



HOMEWARD

THE JOURNEY OF FAITH · STAGE ONE

Inherited Faith

Receiving the gift, making it your own

A HOMEWARD GUIDE FOR YOUR SEASON



Inherited Faith

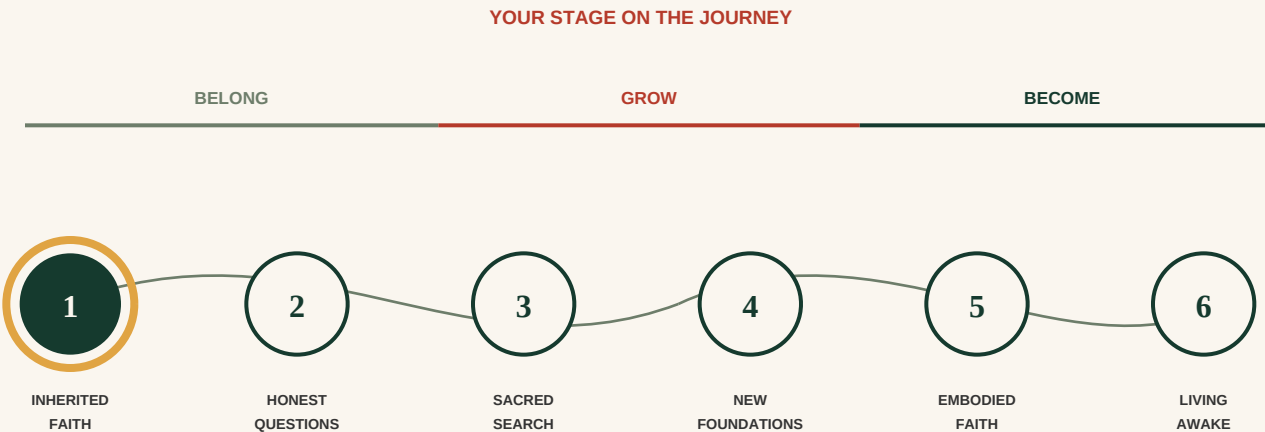
Stage One of the Journey of Faith

You appear to be in a season where faith is held largely through what you received - family, church, culture, teachers, rituals, and stories. That inheritance may give you belonging, language for God, and a trusted way to make sense of life.

That is not lesser faith. Every journey begins with gifts we did not create. The invitation is to receive them with gratitude while slowly discovering what you trust, practice, and live for yourself.

A mirror, not a box.

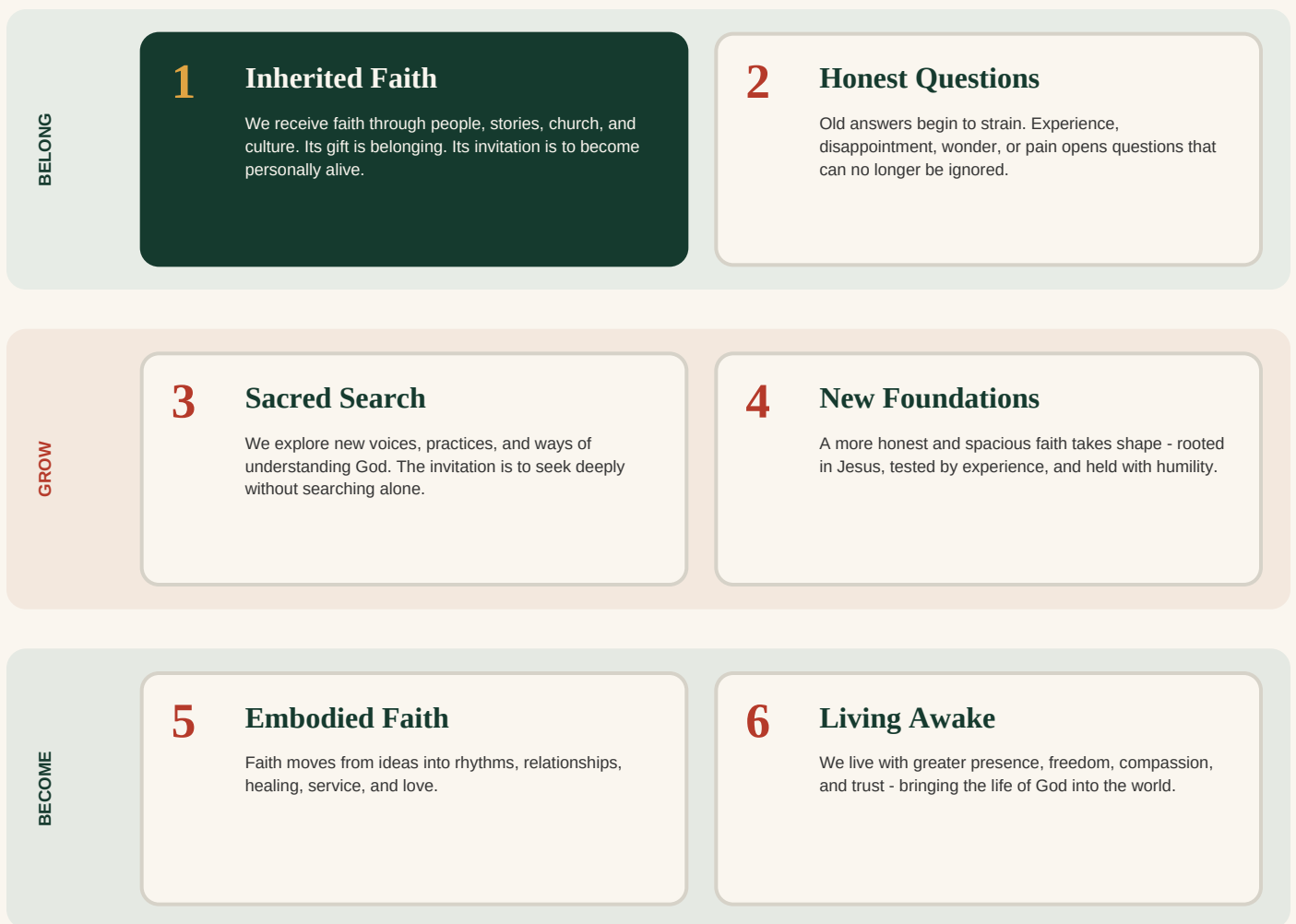
This result is not a diagnosis, a ranking, or a permanent label. Most of us carry parts of several stages at once. Inherited Faith simply names the movement that seems most alive in you right now.



