

# Discipleship Pathway

 **STUDENTS**



**SEEKER**



**BELIEVER**



**WORKER**



**DISCIPLE-MAKER**

## CHAIR 1: SEEKER

*Come & See*

### The Seeker (Spiritually Dead)

In the 4 Chair Discipleship model, Chair 1 represents individuals who are spiritually dead—those who do not yet have a relationship with Jesus Christ. Here's a detailed explanation to help students and parents at Concord Baptist Church understand this crucial stage:

### Key Understanding of Chair 1:

- **Spiritual Condition:** People in Chair 1 are spiritually dead. They are separated from God because of their sin and are completely incapable of saving themselves or even seeking God on their own. Scripture says they are lost, hostile to God, and unable to please Him.
- **Romans 6:23:** *"For the wages of sin is death."* Those in Chair 1 are under the consequence of sin—spiritual death.
- **Ephesians 2:1:** *"And you were dead in the trespasses and sins."* This verse explains their total separation from God due to sin.
- **Romans 8:7-8:** Their minds are hostile to God, and they cannot please Him, no matter how much religious activity they participate in.

### The Need for Resurrection, Not Rehabilitation:

- Chair 1 is not about improving or becoming a better person through effort or religion. This chair emphasizes that spiritual death is not something that can be fixed by moral improvement or religious activity like going to church or reading the Bible more.
- **Key Scripture (Ephesians 2:4-5):** *"But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ."* Only through God's grace and mercy can those in Chair 1 move to new life in Christ.

## The Role of Chair 1 in Disciple-making:

- **Starting Point:** Chair 1 is where everyone begins their spiritual journey—completely lost and in need of salvation. The journey of discipleship begins by recognizing the person's need for Jesus to bring them to life spiritually.
- **Hostility to God:** Romans 5:10 tells us that those in this chair are even described as "enemies of God." Yet, it is precisely in this state that God's grace meets them, offering the possibility of transformation through Jesus.

## Important Insights:

1. **Understanding Their Condition:** Chair 1 individuals may engage in religious activities like attending church or reading their Bibles, but without a relationship with Jesus, they remain spiritually dead. It's important to remember that these individuals need transformation, not more religion.
2. **Our Approach:** When ministering to people in Chair 1, the focus should be on sharing the gospel message clearly and compassionately. It's not about pressuring them to be "better" but helping them see their need for Christ's saving work.
3. **Jesus as the Answer:** Only through Christ can they move from death to life. This is a process initiated by God's love and mercy, as described in Ephesians 2:4-5.

## Goal for Chair 1:

- The goal for individuals in Chair 1 is to hear the Gospel, recognize their spiritually dead state, and respond to God's call for new life in Christ. They need a personal relationship with Jesus, not just religious behavior.
- Chair 1 emphasizes that **true discipleship begins when we acknowledge our total inability to save ourselves and our need for Jesus to resurrect us spiritually**. This understanding shapes the way we approach people who are lost, helping them see that Jesus offers not rehabilitation but complete transformation through His grace.

**ARE YOU IN CHAIR 1?**

## CHAIR 2: BELIEVER

### *Follow Me*

#### The Believer (Infant Spiritually)

Chair 2 represents a new believer in Christ—someone who has recently repented of their sins, placed their faith in Jesus, and become a “new creation” in Christ. The old is gone and the new has come (2 Corinthians 5:17). This person is now beginning their Christian journey and learning the basics of following Jesus.

#### Key Understanding of Chair 2:

- **Spiritual Infants (Hebrews 5:13):** New believers are like spiritual infants, fully dependent on others for nurture, guidance, and care. Hebrews 5:13 refers to them as “*infants*” who need milk, as they are not yet acquainted with the deeper teachings of righteousness. “*for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child.*”
- **Spiritual Parents:** Just like physical infants, new believers require spiritual “parents” to model and guide them through the essentials of Christian living, such as prayer, obedience, and understanding their new identity in Christ.
- **Growing Up:** The main focus of Chair 2 is growth in the faith. The new believer must begin to understand their identity in Christ, develop foundational spiritual disciplines, and learn to rely on the Holy Spirit. This is a phase where they need to be nurtured and disciplined by more mature believers.

#### The Role of Chair 2 in Disciple-Making:

- Chair 2 is a critical stage in discipleship because new believers are learning the basic skills necessary for spiritual growth. This phase involves a deep dependency on spiritual leaders, who model the Christian life for them. Jesus demonstrated this with His disciples by living out His faith in front of them, showing how to depend on the Holy Spirit, prioritize prayer, and follow God's will.
- In this stage, new believers must be surrounded by intentional relationships where they can observe and imitate mature Christians, learning to walk as Jesus walked (1 John 2:6). Relationships take time, and new believers need close guidance to move from dependence to spiritual maturity.

