



TRACK 2: DEVELOPING OTHERS

INVESTING IN PEOPLE

ICEBREAKER: STARTING FIVE 

When you think about the people who've made the biggest impact and shaped your life, who would be in your **Starting Five**? Write down and share with the group the five people who have had the biggest influence on who you are today. They could be a coach, teacher, parent, friend, pastor, sibling - anyone who shaped you. Next to each name, jot down one word describing how they influenced you. Let's see who helped build your team.

Name	How they influenced you

STUDY: MORE THAN ME

Spiritual maturity is more than just personal growth. It's more than knowing more, behaving better, or feeling stronger in your faith. At some point, growth stops being just about *me* - and starts becoming about *who is stronger because of me*.

A Spiritual Adult doesn't lose their desires, but they grow in their ability to look beyond themselves. They begin to care not only about their own walk with Christ, but about the spiritual development of others. Today we're going to explore what it looks like to invest in people – to give and not just to receive. Because in God's design, real maturity is always more than me.

READ 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

- What stands out to you from this passage? What do you find significant about the relationship Paul is fostering with these people?
- Why do you think Paul compares himself to both a *nursing mother* and an *encouraging father*? What does each image communicate about spiritual investment?

Spiritual maturity shares more than information. Anyone can pass along content, quote a verse, or offer advice. But Spiritual Adults don't just transfer knowledge - they share their lives. Like Paul in 1 Thessalonians 2:8, they don't merely deliver truth and move on; they open their schedules, their homes, their struggles, and their stories. They understand that transformation rarely happens at a distance. It happens in proximity. Maturity moves from "Let me tell you something" to "Let me walk with you through something."

Spiritual Adults also begin to think generationally. Their faith is no longer just about personal stability or growth - it's about multiplication. They start asking, "Who is coming behind me?" and "Who am I helping become fully mature in Christ?" They recognize that influence is not accidental; it's intentional. Like a parent who wants their child to stand strong long after they're gone, Spiritual Adults live with legacy in mind. They understand that what they model today shapes someone else's tomorrow.

And finally, **Spiritual Adults recognize that investment always requires sacrifice.** Nurturing takes time. Encouraging takes energy. Correcting takes courage. Staying present when it would be easier to withdraw costs something. Spiritual Adults accept that developing people is slower and often less visible than developing platforms or personal success. But they also know it is far more eternal. Maturity stops asking, "What am I getting?" and starts asking, "Who am I building up?"

- Who has spiritually "parented" you at some point in your life? What did they do that made the biggest impact?
- How does thinking like a parent - rather than just a participant - change the way you show up in your church or community?
- What kind of spiritual "legacy" are you currently building, whether intentionally or unintentionally?

ACTIVITY: DIGGING DEEPER

Read the passages below together as a group. As you read, pay attention to the language, the tone, and the responsibility described. Notice how these verses shape our understanding of spiritual maturity - not as something we keep to ourselves, but as something that overflows into others. What do they challenge in you? What do they invite you into?

1 Corinthians 4:15-17	1 Timothy 4:12	1 Thessalonians 5:11	1 Corinthians 3:6-9	Philippians 2:3-4
Deuteronomy 6:6-7	2 Timothy 1:5	Titus 2:6-8	Hebrews 13:7	Colossians 1:28-29

CHALLENGE: SPIRITUAL PARENT LETTER

This week, take time to honor someone who has invested in your spiritual growth. Think of a person who didn't just give you advice but shared their life with you - someone who encouraged you, corrected you, prayed for you, or modeled faith in a way that shaped who you are today. Write them a handwritten letter of at least one full page. Be specific about how they impacted you, why it mattered, and how their influence is still shaping you. Let them know that because they invested in you, you hope to invest in others the same way. Then send the letter before we gather again. Maturity remembers, honors, and multiplies.