

“Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope.” 1 Peter 3: 15				
Experience of Faith	Relationship with those in the Church Community	Relationship with Jesus Christ	Language to Engage in a Conversation about Faith	What Maturity is Happening?
No experience of faith and/or Church (pre-evangelization)	Relationships with those in the parish may be minimal and only exist on levels outside of faith conversations and experiences (e.g.: work or school). General assumptions and presuppositions may be made about the Church community.	With no exposure to Jesus Christ or the Church, a relationship with Jesus may not necessarily exist. There may be, however, a sense of curiosity that is spurred by an experience (traumatic or out-of-the-ordinary) that leads to deeper questioning.	Because there is no language of faith in this individual’s experiences, focusing on human desires as the foundation for an eventual conversation of faith can be tremendously helpful. As human beings, we all desire <b>love, truth, beauty, goodness, and a sense of belonging</b> . In sharing our personal stories of faith, we should lean heavily in our language on our desires and frame our personal witness on how a relationship with Jesus fulfills our human longings.	Curiosity leads to asking questions:  Is there more?  What’s my purpose?  How can I have the joy that others have?
Minimal experience of faith and/or Church	Relationships with those in a parish do not sink much below the surface and are distanced by time or circumstance. There are disconnects between a faith life and everyday experiences.  There may be assumptions about the faith community which could stem from previous experiences (good or bad). In this case, a reconciling with past experiences or events is important.	While there may be some awareness of Jesus Christ, a personal relationship with him is lacking. This individual makes associations about Jesus with little integration or connection to him. Maturity in a faith journey is minimal but the potential is high	Because there is minimal experience with faith and/or Church, nurturing a relationship with key disciples of Christ in the parish is essential. Disciples must find common ground to decipher their experiences through the lens of a relationship with Jesus. Listening and accompaniment is essential to nurture a trust and comradery between disciples and those with minimal experiences in a faith community. <b>Language should be radically hospitable. Stories should be shared by everyone that focuses on joy, hope, perseverance, community, and walking together.</b>	Deeper connection and re-connection is being made.  People start to see themselves as God’s beloved.  Illusions and presuppositions are called out and confronted
Regular experience of faith and/or Church	Relationships with the parish community are more regular but may not be deeply connected and nurturing. Individuals may attend Mass simply out of obligation and live more passively in their faith. The ritual becomes routine and risks staying on the surface.  On the contrary, these individuals may have a maturing faith life with little opportunity for growth because of strong barriers of entry (certain people always take the lead).	While there is a regularity with an experience in Church and faith, there may not be a familiarity with nurturing a relationship with Jesus. Individuals may go through the motions without digging deeper.  Individuals may have a longing to seek deeper opportunities to nurture a relationship with Jesus, but may not have the direction to do so.	Language about nurturing a relationship with Jesus may be more familiar with those in this category, but more nurturing must take place to go deeper. Disciples must introduce strategies on nurturing a personal relationship with Jesus.  Invitation to more is essential. <b>Focusing on prayer (intercessory, with the Holy Spirit, discernment listening), scripture, and a lifestyle of integrating faith is important. Together, share stories that explicitly detail how a relationship with Jesus touches the heart, changes life, and calls to action.</b>	Move from passive to engaging  Discern the movement of the Holy Spirit  Focus on nurturing a relationship with Jesus Christ
Engaged experience of faith and/or Church	Relationships with the parish community are strong, which can lead to a programmatic focus inward. Individuals may be engaged because of a specific initiative or circumstance. If initiatives or circumstances are what drive the engagement, it could be temporary and shallow.  On the contrary, these individuals may be engaged in certain facets of parish life, which could lead to a deepening relationship with Christ. The excitement and enthusiasm in engagement exudes joy that comes from knowing Jesus.	Because the connection with the faith community is strong, there may be an openness and pursuit to deepen one’s relationship with Jesus and a desire to draw others into that experience.  When the busyness of engaged parish activity consumes lives, individuals can easily miss the mark with the “WHY” and purpose of our existence as Church.	Because engaged individuals are immersed in the functions of the parish, the language of faith and a relationship with Jesus will be familiar. To be a disciple of Jesus is to be in a relationship with him. The conversation should begin with discerning questions,  “How has a relationship with Jesus Christ formed your life?”  “Can you share a story about your relationship with Jesus?”  “Why does a relationship with Jesus matter?”	Move from busy engagement to the focus on nurturing a loving relationship with Jesus, the source of our existence.  Recognition of WHY we do what we do…it must draw others to Jesus.
Disciple of Jesus Christ	A disciple of Jesus sees a relationship with him as the thread that weaves the experiences of parish life together. The purpose and activity of the disciple is outward focused, and sustains the community of faith in the wellspring of the grace of Christ. The disciple is joyful, captivating, and welcoming. Their very presence curiously draws others in. They are nurturing a Great Commission Mindset (Matthew 28)	Jesus is the center of the disciple’s life. There is a sacred surrendering that sanctifies the work of the disciple and nurtures the community. A relationship with Jesus is the fabric of the disciple’s life. Animated through the relationship with Jesus, the disciple is always on the move ready to tell the good news in personal story.	Conversation about Jesus is integrated into the individual’s life. There is a comfort in sharing one’s personal story of faith and Jesus. There is a regular discernment of gifts and an embraced lifestyle of stewardship in the parish community.  Conversational language can sustain missionary disciples who are on the move proclaiming the good news in word and deed.	Growing more passionately in love with Jesus Christ  Their very presence of joy speaks the good news of Jesus Christ
Disciple leader	A disciple leader is a disciple of Jesus who embraces a Great Commission (Matthew 28) mindset and seeks to form leaders who will beget disciples of Christ. In the parish, they focus on just a few people to form and disciple as leaders in the community. Their emphasis is on spiritual multiplication	A disciple leader places Jesus at the center and seeks to model his method of forming other disciple leaders. They constantly seek to be “in tune” with the master.	Engaging in conversations as disciple leaders involves nurturing disciples to integrate the love of Jesus into their lives with intentional missionary action that draws others into a mature relationship with Jesus. Disciple leaders speak words of vision, leadership, formation, and spiritual multiplication	Spiritual multiplication  Focus on forming a few to do the same  Make Jesus Christ known and loved