

### Week 5: Re-Engagement Stage

5) **Re-Engagement Stage** – the light at the end of the tunnel is that in a transition a final, recognized stage of reengagement is possible.

**a) Transitioner's Response:**

- i) Here as well there are times of wondering if the re-engagement will ever happen. What are some factors that could lead a long-time re-engaging?
  
- ii) We can settle into this new season of life accepting people, places, relationships and roles for what they are. This does not mean that we like everything about the situation, but at least we can see *why* it is that way.
  
- iii) Re-engagement is not the same as feeling at home. Feeling at home can be an elusive concept. Why?
  
- iv) Time feels present and permanent as we focus on the here and now rather than hoping for the future or constantly reminiscing about the past.
  
- v) Transitioner's Journey with a move:<sup>2</sup>
  - (1) People as \_\_\_\_\_ - we see other people in a new place as part of the landscape and we feel curious and observant.
  - (2) People as \_\_\_\_\_ - we get to know them for what they do and we feel satisfied or frustrated with them.
  - (3) People as \_\_\_\_\_ - we get to know those in our new community as people and our feelings range from cautious to empathetic to delighted.

**b) Communities Response:**

- i) Others in the community see us a part of the group (knowing where and how we fit in).
- ii) People know our reputation, history, talents, tastes, interests.
- iii) They tell us the news of the day, ask our opinion and count on us for community events.
- iv) We are considered for plans, sought for friendship, and our needs are respond to.

**c) An Example from the Body of Christ:**

- i) 1 Cor. 12:12-26
  - (1) What place does re-engagement have in the Body of Christ?

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<sup>2</sup> Jones, Jerry. Pre-Departure seminar, Tianjin, China, 2012

(2) How does the transition of Jews and Gentiles fit into this passage?

(3) How important is your engagement to the Body of Christ?

(4) Tell about a time that you needed the Body of Christ.

ii) Acts 11:19-30

(1) What is unique about the church in Antioch for its time?

(2) Why does Barnabas go to Tarsus to look for Saul?

(3) Why do you think that the author includes that they are first called Christians at Antioch?

(4) In Acts 13:1-3, what else is evident about this church?

**d) *The Example of Ruth***

(1) At what point in the narrative would you say Ruth re-engaged with this new society?

(2) In the Account of Ruth, how is the way she relates to the Jews in Bethlehem consistent with the progression of seeing people as scenery, machinery and then persons?

**e) *Strategies for Healthy Re-engagement:***

- i) Hopefully our experience in needing a mentor in the entering stage helps us to \_\_\_\_\_ formally or informally to help other transitioners.
- ii) We can remind ourselves that we \_\_\_\_\_ have to give up the past to settle into this present and move to the future.
- iii) Knowing the various stages doesn't keep them from happening, but it does help us not be \_\_\_\_\_ by what happens at each stage, to \_\_\_\_\_ that we are normal, and deal \_\_\_\_\_ with the losses of the transition.