

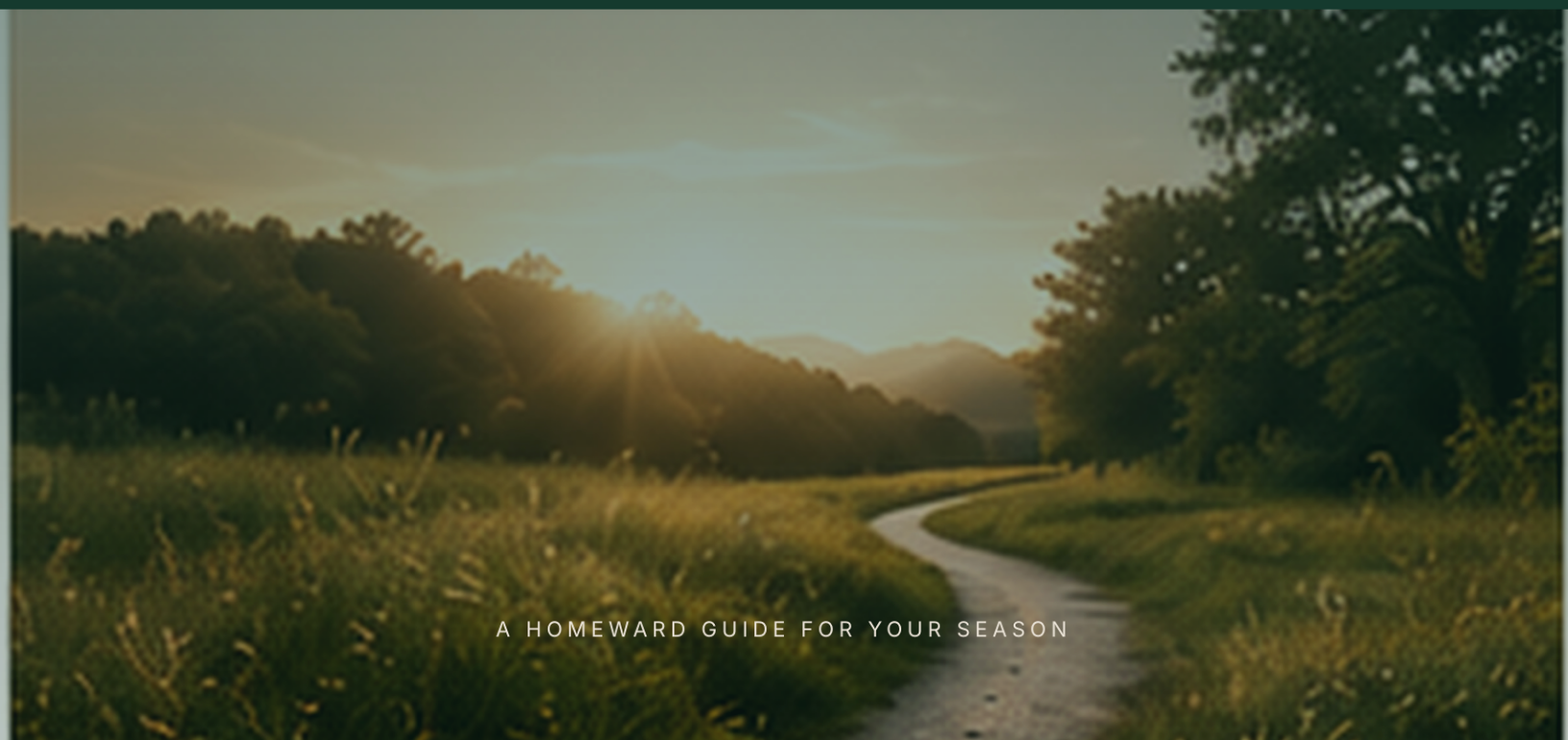


HOMeward

THE JOURNEY OF FAITH · STAGE THREE

The Sacred Search

Seeking with open hands



A HOMeward GUIDE FOR YOUR SEASON

YOUR RESULT

The Sacred Search

Stage Three of the Journey of Faith



You appear to be in a season of active seeking — reconsidering inherited beliefs, exploring new voices and practices, and looking for a faith spacious enough to hold your lived experience.

