

### Week 4: Re-Entering Stage

#### 4) Re-Entering Stage:

##### a) *Transitioner's Response:*

- i) Life is no longer totally chaotic.
- ii) We begin to \_\_\_\_\_ that this is where we are and have made the decision that it is time to become part of this new season. (If we can just figure out how)
  - (1) Sometimes we exaggerate our personality in an effort to make friendships or "stay true to ourselves"
  - (2) Michael Pollock gives this illustration of this part of the transition as being similar to a fish who has been hooked by a fisherman. There are a number of forces and instincts at work, symbolized by the line, the flow of water, and the urge to "get off the line." He makes the point that "a fish with a hook in its mouth does NOT act like a fish without a hook in its mouth."

##### b) *Communities Response:*

- i) Things were already \_\_\_\_\_ before the transitioner comes.
- ii) There may be \_\_\_\_\_ if a transitioner acts like they know how everything should work before they really take time to listen and see.
- iii) High Mobility Community Trends

In communities with chronically high mobility, there are two interesting, though rather opposite, responses to newcomers. Some have designated people to help new members get oriented. There are maps of the town with the key places to shop marked and instruction guides for dealing with the local host culture—all tucked in a basket of goodies. One person is specifically assigned to take the new family around, and the whole system of orientation goes like clockwork because it has happened so many times. It's great when we relocate to such a community.

On the other hand, members of other highly mobile communities are so tired of seeing people come and go, they basically don't do much at all for the newcomer. Their thought process goes like this: *What's the use? These people will just be gone again, or, Why bother getting to know them? I've only got three months left here myself.*

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) What is the challenge and the caution to be gleaned from highly mobile communities?
- (3) Examples of the Patriarchs in Scripture for hospitality. (Gen. 18:1-8, Gen. 19:1-3)

##### c) *An Example from the Establishment of the Body of Christ*

- i) Eph. 2:11-22
  - (1) Who are the two groups of people in this passage?
  - (2) What are their attitudes toward each other on the onset?
  - (3) What group is doing the re-entering?
  - (4) What challenges do you "foresee" in this transition?

- ii) Acts 15:1-21
  - (1) What is the disagreement? How is this disagreement significant to the question of re-entry?
  - (2) What is the proof to the Jews of the Gentile's acceptance by God?
  - (3) What part does the Law have in this transition?
  - (4) Understanding the new role of the Law, who is transitioning?

- iii) Gal. 2:11-16
  - (1) What is Peter's offense?
  - (2) How does it affect the transition?

**d) Strategies for Healthy Entering**

- i) \_\_\_\_\_ – the Thinking Ahead from the Leaving Stage comes into play again here: The more we have thought ahead about this time and what we and our family will need to make a positive entry into this season, the sooner and smoother we can begin to positively move into our new life.
  - (1) Can you relate to this?
- ii) *Taking Initiative* – From time to time there have been long time members of churches that have complained to me about not having friends at church. One time the guys wife said to him: "If have to be a friend to make a friend." What do you think of that perspective?
- iii) *Choose and Use Mentors* –
  - (1) Find people who are connected to the new community and can help bridge the transition in re-entry stage. They offer insights into unspoken "do's and don'ts", help make the right contacts, and have undergone the transition we are experiencing.
  - (2) Sadly, there are always those who are reach out as mentors who have not adjusted to the new season and have their own interests in mind.