

THE ROAD MAP

All you need is the plan, the road map, and the courage to press on to your destination.

Earl Nightingale

Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established.

Proverbs 16:3

Ever been in a foreign place without a map? Mapping apps make it almost impossible anymore. But imagine being in a new place. Then, imagine being dropped on the outskirts of the town. It is ancient, with narrow streets, passageways, and fascinating sights around every corner. There are lots of dead ends and alleys doubling back. The assignment for your *MISSION:Impossible* is to help your discipling friend work their way through this sometimes-confusing labyrinth of paths, streets, and thoroughfares and come to an elaborate temple on the other side where they will find your passionate MISSION in life. Fortunately, you have a map.

You Are Here. Sometimes, growing in Christ seems like you have no map; to do it alone means you will find yourself on many



detours and dead ends. A Road Map is essential. One of the more important ways a disciple's road map is valuable is it can quickly take them to a flag that says, **YOU ARE HERE.** But that's not all. Your friend has you, a guide who's been on the streets before. You can help your friend navigate the trek, pointing out interesting sights, essential features, and landmarks along the way. And, as their guide, you will help your friend reach their destination—finding MISSION.

However, just getting to the other side of a discipling trek is not the only PURPOSE of the journey. The PURPOSE is also to help

your friend learn the many pathways, streets, and alleys they can take on their journey to become a guide for the next person on their *MISSION:Seemingly Impossible* expedition. Along the way, your friend will stop to learn more about themselves through assessments clarifying their spiritual gifting and spiritual role.

Your assignment on this journey of friends is to be the map keeper. The Road Map is what keeps the trek on point. The Road Map allows you to ask appropriate questions at the appropriate place in their journey. The Road Map will help you determine if your friend is at STORY or ready for PURPOSE questions or even exploring MISSION.

From STORY to MISSION. The Road Map is a chart showing a progression from knowing STORY to executing MISSION. There are several dimensions to each stage of the journey, highlighting, for example, questions to ask, aha! moments to anticipate, assessment tools to gain clarity, spiritual IDENTITY, and find motivation.

As you may have experienced, this adventurous trek isn't a linear journey—just getting from one side of the ancient and beautiful city to another. Moving neatly and quickly from one stage to another misses so much along the journey. Encourage your friend to take their time. There is so much to learn, and there is no timeline. For example, gaining clarity on IDENTITY, the *this is who I am*, the STORY enlarges too. Understanding PURPOSE and why God made each of us will provide greater MEANING in an ever-enlarging STORY. The point? Encourage your friend to take time to enjoy the disciple-making journey. There is gold to be mined and great gems to be found along the way.

The journey starts with their STORY. Who they are now is because of who they've been. In many ways, all of us are a product of our life experiences shaping how we see and feel about the world and people around us. Yet we are more than just our STORY. We have IDENTITY. IDENTITY tells us this is who we are because of what we've done and what was done to us. This is our self-image—our self-IDENTITY.

As we tell our chronological STORY as an enlarging narrative, we discover, define, and own our IDENTITY—who we are in God’s great STORY of humanity. In explaining IDENTITY, your discipling friend begins to explain their growing relationship with God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. For each of us, our historical STORY describes where we have been. Our spiritual STORY tells how God has made his presence known. By knowing both Stories, we can begin to form our spiritual IDENTITY. Knowing our IDENTITY tells us how God uses us for his PURPOSE.

From our STORY and IDENTITY, we also have derived a conclusion—vague for many—explaining why we do what we do. That is our MEANING. For most of us on our journey of spiritual formation, this is where we start to get stuck, lost, or confused. What kind of MEANING or understanding is there in our life experiences? Encourage your friend to take their time to explore and return to enlarge MEANING.

In the second half of your friend’s journey, they will better understand their PURPOSE in answering the question, why do I exist? An important stop is to inventory their spiritual gifting. Having greater insight into PURPOSE and knowing their spiritual gifts and role better, your friend becomes more confident in what God has uniquely called them to be and do.

