

The Spiritual Level – Becoming Mature and Multiplied

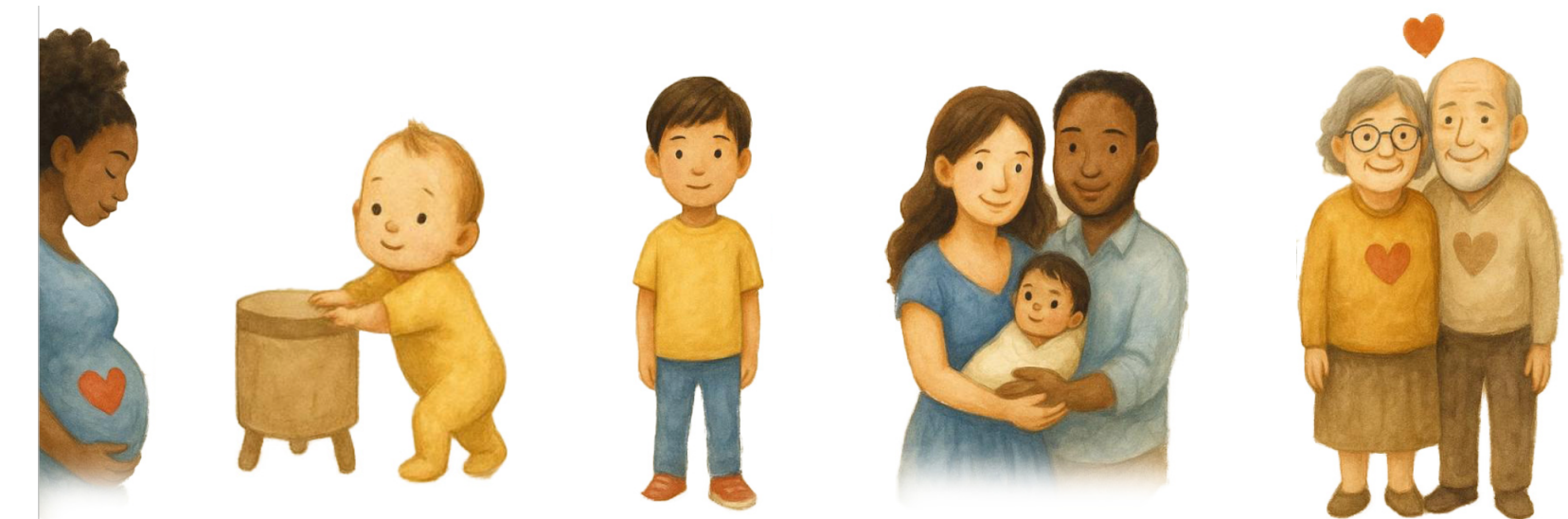
*Key Elements of Disciple-Making
How to Create a Movement*



Why the word “Disciple” matters

Jesus never used the word Christian—He used the word disciple.

- Christian appears only **3 times** in the Bible, first in Acts 11:26: *“The disciples were called Christians first in Antioch”*—about 11 years after the cross.
- Disciple appears over **250 times** and is the word Jesus used again and again.

