



HOMEWARD

THE JOURNEY OF FAITH • STAGE TWO

Honest Questions

Making room for what is true

A HOMEWARD GUIDE FOR YOUR SEASON



Honest Questions

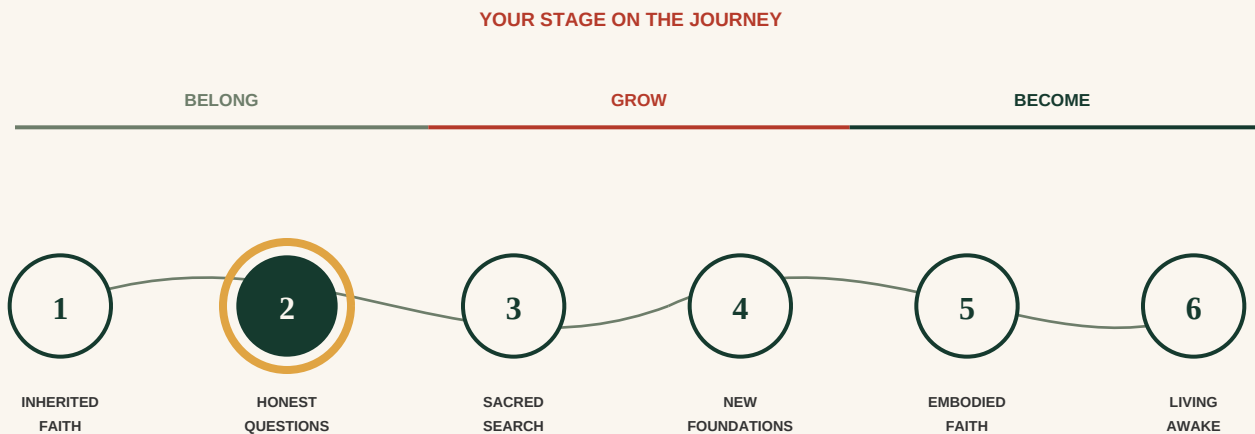
Stage Two of the Journey of Faith

You appear to be in a season when inherited answers are beginning to strain. Questions may be rising through Scripture, science, suffering, injustice, personal experience, identity, or something that happened in church.

You may feel relief and fear at the same time. Something in you no longer wants to pretend. That does not make you faithless. It may mean you care too deeply about what is true to keep repeating answers that no longer hold.

A mirror, not a box.