Something in you is reaching for what is real. You may not be trying to abandon faith. You may be trying to discover whether faith can become more honest, spacious, and alive.

A mirror, not a box.

This result is not a diagnosis, a ranking, or a permanent label. Faith rarely moves in a straight line, and most of us carry parts of several stages at once. The Sacred Search simply names the movement that seems most alive in you right now.

YOUR STAGE ON THE JOURNEY



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

A Spiral, Not a Ladder

We use a spiral rather than a ladder because spiritual growth is rarely linear. We return to familiar questions from deeper places, carrying new experience, grief, insight, and grace.

No stage is a rank. No stage makes anyone more loved by God. Each season has gifts, limits, and an invitation.

BELONG

1

Inherited Faith

We receive a faith from family, church, or culture. Its gift is belonging. Its invitation is to let faith become personally alive.

2

Honest Questions

Old answers begin to strain. Experience, disappointment, wonder, or pain opens questions that can no longer be ignored.

GROW

3

Sacred Search

We explore new voices, practices, and ways of understanding God. The invitation is to seek deeply without searching alone.

4

New Foundations

A more honest and spacious faith begins to take shape — rooted in Jesus, tested by experience, and held with humility.

BECOME

5

Embodied Faith

Faith moves from ideas into rhythms, relationships, choices, healing, service, and love.

6

Living Awake

We learn to live with greater presence, freedom, compassion, and trust — bringing the life of God into the world.

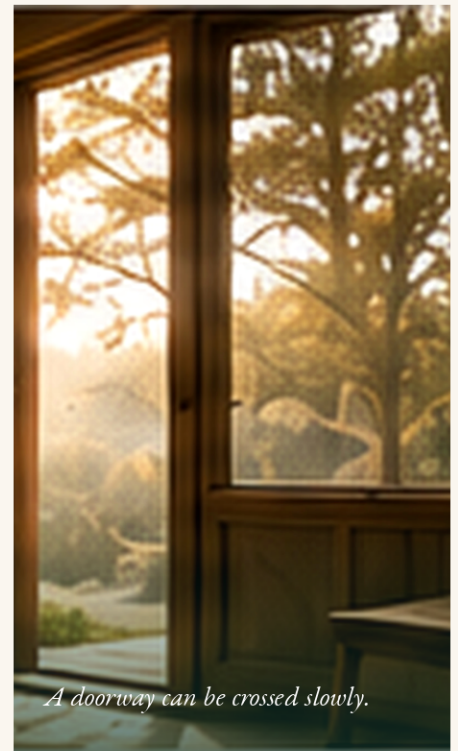
You may revisit any stage more than once. The stages describe how our relationship to faith may change — not God's relationship to us. **Jesus remains at the center of the journey**, inviting us toward greater honesty, freedom, compassion, and love.

This is holy, generative work.

You are actively looking — reading, praying differently, and exploring practices and voices you were not handed. Something in you has refused tidy answers and set out to find what is real. That takes courage.

What feels like leaving faith behind may also be faith becoming more honest. The questions that once felt only painful are beginning to function as a compass. You are not trying to return to certainty. You are learning to seek God with open hands.

One common risk in this season is endless searching — moving from voice to voice without letting anything deepen. Seekers need what the internet cannot provide: companions, practices, and roots. The way of Jesus and the contemplative tradition offer a center spacious enough for real questions.



WHAT MAY BE TRUE IN THIS SEASON



Your questions may be a form of faithfulness.

Honest doubt does not necessarily mean you have abandoned faith. It may mean you care too deeply about what is true to settle for answers that no longer hold.



Seeking is not the same as being lost.

The travelers on the road to Emmaus did not recognize Jesus at first — but he was walking with them the whole way.



You do not have to search alone.

This season can be tempted toward isolation, and it is often helped most by a table of honest people.



Practice steadies the search.

