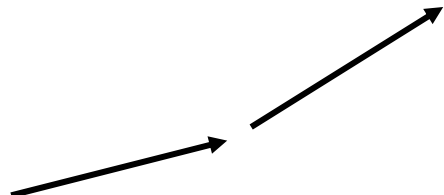
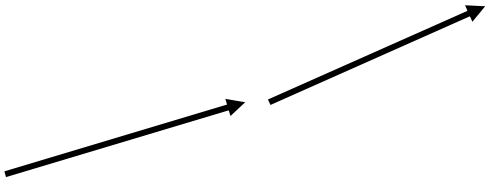
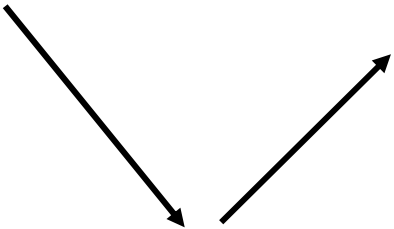
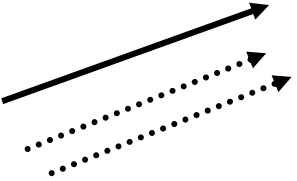


The Journey of Discipleship*

A developmental model based on the Parable of the Soils (Mark 4:1-20)

**This is a linear representation of a process that is most commonly experienced in a cyclical pattern, shaped by the Sovereign work of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God, in the unique context of each person's life. Source: Paul Dugan 1/12 Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church pdugan@wcpres.org*

The Sower at work	Watering (softening hearts)	Plowing (cultivating hearts)	Weeding (removing growth inhibitors)	Fruit-bearing (multiplying kingdom fruit)
				
Signposts	Tugged Touched	Trained Teamed	Tested Tempered	enTrusted
Some common dynamics along journey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Questioning life as it is ▪ Dissatisfaction with status quo ▪ Sensing there is more ▪ Searching for answers ▪ Becoming receptive to God <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The love of God breaks in thru the Holy Spirit & his people • Turning from self rule (sin) & toward God • Forgiveness experienced; salvation received 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic training in gospel-based life in the kingdom of God • Grounding in the fundamentals of Christian belief, behavior, worship • Introduction to the dynamic role of the Word & Spirit in faith & life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving from consumer to investor in a local congregation • Serving in & thru Christ's body; discovering & employing one's gifts • Participating with Christ's people in his work in the world • Initial productivity & joy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hit "the Wall" • Experience of disappointment, adversity, loss, suffering • Questioning God, one's beliefs, etc. • Having one's ego challenged • "Dark Night" of the Soul <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seasoned, grateful faith • Back to basics, with theological depth & humility • Recognition of God's presence and purpose in the midst of the pain & mystery of human experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delight in God, God's people & God's mission, grounded in his unconditional time-tested love • A sacrificial, 'no-strings attached' love for others • Equipped to walk with others along their journey
Peter's journey of discipleship	<p>John 1:35-42 -- Introduced to Jesus by his brother Andrew; given a new name by Jesus.</p> <p>Lk 4:38-41 -- Witnessed Jesus' healing work in his own family.</p> <p>Lk 5:1-11 -- Experienced Jesus' personal power & grace; responds in repentance; called to follow Jesus; begins to reorient his life around Jesus.</p>	<p>Mt 4:22-7:29 -- Sat under the Master's teaching on the dynamics of a kingdom-shaped lifestyle.</p> <p>Lk 8:40-42; 8:49-9:6; 9:10 -- After observing Jesus demonstrate the kingdom in word & deed, Peter & the 11 were sent by Jesus into kingdom ministry; experienced God's work; report back in joy.</p> <p>John 13:1-17, 34-35 -- Jesus washes the feet of Peter (along with the other disciples), demonstrating the distinctive mark of Christian community: self giving love.</p>	<p>Mt 16:13-24 -- Scandalized by Jesus' predictions of suffering; Confronted with his own misguided expectations</p> <p>John 13:36-38; 18:12-27 -- Made bold promises of loyalty; yet, under pressure, denies Jesus, resulting in bitter regret & guilt.</p> <p>Mk 16:7 -- Personally singled out to hear the good news of Jesus' resurrection.</p> <p>John 20:1-10 -- Personally witnessed the empty tomb.</p> <p>Lk 24:34; I Co 15:3-5 -- Was the first of the Eleven to whom the Lord appeared in his resurrection body</p>	<p>Jn 21:1-19 -- Graciously "re-called" and re-commissioned by Jesus.</p> <p>Acts 1: 1-14; 2:1-4 -- Experienced the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>Acts, chapters 2-5 -- Boldly (but not without mis-steps & conflict: see Galatians 2:11-14) bore witness to the risen Lord in word & deed, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Penned epistles to suffering church: 1-2 Peter. Martyred under Emperor Nero.</p>