## Nurturing the New Believers - 5 Needs:

1. **Identity in Christ:** New believers must understand their new identity in Christ. The Bible reveals that the moment we come to faith, we are transformed in profound ways—chosen, forgiven, redeemed, and adopted as children of God. This foundational truth shapes how they see themselves and how they relate to God, beginning their journey of understanding their worth and place in God's kingdom.
2. **Learning to Walk:** Just like a child learning to walk, new believers need guidance to live out their faith. They must learn to trust the Holy Spirit, pray, obey God's Word, and build Christ-centered relationships. Spiritual mentors are key to helping them take their first steps, celebrating progress and helping them recover when they stumble.
3. **Learning to Talk:** Telling their story—how they came to Christ and how He is changing their lives—is essential for new believers. They also need to learn how to share God's story, understanding the Bible and how it connects with their own testimony. As they learn to articulate these stories, they gain confidence in their faith and clarity about God's purpose for their lives.
4. **Feeding Themselves:** New believers need to be taught how to feed themselves spiritually by reading, studying, and applying the Bible to their lives. This starts with spiritual “milk” but should gradually progress to the “meat” of God's Word as they mature. Teaching them how to use study tools and resources equips them for lifelong growth.
5. **Living a Cleansed Life:** New believers must learn to deal with sin and walk in God's forgiveness. Just like children are taught personal hygiene, spiritual “potty training” is essential for maintaining a cleansed and Spirit-led life.

## Goal for Chair 2:

The ultimate goal for someone in Chair 2 is to help them grow from being spiritually dependent to becoming a self-feeding follower of Christ. By nurturing their spiritual growth and modeling the Christian life, we aim to help new believers transition into Chair 3, where they begin to engage more actively in serving and discipling others. This journey requires patience, intentional relationships, and a focus on helping them grasp their identity, develop basic spiritual habits, and walk confidently in their faith.

**ARE YOU IN CHAIR 2?**

## CHAIR 3: WORKER

### *Fish of Men*

#### The Worker (Young Man/Woman)

Chair 3 represents a "young man" who is independent and maturing in their faith. This person is transitioning from spiritual childhood and starting to focus on others more than themselves. At this stage, they are equipped for ministry, need hands-on experiences, and are eager to share God's story.

#### Key Understanding of Chair 3:

The essence of Chair 3 is growth and action. This individual has moved beyond the "me-centered" approach of earlier stages and is becoming "others-centered." They are developing a desire to serve, to lead, and to help nurture others in their spiritual journey. Here's a breakdown of the major components:

- **Equip:** This stage involves equipping the young believer with skills and knowledge to serve others and spread the Gospel.
- **Maturing:** Chair 3 individuals are still growing, but they are beginning to grasp more complex aspects of faith and leadership.
- **Opportunities & Experiences:** They need real-life ministry experiences to test their faith, serve others, and practice what they have learned.
- **Telling & Defending God's Story:** They are beginning to share their faith actively and defend it when necessary.
- **Feeding Others:** Instead of relying solely on others for spiritual nourishment, they are starting to teach and lead others.

#### The Role of Chair 3 in Disciple-Making:

Chair 3 is pivotal in the disciple-making process because it marks a shift from receiving to giving. A person in this stage is becoming a contributor to the body of Christ. They aren't fully trained or mature yet, but they are taking on responsibilities, learning from both successes and failures, and growing through experience. Here's what defines their role:

1. **Peer Care & Peer Share:** Chair 3 individuals care for others in the body of Christ (peer care) and evangelize to those outside the faith (peer share). They are beginning to balance their time between nurturing other believers and reaching out to the lost.
2. **Availability & Teachability:** Chair 3 disciples are available and eager to serve, though they still have much to learn. Like Jesus' disciples, they show up, follow instructions, and are willing to grow through trial and error.

3. **Energy & Passion:** These individuals are full of zeal. Their energy can lead to significant progress, but it can also result in frustration if they try to accomplish things solely through their own efforts. This is why they must learn to rely on the Holy Spirit for strength and guidance.
4. **Hands-On Ministry:** Chair 3 disciples need opportunities to get involved. They learn best through doing—whether that's teaching, serving, leading small groups, or helping with ministry events.

