



Your Role as a Change Agent

"Shape the person and you stand a much greater chance of shaping everything else."

—James M. Houston

Our role as facilitator and mentor will most likely precipitate growth in the lives of those we walk along side. It is an echo of what the Apostle Paul and others throughout the history of the church cared deeply about—helping the saints grow toward maturity in Christ, "...from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love" (Ephesians 4:16).

One way to speak of your role within the context of your church or community is that you will function (knowingly or not) as a change agent. Whenever people come together to talk about what they deeply care about, change begins to take place. Not only in their lives, but in community or context in which they find themselves.

An apt comparison may be an ecological one of what might happen if we were to add turtles to a pond. After a while we would discover that we did not just add a few snappers to a pond, but we effected the life dynamic of the whole pond.

We have found that over time, as facilitators particularize and walk alongside others as they go through the VP3 processes together, other people within their system begin to notice "something good is going on." Your role as a facilitator is critical in that you will be serving educationally speaking to help those in your group process some of the most significant questions of their lives. Your influence toward change within the life of another and within the life of your community is very significant.



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coaches@vantagepoint3.org

We have also found that the role of facilitator over time within a local church or community has had an influence in the following ways:

- A catalyst for noticing the particular and deeper formation of others.
- Surfaced the importance of a developmental approach with adults.
- Helped expose the callings and potential ministry service of others.
- Indirectly exposed developmental gaps within a local system.
- Fostered a desire among facilitators to come together for learning.

We would encourage you to meet with others in your setting (other facilitators, pastoral staff, key people who care about the development of adults) halfway through *The Journey* or *A Way of Life* or *Walking with Others* process, and at the end to consider the questions below. These questions can offer guidance in a beginning sort of way to help surface good conversation around the deepening and empowering of the adults within your setting.

- What are you noticing in your setting regarding adult discipleship?
- What are you noticing in your setting regarding leadership development?
- What are you noticing as people go through the VP3 processes?
- How would you describe the clarity by which you understand (big picture) how adults are invited to grow toward maturity in Christ within your setting?
- What do you find yourself thinking about in light of the above questions?