The next to last stop is at CALLING. CALLING is not what your friend does for God. That’s MISSION. CALLING is realizing they have a unique relationship with God, and CALLING is like a seal or a brand. Baptism is a declaration of whose I am. The tipping point is when my CALLING forms and defines my MISSION. We will know we are clarifying MISSION when what I do is a crystal-clear extension of my dedicated life. God intends for everyone to experience translating CALLING into MISSION so that as he calls, everyone answers, *Here am I, Lord. Use me!*

Finally, your friend gains confidence with the accumulated awareness and understanding of their life from STORY to MISSION: *Possible*. Knowing the *who* and the *why*, your friend can now boldly

apply the *what* to the *who* and confidently say, *This is my MISSION. This is what I've been built for, and this is what I know I must do.*

Like most lives, this journey of the disciple sometimes seems disorganized. Few take a straight line from knowing STORY to defining MISSION. For most of us, life is a lot messier. But that's what's fun about exploring a fascinating ancient town. Buried deep in the town square is a treasure. It is soul-mass—our spiritual being. It may be wounded, forgotten, or ignored. As your friend's spiritual guide, you too may have passed it by without knowing it is there.

Use The Road Map regularly as you meet. Your friend has been given an extensive amount of questions for each step. Don't push but be ready with open-ended questions. Ask, *Where Are You?* Use the questions from The Road Map for where they are. Help your friend keep moving forward but at their pace, not yours.

Notes:

	Who am I?		Who is God?		Why does it matter?	
	STORY	IDENTITY	MEANING	PURPOSE	CALLING	MISSION
Questions	“What I did/What I’ve done.”	“Who am I?/Who I am. What did you learn about yourself?”	“Why do I do what I do?/What do I want to do and not want to do?”	“Why do I exist? How do I add value to life?”	“What is it I cannot not do?”	What are the next steps? How does ‘all this’ satisfy ‘all’?
Elements of the Conversation	Facts, anecdotes, and mini-life dramas are eventually strung into a chronological STORY of adventure, loss, gain, joy, happiness, pain, and sorrow.	Self-image. influences my feelings and my actions. And so forms how I act. Integrated. Spiritual gifts identification.	Interpretation. Spiritual role identification. i.e. (shepherding, teaching, prophet, evangelizing, leading, apostle). What do you think God is saying to you about why you exist?	Why has God created you to be the person you are? What does that look like? Extrapolation (a method to understand the unknown by using the known). “What does this mean, Lord?”	Application, mobilization. “God, what is my role in your Kingdom?”	Focus, vision, goals, objectives, accountabilities, steps, outcomes, and impact.
Ahahs	Significant Incidents (divorce, trauma, sickness, abuse, poverty, death, births, marriage, passages)	Awareness/ Insight. Who do I say I am? Who does God say I am?	Understanding/ Interpretation. “Because of my STORY, this is who I am & this is what it means for my future.”	Intention. Integration of spiritual gifts and spiritual role.	Exploration	Clear vision

	<u>Who am I?</u>		<u>Who is God?</u>		<u>Why does it matter?</u>	
	<u>STORY</u>	<u>IDENTITY</u>	<u>MEANING</u>	<u>PURPOSE</u>	<u>CALLING</u>	<u>MISSION</u>
Tools	Narrative	Assessments (ex. SHAPE)	APEST (apostle, prophet, evangelist, shepherd, teacher)	Journal	Ministry Plan	Tools
State	Do		Be		Die to Self	
State of Mind	What makes me happy, sad, laugh, cry, angry, satisfied		What gives me joy, sorrow, mourning, fulfillment		What gives God joy	
Personal-world view	Objective and tangible		Subjective and intangible		Integration	
Brain	Predominately Left brain (analytical)		Predominately Right brain (subjective/feeling)		Whole brain	
Growing Relationship with God	Knows scripture stories and teachings	Knows God	Loves God	Experiences God	An extension of God	
Spiritual IDENTITY	Predominately flesh (left brain)	Flesh (right brain) and Human Spirit (mind, will, heart)	Human Spirit and Soul	Soul	Wholeness	Shalom
Motivation	Ambition	Intention	Desire	Passion	Fulfillment	Content

