The 5 Stages of Spiritual Growth
DEFINITIONS, TRAITS & PHRASES

**DEAD**

**TRAITS**
- They are... 
  - broken (aware or unaware)
  - lost and unaware of it
  - living out their feelings.

**PHRASES**
- THEY MIGHT SAY...
  - “I believe there are many ways to Heaven.”
  - “I’m too busy for a small group.”

**INFANT**

**TRAITS**
- They are...
  -...growing in their relationship with God.
  -...building relationships with other believers.
  -...developing habits of Bible study and prayer.
  -...plugging into relational environments for the purpose of discipleship (small groups)
  -...giving of their time and money.

**PHRASES**
- THEY MIGHT SAY...
  - “I’m a good person.”
  - “I’m too busy for a small group.”

**CHILD**

**TRAITS**
- They are...
  -...becoming less self-centered and more others-centered.
  -...beginning to see themselves as ministers.
  -...tithing and giving of their time from a place of thankfulness and love...
  -...understanding the Kingdom purpose of branching their small group.

**PHRASES**
- THEY MIGHT SAY...
  - “I’m going to visit Bob in the hospital tonight rather than going to the movies.”
  - “I’m serving in the nursery so that parents can attend a service.”
  - “I need to branch my small group, but no one else is ready to lead.”

**YOUNG ADULT**

**TRAITS**
- They are...
  -...mature disciples of Jesus, but continually growing and developing in their personal relationship with God and as a disciple of Jesus Christ...
  -...skilled at assessing where others are in the discipleship process and get personally involved to help them grow and develop.
  -...understanding their role as one who needs to intentionally invest in others – making disciples who can make disciples.
  -...becoming a coach who develops other players/leaders.

**PHRASES**
- THEY MIGHT SAY...
  - “I’m taking Steve with me the next time I visit Bob in the hospital to help him learn how to minister to others.”
  - “I have a couple good potential leaders in my home group that I’m going to personally invest in.”
  - “Larry is a fine home group leader, and he has really matured in his faith. I’m going to ask him to pray about becoming a coach.”

**PARENT**

**TRAITS**
- They are...
  -...able to reproduce mature disciples of Christ by inviting others to follow them as they follow Christ.  

**PHRASES**
- THEY MIGHT SAY...
  - “...becoming more disciple-centered and others-centered.”

**SPIRITUALLY DEAD:** People in this stage have not yet accepted Christ as Lord and Savior. They may completely reject God, they may be seeking God, they may be “spiritual”, they may even claim to know God or be a Christian, when in reality, they are their own god.

**SPIRITUAL INFANT:** In this stage, people have accepted Christ, but haven’t moved much past that point. They can be new believers or they might be stagnant, long-time Christians. Life is generally all about them and their needs.

**SPIRITUAL CHILD:** In this stage, people are growing in their relationship with God and are also beginning to grow in their relationship with other Christians. They are applying God’s Word in their life and allowing others to walk beside them in their journey following Christ. However, it’s still mostly about them – their needs, comfort, etc.

**SPIRITUAL YOUNG ADULT:** In this stage, people are making a big shift from being self-centered to more others-centered. They’re beginning to understand their role as a giver, rather than a taker – ministering to others, putting others first – being doers of the Word.

**SPIRITUAL PARENT:** In this stage, the Parent has a solid understanding of God’s Word and a deep, abiding relationship with the Father. They are living out God’s Word in their lives daily. They are others-centered and God-dependent. They are able to reproduce mature disciples of Christ by inviting others to follow them as they follow Christ.