

## **Development Phase Selected: Growing**

You selected the statement, "I seek to relate to others both in the church and beyond in ways that reflect God's hospitality to me."

Congratulations! You are well on your way to living out the radical hospitality of God. As you have begun to discover, the church does not exist solely for the people that are already connected. It exists to engage the world in such a way that people are drawn to the love of God through Jesus Christ (Invitational Hospitality).

You are already helping the church live into its purpose.

As you accept people in the same ways that God has accepted you, others begin to see that there is something different about you. You have a worldview that acknowledges the sacred worth of all people, no matter how different they may be. You may already be crossing the common cultural boundaries of gender, race, age, language, and lifestyle. As you do this you may discover amazing insights into how God is working in the lives and experiences of others and their stories may strengthen your own journey with God and the witness of the church.

People who are peers at work are probably noticing that you have a different spirit; people who meet you in the grocery store are amazed at how friendly and caring you are; your friends at the ball field are amazed at how you put relationships over winning.

The church and the world need people like you who are discovering and expressing the radical hospitality of God.

## **What's Next?**

As you become practiced at extending God's hospitality to others, be aware of those whom God puts in your path.

These people are often those God wants us to develop an intentional relationship with so that we might help them discover the hospitality God wants to show them.

- Share your story with them.
- Invite them to journey with you.
- Discover together what God wants for your lives.

This doesn't have to be a formal relationship. Often the most effective discipling opportunities come from friends doing life together. The key is to be yourself and to share how you have seen God at work.

## **Suggested Resources**

If you want to read about the relationship God offers to you, we suggest the following resources:

Following Jesus, by Carolyn Slaughter

A Disciple's Path, by James Harnish and Justin LaRosa

Foundations, by Phil Maynard

Making Room, by Christine Pohl