of the Gospel of Jesus. It is believed that the biggest spiritual key, and yet an obstacle, for this group is belief in the Trinity and there is evidence that the influence of Christian friends, the experience of answered prayer, hearing a message in a worship service and exposure to Scripture, will help move the person \textit{Far from God to Exploring Christ (Stage 1)}. 

Roadblocks and/or derailments to spiritual growth in any of the four stages:
- Not a priority
- Responsibilities conflict
- Emotional hurt
- Not loving others
- Addictions
- Inappropriate relationships
- Traumatic life experiences or abuse
- Spiritual hurt
- Misunderstandings about the church