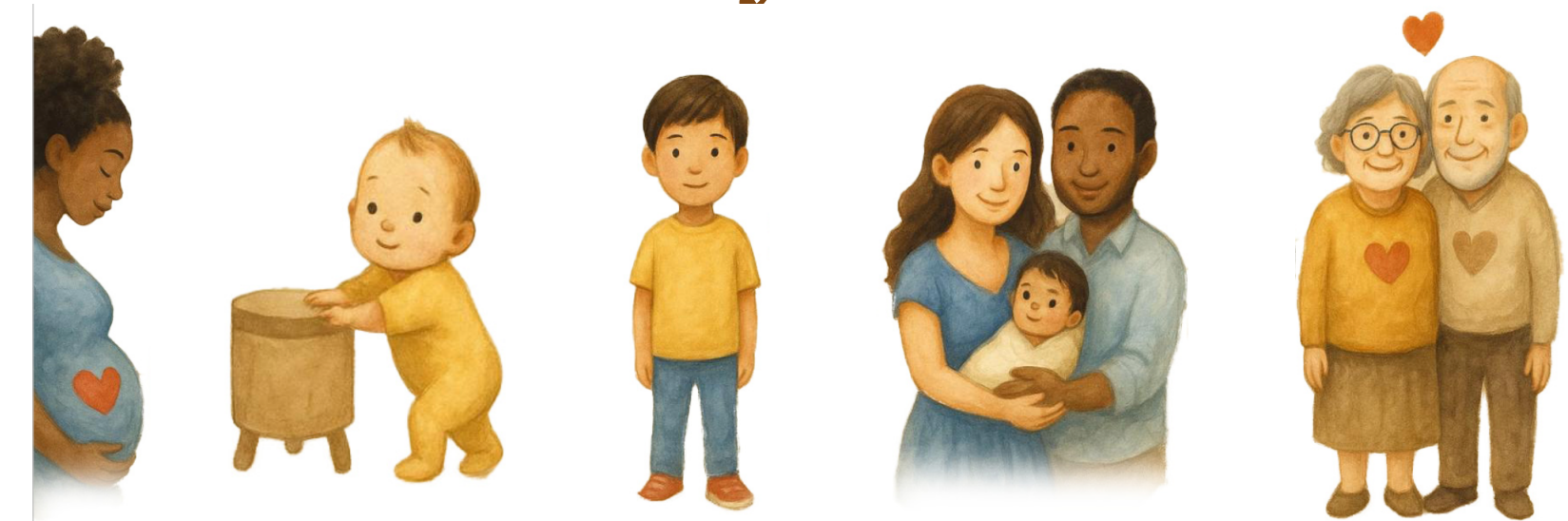


Strength of the Word “Disciple”

- Creates a culture of **learning, following, and transformation.**

Weakness of the Word “Disciple”

- It doesn't reveal **where you are** in your walk with God.
- **A brand-new** believer is a disciple.
- Someone who's walked with God for **5 or 30 years** is also called a disciple.
- This makes it harder to identify what each person actually needs to grow.



1 Corinthians 3:1–3

But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as **infants in Christ.**

I fed you with **milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way?**

1 Corinthians 4:15

For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have **many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel.**

Ephesians 4:14–16

So that we may **no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.**

Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to **grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.**

1 John 2:12–14

I am writing to you, **little children**, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake.

I am writing to you, **fathers**, because you know him who is from the beginning.

I am writing to you, **young men**, because you have overcome the evil one.

I write to you, **children**, because you know the Father.

I write to you, **fathers**, because you know him who is from the beginning.

I write to you, **young men**, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

Hebrews 5:11–14

About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.

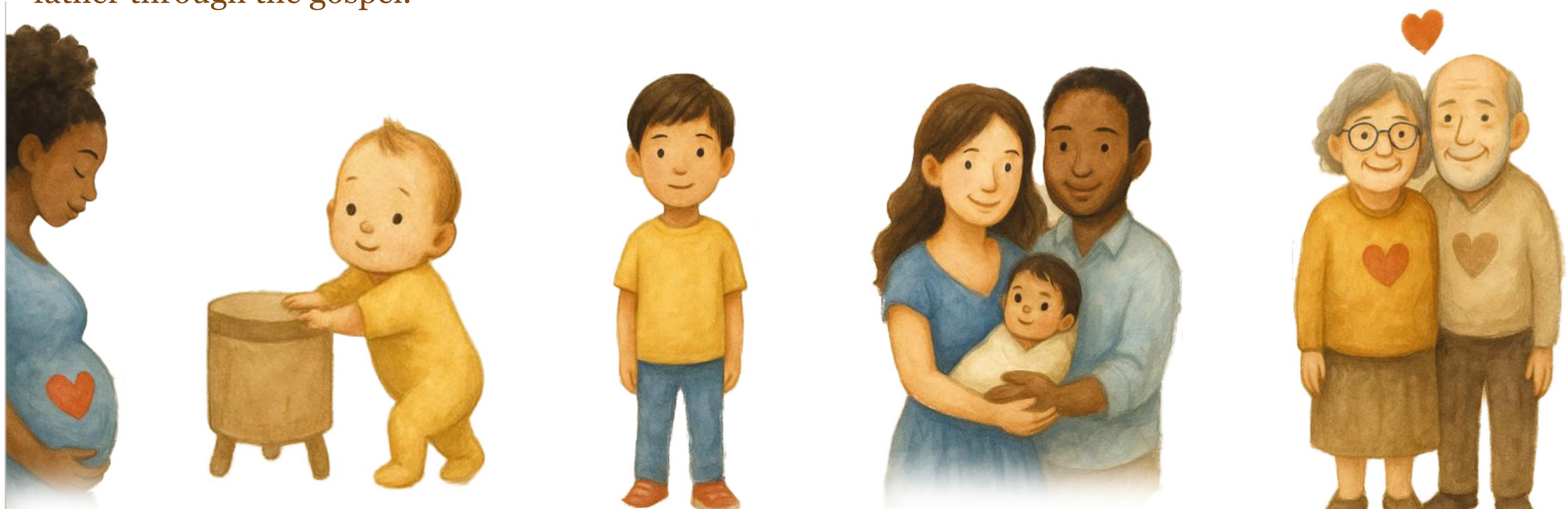
For though by this time you **ought to be teachers**, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. **You need milk, not solid food,**

for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child.