### Important Insights:

1. **They Need Opportunities to Serve:** People in Chair 3 grow by doing. They need hands-on experiences in ministry, where they can try, fail, and learn. Whether it's serving in a nursery, leading a Bible study, or sharing their testimony, they need real-life application to continue maturing.
2. **They Will Face Challenges:** Chair 3 disciples often experience ups and downs. They may feel energized one day and discouraged the next. Ministry leaders should be prepared to coach them through these emotional swings and remind them of the bigger picture.
3. **Learning to Rely on the Spirit:** One of the most crucial lessons at this stage is learning to live and serve by the power of the Holy Spirit, rather than their own strength. Without this understanding, Chair 3 disciples are at risk of burnout or frustration.
4. **Guidance from Mature Leaders:** People in this stage need seasoned Christians to guide them. Like Jesus spent time with His disciples, leaders must invest time and energy into helping Chair 3 individuals grow into their potential.

### Goal for Chair 3:

- The ultimate goal for Chair 3 is to guide them into a deeper reliance on God while equipping them to serve others. They need to be trained in ministry and shown how to operate in the power of the Holy Spirit. This sets the stage for them to move into Chair 4, where they become spiritual parents who reproduce disciples.
- In summary, Chair 3 is all about transition—from being served to serving others, from being led to leading others. These young men and women are learning, growing, and becoming powerful instruments for God's Kingdom, but they still have much to experience and learn. It's an exciting and crucial stage in their spiritual journey!

**ARE YOU IN CHAIR 3?**

## CHAIR 4: DISCIPLE-MAKER

*Bear Much Fruit*

### The Disciple-Maker (Spiritual Parent)

Chair 4 represents the fully trained disciple-maker who has moved beyond personal spiritual growth and is now focused on the multiplication of disciples. A spiritual parent who intentionally makes disciples who, in turn, can make disciples.

### Key Understanding of Chair 4:

- **Spiritual Parent:** Chair 4 individuals are mature believers who have successfully nurtured others in their spiritual journey and are now multiplying disciples.
- **Disciple-Maker:** They not only disciple others but teach them to disciple others as well.
- **Multiplication:** Success in Chair 4 is measured by reproduction—making disciples who will make more disciples.
- **Bear Much Fruit:** Their ministry bears significant spiritual fruit as they are focused on expanding God's Kingdom.
- **Dependable & Mature:** These individuals have demonstrated spiritual maturity and a deep commitment to God's mission.
- **Others-Oriented:** The focus is no longer on their personal growth but on the growth of others.

### Important Insights:

1. **Multiplication as the Ultimate Goal:** The primary objective for Chair 4 disciples is to see multiplication. It's important to measure success not just by growth but by the reproduction of disciples who make disciples.
2. **May Seem Like Competition:** Chair 4 people are often on the front lines of new ministry ventures, which may seem threatening to established systems. However, their passion for reaching new groups is part of God's Kingdom expansion. These individuals need to be supported and celebrated rather than viewed as competition.
3. **Diverse Callings, Same Mission:** Chair 4 individuals may have different ministry callings—church planting, youth ministry, outreach, or social work—but they share a common goal of making disciples who can make disciples. It's important to



recognize and celebrate the diversity of their callings, as they are all contributing to the same mission.

## The Role of Chair 4 in Disciple-Making:

- Chair 4 disciples are critical for advancing the movement of disciple-making. These individuals are not merely workers but have fully embraced the mission of Jesus—making disciples who make disciples. Jesus’ strategy in disciple-making focused on multiplication, seen in His command to “go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19). Chair 4 believers understand that disciple-making involves both **evangelism** and **discipleship**, recognizing that without evangelism, no new disciples can be made, and without discipleship, new believers cannot be equipped to reproduce.
- As spiritual parents, Chair 4 disciples guide others through the entire journey of discipleship. They lead seekers to Christ, mentor new believers, and equip workers who will repeat this cycle of growth. Jesus exemplified this journey, starting with seekers (John 1), developing followers (John 4), building coworkers (Matthew 4:19), and sending out disciple-makers (Luke 10:2). In the same way, Chair 4 disciples are now replicating this process in the lives of others.

## Goal for Chair 4:

The primary goal for Chair 4 individuals is **multiplication**. Their mission is to replicate themselves by making disciples who will continue the process. Success is not measured by personal growth alone but by the ability to reproduce spiritually mature believers who can lead others. These disciples are called to make an impact far beyond their local church, often by launching new ministries or leading initiatives that bring spiritual growth to other areas.

ARE YOU IN CHAIR 4?