

Grow Series, Bible Study Guide

For this week's character, please read the relevant chapters as provided by your small group leader. You may like to read more widely the chapters relating to that character to pick up the flow of their story and have a greater understanding of the context.

1) "Put yourselves in their shoes".

Put yourself 'in that person's shoes'... imagine what it must've been like for them in their historical situation.

What is the life situation of the person when the process of being spiritually formed begins (i.e. what context is the person in when this process begins) ?

Think about

- Where this person started out, where they lived (country, city, desert)
 - Was the country occupied ? were they aliens ? in exile ?
- Age- how old was the person when this process starts? (it might not say, but you can estimate life stage),
- Gender, (and the cultural implications of this!)
- Status, (wealthy? of high honour? A position of power? poor, of ill-repute?)
- Occupation? did they have one, would their identity be tied to their job?
- Would their life have been easy ? or was it a difficult situation?

2) What was the process that God used?

What did it look like? Remember Spiritual formation is a journey -the goal is to be 'mature in Christ'... fully conformed to Christlikeness – i.e. obedience to God and 'obeying all that Jesus has commanded us'. (cf Mat 28:20).

In chapter2 of Andrew's book he lists 'means' or 'ways' in which God forms people spiritually. Are any / all of these utilized here? Identify which ones you can see God using in this character's life.

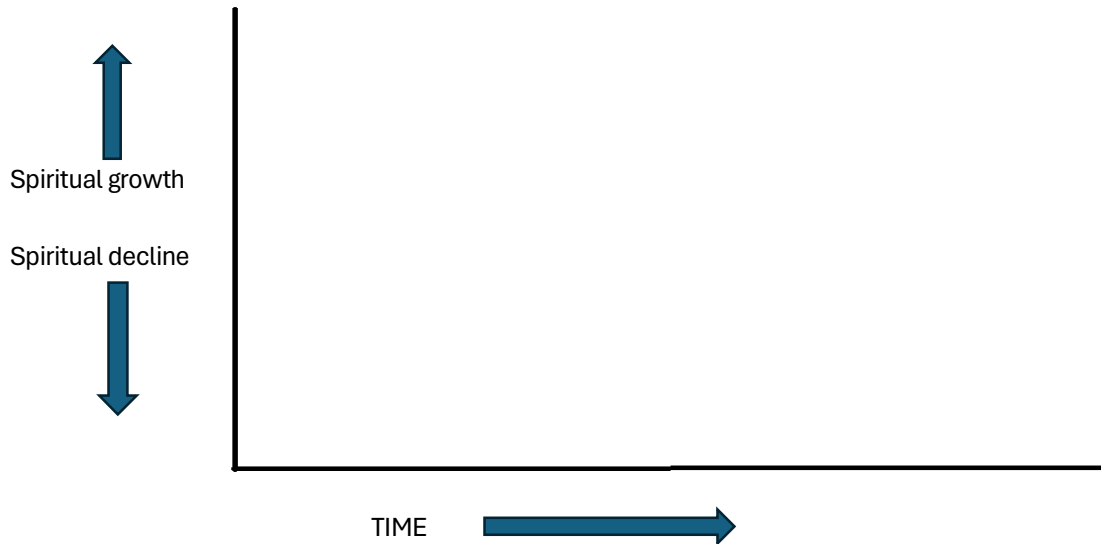
3) What does their journey look like?

How long does it take ? Does it happen immediately (I.e. Does God give spiritual gift / or empowerment?) Is there a lengthy process ?

Can we identify disciplines (Chapter 5 of Andrew's book) which were particularly useful in this process?

Grow Series, Bible Study Guide

If you were to map their journey, what would it look like ? Feel free to expand this with highpoints including those beyond the readings which we know occurred in the life of this particular person.



- 4) What formation / character develop has occurred? Has the person grown in faithfulness? Trust? Boldness? Patience ? (or insert area of growth here)

We can think about these things as both the gift / fruit of the Spirit in their lives, but also as God giving them opportunities to exercise these gifts.

- 5) Is there a spiritual gifting that is given / the person develops as part of this process?
- 6) Can you relate to this character's journey?
Do you ever feel like this person? Why?
What do you see God doing in your spiritual journey that has similarities?
OR is it the opposite? Is this a catalyst for growth in your life?
- 7) Prayer – look back, look up, look forward. What has God been saying, what is God saying, and with whom do you need to share this with?