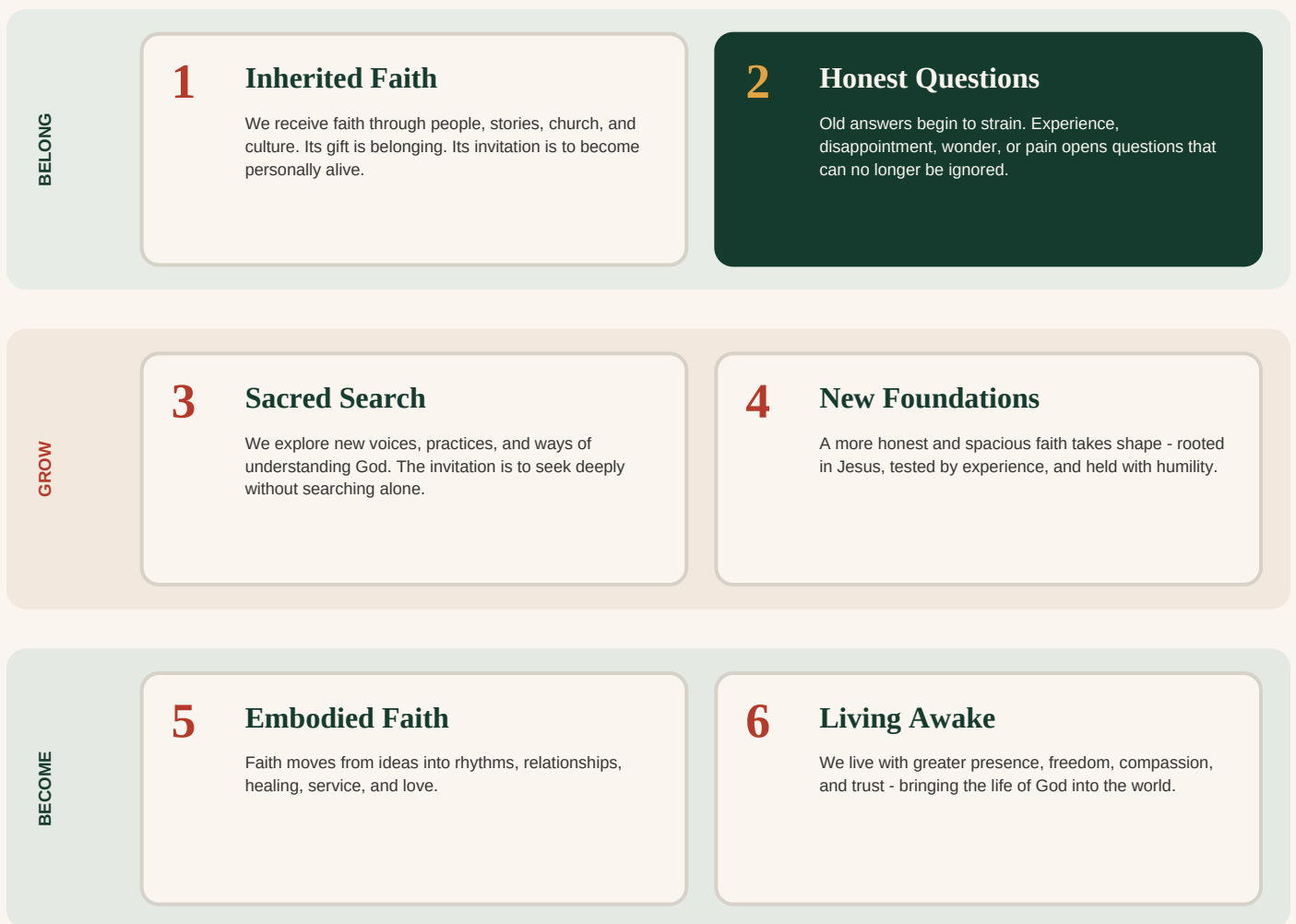
This result is not a diagnosis, a ranking, or a permanent label. Most of us carry parts of several stages at once. Honest Questions simply names the movement that seems most alive in you right now.



A spiral, not a ladder. Questions can become part of the way home.

A Spiral, Not a Ladder

Spiritual growth is rarely linear. We receive, question, seek, rebuild, embody, and awaken - often more than once. No stage is a rank, and no stage makes anyone more loved by God.

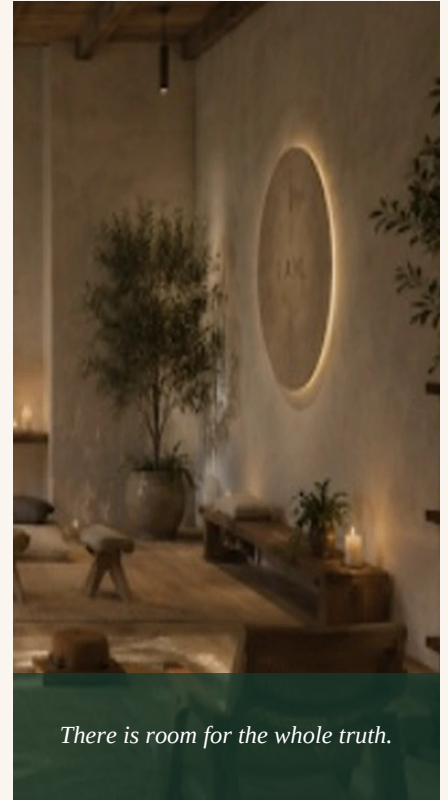


You may revisit any stage more than once. The stages describe how our relationship to faith may change - not God's relationship to us. Jesus remains at the center of the journey, inviting us toward greater honesty, freedom, compassion, and love.

You are not failing. You are becoming honest.