When belief feels unsettled, a simple rhythm of prayer and silence can keep you tethered to God, not only to your thoughts about God.

Breath Prayer

Coming home to God, one breath at a time

When your mind is full of questions, the simplest practices are often the most steadying. Breath prayer pairs a few honest words with your breathing and lets them carry you back to God. No training or quiet room is required — you can pray it in the car, on a walk, or lying awake at 2 a.m. Practiced gently over time, it teaches you to notice God's presence in the middle of ordinary life.

How to pray it · five minutes, or five breaths

1

Settle

Let your shoulders drop. Take one slow breath and remember that you are already in God's presence. You are not summoning God — only noticing.

2

Choose

Pick a pair of words below. Breathe the first line in and the second line out, slowly.

3

Return

When your mind wanders — and it will — gently come back to the words. The wandering is not failure. The returning is the prayer.

4

Carry It

Take your phrase into the day — one breath at a red light, in a hard moment, or before a conversation.

BREATHE IN · BREATHE OUT

Here I am

Here You are

Receive Your love

Offer Your love

Be still

and know (Psalm 46)

Lord Jesus Christ

have mercy

Try this for seven days.

The aim is not to feel especially spiritual. It is simply to return.



Prefer to be guided?

Scan the code for a short introduction and two guided meditations — Breath Prayer and the Light of Christ — that you can simply follow along with.

homewardcommunity.com/m/breath

TO READ, LISTEN & WATCH

Companions for the Road

You do not need a long list. Choose the companion that meets the need most alive in you.



BEGIN HERE

Faith After Doubt

Brian McLaren

Begin here if you need language for why doubt can be part of growth rather than the end of faith. It names and maps the exact season you may be in.

THE
UNIVERSAL
CHRIST

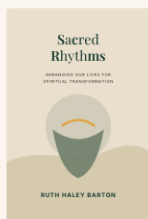
Richard Rohr

FOR A LARGER VISION

The Universal Christ

Richard Rohr

A contemplative interpretation of the eternal Christ: God's presence revealed in Jesus and shimmering through creation. A helpful doorway if your image of God is growing larger.



FOR A STEADIER PRACTICE

Sacred Rhythms

Ruth Haley Barton

Choose this if you need practices more than explanations — gentle rhythms that help a searching heart become rooted.

LISTEN & WATCH



Another Name for Every Thing

Podcast · Richard Rohr and the Center for Action and Contemplation
Contemplative conversations for the questions underneath the questions.



Everything Happens

Podcast · Kate Bowler
Honest, tender conversations about faith when life does not resolve neatly.



A Guided Centering Prayer

Audio or video · contemplative practice
A simple way to experience stillness rather than only read about it.

Explore the complete Sacred Search resource shelf online.



WATCH NEXT

The Universal Christ

Richard Rohr · video

Watch the video →

A warm introduction to the vision behind the book and the eternal Christ.

Do Not Search Alone.

If one thing in this guide stirred something in you, let that become your next step — not a leap, just a step. The search deepens in good company.

Homeward gathers Circles in Dallas–Fort Worth: small groups of six to eight who share a meal, sit with Scripture and honest conversation, practice presence, and pray.

It is not a program. It is a table — a place to keep seeking, together.

1

Tell us you are interested.

Join the Circle interest list, or simply stay close as Homeward unfolds.

2

A real person will reach out.

You will hear from a human, not an automated sales sequence.

3

Explore whether a Circle fits.

We will answer questions and help you discern your next step, without pressure.



Come and see.

Scan the code or visit the site to join the interest list. And whenever you are ready, return to the reflection — faith moves in a spiral, and you may be surprised by what has shifted.

Join a Circle

homewardcommunity.com

A place has been prepared.

*“May you have the courage to keep seeking,
the patience to remain open,
and the grace to recognize the One
who has been walking with you all along.*

You belong here — come as you are.”



HOMeward

Journeying Toward God. Together.

BELONG · GROW · BECOME

Return to the Journey of Faith reflection after a season, and notice what has moved.