

# STUDY GUIDE

May 4

## STAY IN THE LOOP

*Announcements*



- Join us at Southgate for **Mental Health Week**, May 11–15, as we explore this year’s theme: *Unmasking Mental Health*. See the Announcements for more details.

## START WITH PRAYER

*Use this Prayer Prompt*

Thank God for always pursuing a deeper relationship with us. Ask God to help us understand where we are spiritually and see His work in our lives. Ask God to help us understand each other’s relationship with God better and encourage each other. Ask God to give us a hunger for a deeper relationship with him and to know and love Him more.

## STUDY THE BIBLE

*Think through and discuss your reactions as you read through Scripture:*

John 3:3

John 3:8

Hebrews 12:1-2

Ephesians 1

## OVERVIEW OF STAGES IN THE FAITH JOURNEY

Stage one: Recognition of God

Stage two: The Life of Discipleship

Stage three: The Productive Life

Stage four: The Journey Inward

The Wall

Stage five: The Journey Outward

Stage six: The Life of Love

## ***STIR UP DISCUSSION***

*How does this week's teaching affect me personally?*

1. What does "stepping out your front door" into faith look like for you right now? What emotions does that image stir in you—fear, excitement, resistance, curiosity?
2. Jesus said being born again is the starting point of the spiritual journey (John 3:3). In what ways have you experienced a "new beginning" in your walk with God?
3. Everyone's journey with God is somewhat different and unique. How would you describe your faith journey so far?
4. Over the centuries, church fathers and spiritual leaders have recognized common roadmaps that trace the journey most believers tend to travel. Of the six stages of faith, which one best describes your current relationship with God? What about that stage feels challenging—and what about it feels life-giving?
5. What do you think the implications would be for our church if we understood each other's stage in our faith journey better?

## ***STEP INTO ACTION***

*Let's try to apply this by taking some Next Steps.*

1. Take time to review the stages as we study them
2. Be ruthlessly honest
3. Begin to ask God to reveal to you where you are at today