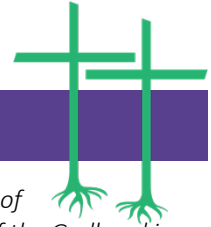


MINISTRY TOOL #7 – FOR INNER TRANSFORMATION



The Father Ladder

Whenever a person's perspective of God is skewed, this tool helps them receive their own revelation of truth. You may find it useful to administer this tool in whole or in part, depending on which Person of the Godhead is most misunderstood.

2 Corinthians 3:18 – And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

EXPLANATION:

Our understanding of God is often skewed by key relationships, especially early in life.

*"Our earliest primary relationships (father, mother, siblings) frame the reality in which we experience all relationships—especially intimate ones. When we begin to understand and try to experience intimacy with the loving members of the Trinity, that early framework, meant by God to be a boon, is often the bane in our ability to experience intimacy with God in all His aspects." (Reese, Andy. *Freedom Tools for Overcoming Life's Tough Problems*. Chosen Books, 2008. p.203.)*

Most obvious is the correlation between our understanding of Father God and our experiences (or lack thereof) with our earthly fathers. But in like manner, our understanding of the Holy Spirit (our ever-present Comforter, Teacher, and Advocate) is sometimes affected by our relationships with people who are supposed to express those roles to us—most often mother, but sometimes also other caregivers and even churches, ministers, or Christians. In the same way, our understanding of Jesus is sometimes skewed by experiences with siblings and sometimes close friends.

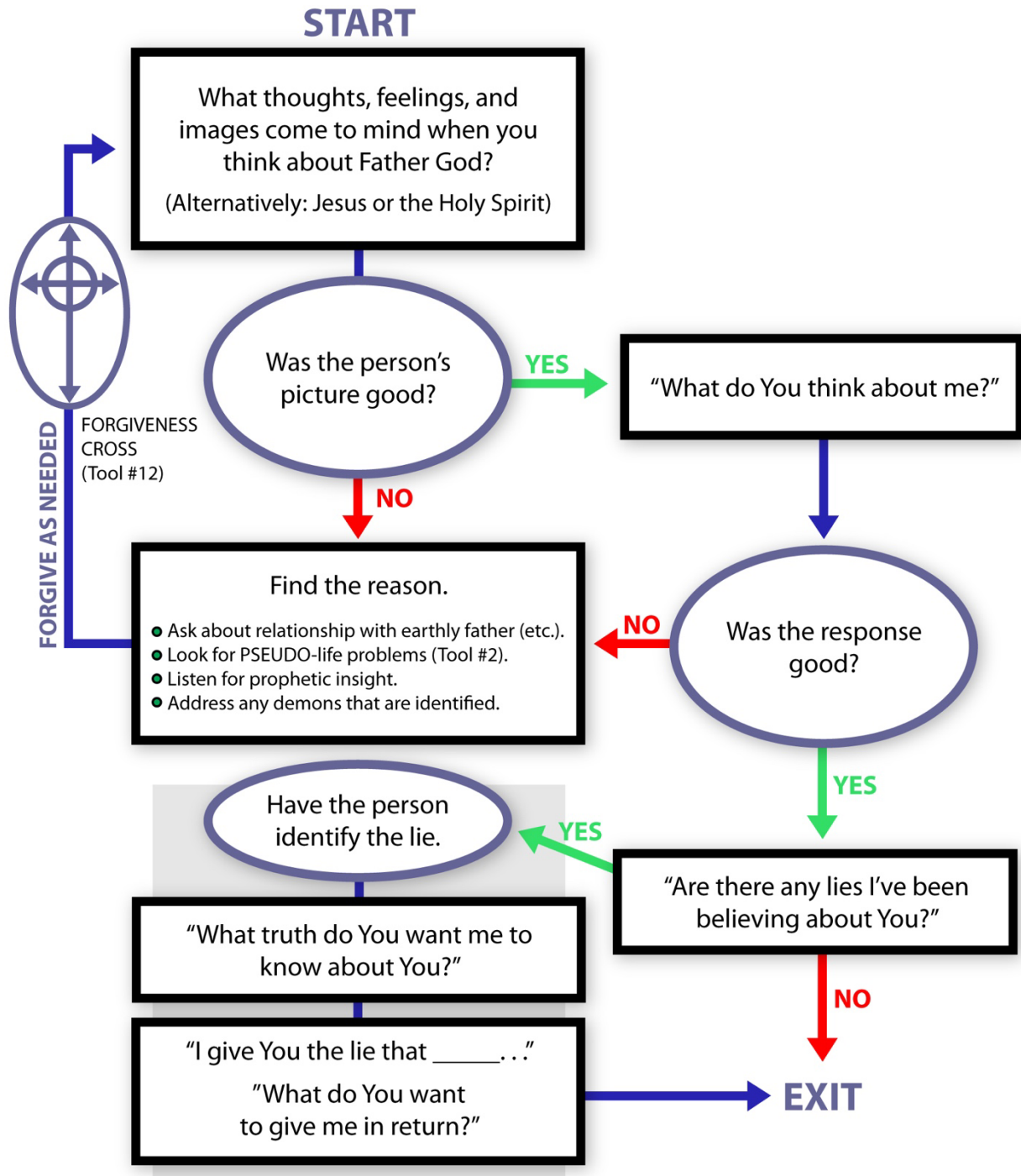
The Father Ladder exercise helps you guide a person through a conversation with the Lord in which He helps them sort out truth from lies. This tool can be used as a framework for an entire Gospel Encounter session, or it can be employed more specifically as needed, usually in the "Encounter" portion of the Ministry Roadmap.

GOSPEL SUMMARY:

The gospel is good news about God and His kingdom. We cannot understand the nature of the kingdom we are receiving unless we understand the nature of its King. The more clearly we can perceive our Lord, the more fully we become like Him. (See 2 Corinthians 3:18; 1 John 3:1–6.)

The Father Ladder exercise helps people arrive at a right understanding of the Lord that comes through personal revelation in conversation with the Lord. Your role is simply to facilitate the conversation and discern whether the person is hearing rightly from the Lord.

HOW TO:



- ❑ **DURING FORGIVENESS PROCESS:** Say out loud: I choose to forgive ____ for any ways they have skewed my perspective of You and taught me this lie.
- **Father:** Forgive earthly dad or father figures.
 - **Son:** Forgive siblings or close friends.
 - **Holy Spirit:** Forgive mother, mother figures, caregivers, or churches/Christians/ministers.