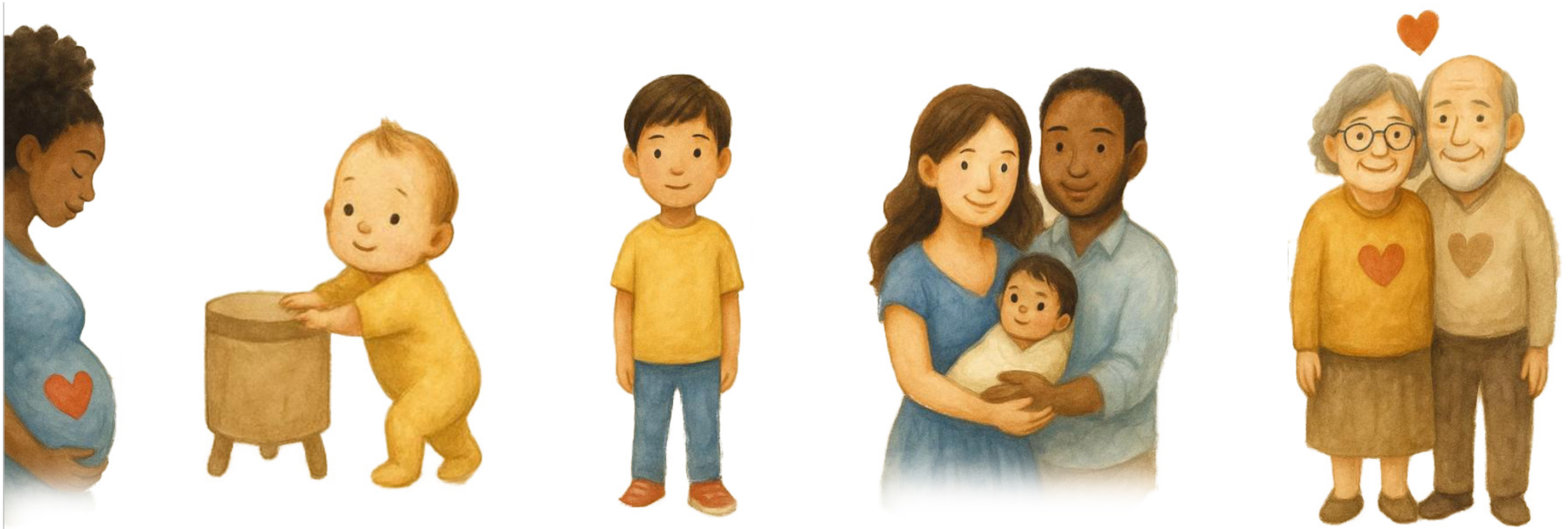
But **solid food is for the mature**, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

Spiritual Levels:

1. **Born Again** – John 3:3 – “Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”
2. **Baby / Infant** – Hebrews 5:13 – “Anyone who lives on milk is still an infant and doesn’t know how to do what is right.”
3. **Young Man** – 1 John 2:13 – “I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one.”
4. **Parents** – 1 Corinthians 4:15 – “You do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.”



Our problem: Many churches feed everyone the same food from the pulpit. Some grow, others stay infants, others stop growing.



Infants (Babies in Christ)

Verses: 1 Cor. 3:1–3; Heb. 5:11–14; 1 John 2:12; Eph. 4:14

Signs:

- Still worldly (jealousy, arguing).
- Need milk, not solid food.
- Don't know right from wrong.
- Easily deceived, tossed by false teaching.
- Need constant reminding: “Your sins have been forgiven.”
- Not yet strong, haven't overcome the evil one.

Needs:

- Parents, family, fellowship.
- Gentle teaching and encouragement.
- Support when doubting, confused, or falling.



Young Men (Children in Faith)

Verses: 1 John 2:13–14; Heb. 5:14

Signs:

- Strong; the Word of God lives in them.
- Have overcome the evil one.
- No longer worldly or easily deceived.
- Trained to discern good from evil.
- Still no spiritual children of their own yet.

Needs:

- More challenges, mission trips, and active service.
- Opportunities to teach, share, and take responsibility.



Parents (Mature Disciples)

Verses: 1 Cor. 4:15; Heb. 5:12; Eph. 4:15–16

Signs:

- Know God deeply through Scripture and experience.
- Have spiritual children.
- Strong in the Word, walk in the Spirit.
- Discernment and ability to mentor.

Needs:

- To invest in others, raise the next generation.
- Step into leadership or five-fold ministry roles.



