



SPIRITUAL JOURNEY LEADER GUIDE

Sharing Personal Journeys

A Personal Journey is a description (visual or oral) of the history of your walk with God. It includes a depiction of your life *before* you met (i.e. began walking) with the Lord vs. after God became a part of your life. It spans the period of time from your birth to current age, with age ranges marked appropriately to succinctly summarize phases of life.

The purpose of sharing personal journeys in your Discipleship group is:

- To share a special part of yourself as you share in authenticity about your walk with God
- As a means of getting to know one another better, your spiritual history and your challenges (both current and those having been overcome) along your path of life
- For others to offer insights into the way(s) God has been working in your life and to celebrate with you your victories along the way

Resources Available

- You have the option of using a chart (distribute to your group ahead of time) to diagram in timeline format your spiritual history

When To Share

- Personal Journeys can be incorporated into any discipleship curriculum
- Select a specific date for one or more persons to share
- Model your Spiritual Journey first (the leader goes first)
- Try to have everyone share their Journeys over a set number of weeks
- Give them advanced time for preparation
- Ideally, each individual in your group will share within the first year

Time Allotment

- Generally, one hour should be set aside per person to include (this is flexible):
 - 30 minute Group Member Presents
 - 30 minute Question & Answer Period

The Question & Answer Period

- During the member's presentation, no questions are asked. All members are listening quietly, taking it all in and making internal observations about God's intervention and presence in his/her life.
- Once the presentation is complete, the leader may thank him/her for sharing and may invite other group members to ask questions for clarification.
- The leader may then encourage other members to share their positive observations so the presenter comes away with additional insights and/or affirmation and encouragement, celebrating the spiritual victories along the way.
- Sometimes, a personal issue of sensitive nature will be disclosed and you may feel led (in the moment) to pray as a group for the member. As a leader, if you feel the Spirit's prompting to pray, you should invite the group at that moment to do so. The suggestion to pray may also come from another group member, whom you should also encourage for making the suggestion.