The questions may be intellectual, emotional, moral, or deeply personal. They may have arrived slowly, or all at once. Sometimes the hardest part is not the question itself, but the fear of what asking it might cost.

One common risk is believing you must solve everything quickly - or carry the questions alone. Shame can turn curiosity into secrecy, and disappointment can harden into cynicism. The invitation is to tell the truth in the presence of God and trustworthy people, without forcing a conclusion before it is ready.



There is room for the whole truth.

WHAT MAY BE TRUE IN THIS SEASON

1

Your questions may be a form of faithfulness.

The Bible preserves lament, protest, confusion, and people who speak honestly with God. Love of truth can require the courage to question.

2

Grief often travels with doubt.

You may be mourning certainty, community, identity, or a picture of God that once made life feel safer.

3

You do not owe anyone a rushed answer.

Some questions need study. Others need healing, time, or a new experience of God. You are allowed to move slowly.

4

Honesty needs companionship and practice.

Safe people and simple prayer can keep questions connected to relationship rather than isolation or endless analysis.

Honest Prayer

Bringing your whole truth into God's presence

The Psalms give us permission to pray without editing ourselves. Honest Prayer is not a technique for making doubt disappear. It is a way of bringing the real question, grief, anger, or longing into relationship with God - and refusing to pretend.

A ten-minute practice

1

Arrive

Take one slow breath. Place your feet on the floor. Pray: "God, here is what is true."

2

Name

Say or write the question, feeling, or disappointment without softening it for God.

3

Ask

What do you need? What do you wish God would do? Let your prayer be specific, even if it feels unfinished.

4

Notice

Is there one thread of trust, desire, love, or hope still present? Do not manufacture one. Simply notice.

5

Rest

Close with silence or the prayer: "I believe; help my unbelief." Let the question remain held, not solved.

WORDS YOU CAN BORROW

- God, I do not understand...
- I am angry because...
- I am afraid that...
- What I need right now is...
- I want to trust, but...
- I believe; help my unbelief.

Try this for seven days. Write one honest sentence each day. The aim is not certainty. It is a more truthful relationship with God.



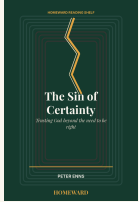
Prefer to be guided?

Open the online Honest Prayer practice for a gentle, step-by-step reflection.

homewardcommunity.com/practice-honest-prayer

Companions for the Road

Choose the companion that meets the question most alive in you. You do not need to consume the whole shelf.



BEGIN HERE

The Sin of Certainty

Peter Enns

A warm challenge to the idea that faith requires certainty - and an invitation to trust God beyond the need to be right.



WHEN SCRIPTURE IS THE QUESTION

Inspired

Rachel Held Evans

A creative, honest way to love the Bible while engaging scholarship, difficult passages, imagination, and doubt.



WHEN SUFFERING BROKE THE ANSWER

Everything Happens for a Reason

Kate Bowler

A candid memoir about illness, easy explanations, and learning to live when certainty disappears.

LISTEN & WATCH



The Bible for Normal People

Podcast · Pete Enns & Jared Byas

Bible scholarship and honest conversation for people who refuse false choices between faith and thinking.



What Is the Bible?

Video · BibleProject

A clear introduction to the Bible as a diverse collection of ancient writings that leads to Jesus.



Doubt Can Pull You Closer to Home

Podcast · Evolving Faith

R. Eric Thomas on doubt, identity, church, and belonging without pretending.



What Brought Me Back to Church

Video · Rachel Held Evans

A short reflection on how embodied practices and the sacraments made room for faith again.



Keep the shelf close.

Open every link, future addition, and guided practice online.

homewardcommunity.com/resources/honest-questions

Bring Your Questions to the Table.

You do not need to solve your questions before you belong. The next faithful step may be simply letting one safe person know what is true.

Homeward Circles are small groups of six to eight who share a meal, sit with Scripture and honest conversation, practice presence, and pray.

It is not a debate. It is a table - questions and all.

1

Name one real question.

Not every question. Just the one that carries the most energy, grief, or longing right now.

2

Choose one safe companion.

