

THE JOURNEY *Revised...here is what you need to know*

We are excited to share with you the revisions to VP3's *The Journey*. It has been five years since we last made substantive changes to the process. As we have listened over these last few years we have been amazed at the consistency of the stories—lives awakened and lives deepened in Jesus' name. *The Journey* is, at its core, a meaningful walk with a group of people, guided by three primary questions:

Question #1: Who is God?

Question #2: Who am I?

Question #3: What does God desire to do through me?

Our enhancements and revisions have been focused on strengthening Question #3 within the process. We are seeking to foster a supportive and challenging set of conversations around life purpose/vision and where might God be inviting the participants to join into his revealing and reconciling mission in the world.

Stages 1 and 2

The substantive changes to *The Journey* are found in Stage 3: Relational Foundations. Besides the new look of *The Journey* there has been some very minor editing and enhancements within Stage 1: Biblical Foundations and Stage 2: Personal Foundations. The same page numbering remains intact.

Stage 3: Relational Foundations

Sessions 1-3 will look familiar; some things have been subtracted and others have been added to offer greater focus to the importance of Jesus relational way with us and through us. **Sessions 4-6 cover new and improved ground** by providing a bit of conversation and laboratory into the uniqueness of who each participant is and how God may be inviting them to grow and contribute out of who they are.

- **Session 4: Your Talents and Gifts** – In this session we will explore the particular talents and gifts God has given us for the functioning and flourishing of the body of Christ. We will do this by discussing the results of our CliftonStrengths assessment and our spiritual gift survey (gifts.church-growth.org).
- **Session 5: Embracing a Sense of Calling** – In this session we invite participants to reflect upon key elements included in The Journey process, so they might better understand and move toward a sense of God's specific calling in their lives. (personal vision exercise)
- **Session 6: Next Steps on The Journey** – This session will encourage you to consider, in the company of friends, what next steps of growth toward kingdom life and influence God is inviting you to.

Supplemental Books

We have decided to keep the same additional books as we have in years past with two adjustments. **Michael Card's *The Walk: The Life-Changing Journey of Two Friends*** and its emphasis on our faith as essentially incarnational **will be suggested for Stage 1.** And **Henri Nouwen's *In The Name of Jesus: Reflections on Christian Leadership*** and its challenge for the 21st century to move toward a deeper sort of Christian leadership (one that is prayerful, vulnerable, and trusting) **will be the suggested book** as *The Journey* draws to a close **in Stage 3.** We feel like the adjusted timing of these book conversations will strengthen the learning for participants. David Benner's *The Gift of Being Yourself* will remain in Stage 2. Our second adjustment is that ***StrengthsFinder 2.0: Discover Your CliftonStrengths* by Tom Rath will be the recommended book (assessment) for the StrengthsFinder assessment.**

THE JOURNEY...

NEW IMAGE



1

STAGE ONE: BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS

- Session 1: *An Invitation to Discover*
- Session 2: *Developing a Biblical Foundation*
- Session 3: *Participating in God's General Call*
- Session 4: *Understanding God's Specific Call*
- Session 5: *Paying Attention to Character*
- Session 6: *Exploring Our Values*
- Session 7: *Developing a Personal Biblical Mandate*

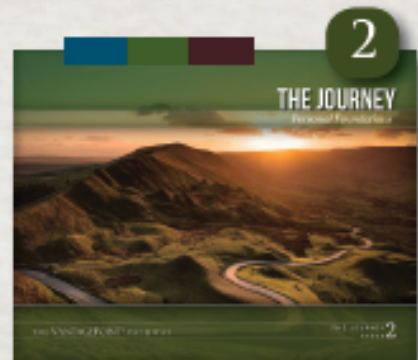
NOW IN STAGE 1



The Walk: The Life-Changing Journey of Two Friends
Michael Card
Grand Rapids, MI: Discovery House Publishers, 2006

STAGE TWO: PERSONAL FOUNDATIONS

- Session 1: *A Lifelong Shaping*
- Session 2: *A Narrative Approach*
- Session 3: *Our Sovereign Foundations*
- Session 4: *Preparation: An Invitation to Growth & Holiness*
- Session 5: *Challenges to Growth & Influence*
- Session 6: *Writing Our Narratives*
- Session 7: *Sharing Our Narratives*



2



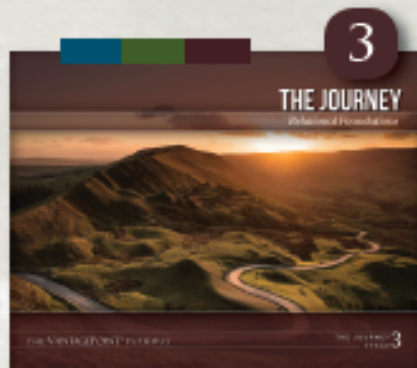
The Gift of Being Yourself: The Sacred Call to Self-Discovery
David G. Benner
Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2004

STAGE THREE: RELATIONAL FOUNDATIONS

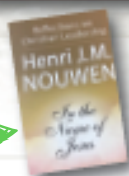
- Session 1: *A Shared Way of Life*
- Session 2: *Imitating Jesus' Way with Others*
- Session 3: *Walking with Others*
- Session 4: *Your Talents and Gifts*
- Session 5: *Embracing a Sense of Calling*
- Session 6: *Next Steps on the Journey*
- Session 7: *A Time of Blessing*

STRENGTHENED AND REVISED SESSIONS

NOW IN STAGE 3



3



In The Name of Jesus: Reflections on Christian Leadership
Henri J. M. Nouwen
New York, NY: Crossroad Publishing, 1991

StrengthsFinder 2.0 (assessment)
Tom Rath
New York, NY: The Gallup Press, 2007

NOW USING 2.0