A spiral, not a ladder. We revisit familiar gifts and questions from deeper places.

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.

This is a real and worthy beginning.

Faith often arrives before we know how to name it. We learn prayers from others, inherit stories, attend gatherings, and absorb a picture of God through people we trust. These can become roots.

One common risk is confusing what is familiar with what is fully alive. A faith can be sincere and still be mostly borrowed. The invitation is not to reject your inheritance, but to become conscious of it - what gives life, what needs deeper understanding, and how Jesus is becoming personally known.



The gift becomes yours in relationship.

WHAT MAY BE TRUE IN THIS SEASON

1

You began by receiving, not achieving.

Grace was already moving toward you through people, stories, Scripture, and community before you knew how to name it.

2

Belonging is a genuine gift.

Shared faith can give language, identity, practices, and a place to begin. These roots deserve gratitude.

3

Questions need not threaten the foundation.

A living faith can become more personal without becoming disloyal. Curiosity can deepen what you have received.

4

Practice helps faith become yours.

Prayer, Scripture, gratitude, and honest conversation move faith from something around you to a life you inhabit.

Sacred Remembering

Receiving the gift, carrying forward what gives life

This practice helps you notice the people, stories, places, and experiences through which grace first reached you. Remembering is not pretending the past was perfect. It is learning to receive what gave life, name what needs to mature, and choose what you want to carry forward with Jesus.

A ten-minute practice

1

Arrive

Take one slow breath. Remember that God is already present with you and within your story.

2

Remember

Bring to mind one person, place, practice, or moment through which faith first felt real, safe, or beautiful.

3

Notice

What gift did you receive? What image of God came with it? What still gives life? What may need to grow?

4

Offer

Thank God for the gift. Release what no longer serves love. Ask for grace to carry forward what is true and life-giving.

PROMPTS TO HOLD

- Who first made faith feel safe or beautiful?
- What prayer, Scripture, song, or ritual has steadied you?
- When has Jesus felt real rather than only familiar?
- What do you want to carry forward freely - not merely by habit?

Try this for seven days. Each day, remember one gift and write one sentence: "Thank you for..." The aim is not nostalgia. It is a more conscious, grateful, and freely chosen faith.



Prefer to be guided?

Open the online Sacred Remembering practice for a gentle, step-by-step reflection.

homewardcommunity.com/practice-remembering

Companions for the Road

You do not need a long list. Choose the companion that helps the faith you received become more personal, spacious, and alive.



BEGIN HERE

The Good and Beautiful God

James Bryan Smith

Examine the stories you carry about God and learn the God Jesus knows.



MAKE IT YOUR OWN

Sacred Pathways

Gary Thomas

Discover the different ways people naturally connect with God - and find the practices that fit you.



BELONG AS THE BELOVED

The Return of the Prodigal Son

Henri J. M. Nouwen

A beautiful meditation on homecoming, belovedness, and learning to receive the Father's love.

LISTEN & WATCH



Things Above

Podcast · James Bryan Smith

A short weekly practice of filling the mind with what is good, beautiful, and true.



How to Read the Bible

Video series · BibleProject

A clear, visual introduction to Scripture as a unified story that leads to Jesus.



Life with God

Podcast · Renovaré

Gentle conversations about living the way of Jesus and growing into an interactive life with God.



Being the Beloved

Video · Henri Nouwen

Henri Nouwen on receiving our deepest identity as God's beloved.



Keep the shelf close.

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

homewardcommunity.com/resources/inherited-faith

Make the Faith You Received Your Own.

You do not need to reject your story in order to grow. Bring what you love, what you wonder about, and what you are ready to explore.

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 class. It is a table - a place to grow freely.

Honor your story.

1

Name what you received with gratitude, without pretending every part was perfect.

Listen for what is becoming personal.

2

Notice where Jesus, Scripture, and practice are becoming lived rather than merely familiar.

Explore in good company.

3

Let trusted companions help you ask, practice, and grow without pressure.



Come and see.

Explore a Circle, ask questions, and discern whether this kind of table feels right - without pressure.

homewardcommunity.com/m/circle



*“May you receive your story with gratitude,
hold it with honesty,
and discover the living Christ
within what was handed to you.*

*May the faith you inherited
become faith you freely inhabit.*

You belong here - come as you are.”



HOMEWARD

Journeying Toward God. Together.

BELONG • GROW • BECOME

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