Look for someone who can listen without fixing, shaming, or rushing you toward an answer.

3

Stay close to Jesus and practice.

Let honest prayer, Scripture, and community keep the questions relational rather than purely analytical.

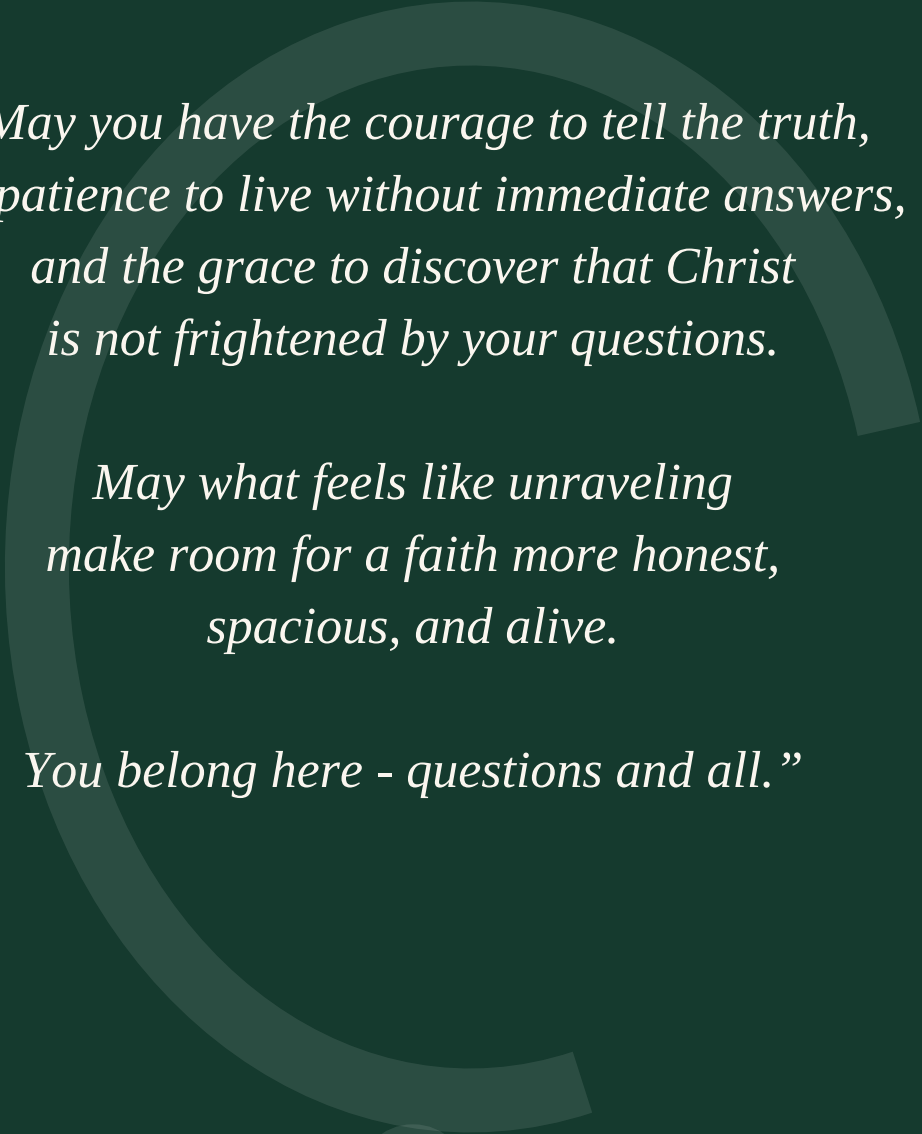


Come and see.

Explore a Circle where you do not need certainty before you can belong.

homewardcommunity.com/m/circle





*“May you have the courage to tell the truth,
the patience to live without immediate answers,
and the grace to discover that Christ
is not frightened by your questions.*

*May what feels like unraveling
make room for a faith more honest,
spacious, and alive.*

You belong here - questions and all.”



HOMEWARD

Journeying Toward God. Together.

BELONG · GROW · BECOME

Return to the Journey Reflection after a season, and notice what has moved.