

Development Phase Selected: Exploring

You selected the statement, "I understand more about Jesus' teaching through conversations with friends and my own reading."

This is a great first step. Most of us are drawn into a relationship with Jesus through the witness of our friends. Often we begin to wonder what makes them so different from other people we know. We begin to have conversations about why they live life the way they do. Sometimes they point us in the direction of some key Scripture verses to consider. Maybe they invite us to read a particular book.

However it happens, we have begun to explore the most significant relationship we can ever have. If we decide to move forward with a commitment to be a disciple of Jesus, it will be the most important decision we will ever make. It's not about getting everything right. It's about discovering how Jesus wants to work in and through our lives.

The truth is we are not called to be perfect, just completely alive in Christ, who through the Holy Spirit, works in our lives to transform the way we think, the way we behave, and the way we engage the world in partnership with Jesus.

You are starting to explore what that might mean for your life, and that's a huge step forward. Every journey begins with the first step.

What's Next?

This is a great time for you to be in conversation with other disciples who are further along in the journey. Observe the ways in which they do life. You will soon discover that we all have areas in our lives where we struggle to be 'like Jesus.'

The 'life obeying Jesus' is a journey toward wholeness that is accomplished by baby steps.

You may find it helpful to connect with a sponsor or mentor to walk the journey with you. Many congregations offer a variety of small group experiences where you can not only learn about this 'life of Jesus' but also observe how others are engaging that life.

Before you make a commitment, take some time to be clear about what a life as a disciple entails. Participation in some type of 'Foundations' class or introduction to Christianity would probably be a good starting point for you.

Suggested Resources

If you like to read a study for personal development, we suggest the following resources:

Following Jesus, by Carolyn Slaughter

The Discipleship Pathway, by Jim Harnish

Foundations, by Phil Maynard