



Discipling International Students Reentering Creative Access Countries

International student ministry must begin with the end in mind: preparing students to successfully reenter their home country and continue to grow in their faith in Christ. But sensitive and closed countries can present many challenges. We'll discuss step-by-step plans for preparing people to return home, including discipleship topics, in-country connections, and how to communicate safely.

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No photos or videos during this seminar, please



Discipling & Reentry with Persecution

No photos or
videos during this
seminar, please

Unparalleled Potential, Harsh Reality

“ISM may be the most strategic ministry in the world for Kingdom expansion.”

- a senior Middle East missions leader

...or is it?



From in-country leaders,
What's the #1 need for students to
reenter challenging countries
successfully?

Theology of suffering.



Theology of Suffering

“all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted” (2 Tim 3:12)

“don’t be surprised by the terrible things happening to you. ... Instead, be joyful that you are taking part in Christ’s sufferings. (1 Peter 4:12-13)

“...the time will come when people will kill you and think they are doing God a favor. (John 16:2)

“It is exactly as the Scriptures say, ‘For you we face death all day long. We are like sheep on their way to be butchered.’” (Rom 8:36)

“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. ... ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.” (John 15:18-20)



Imagining Reentry

Over the past year Fatima has become a sister in Christ and a dear disciple. It's been a privilege to mentor her and witness her growth.

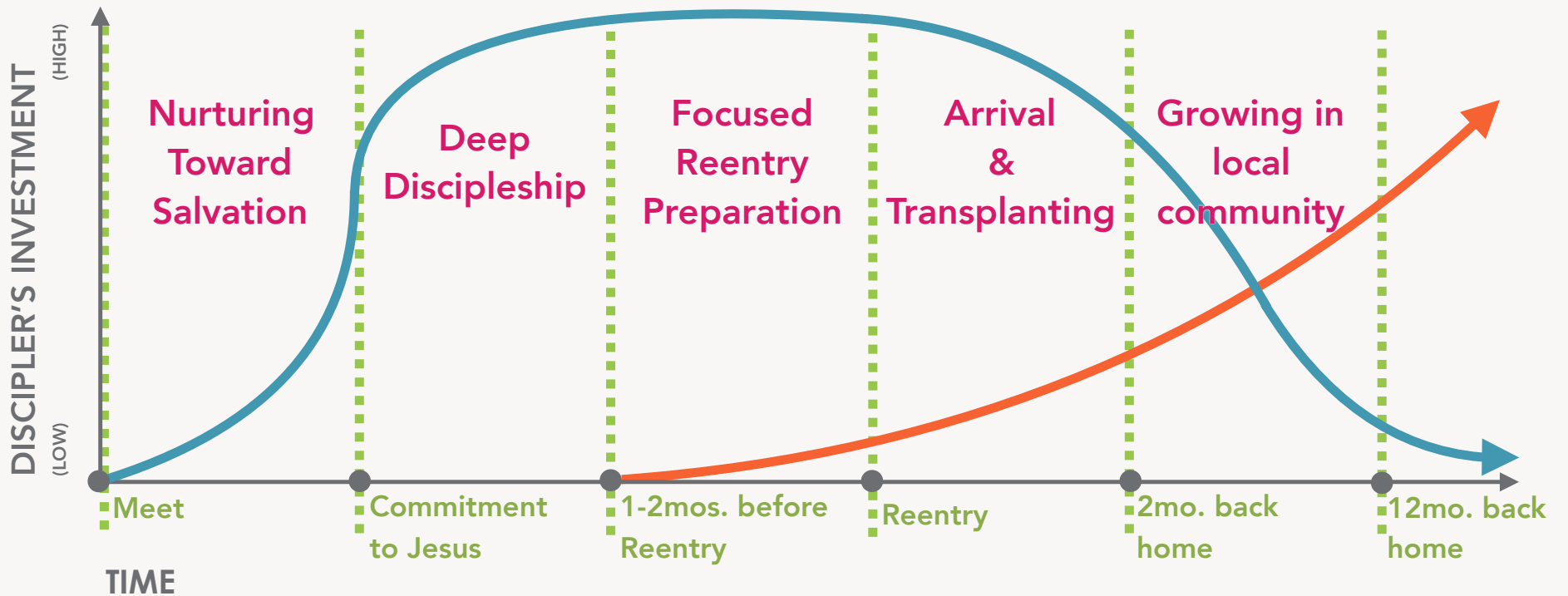
Today you drove Fatima at the airport and had a tearful goodbye. As she boards the flight to return to her devout, close-knit Muslim family, you whisper one more prayer. The two of you will likely never be together in person again.

Discuss your desires for Fatima as she begins her new life with Jesus back home:

- What *key experiences* do you hope she's had in the US?
- What *knowledge and spiritual disciplines* does she need in her toolkit?
- What *connections* do you hope she has set up there?



DISCIPLESHIP & REENTRY TO SENSITIVE CONTEXTS



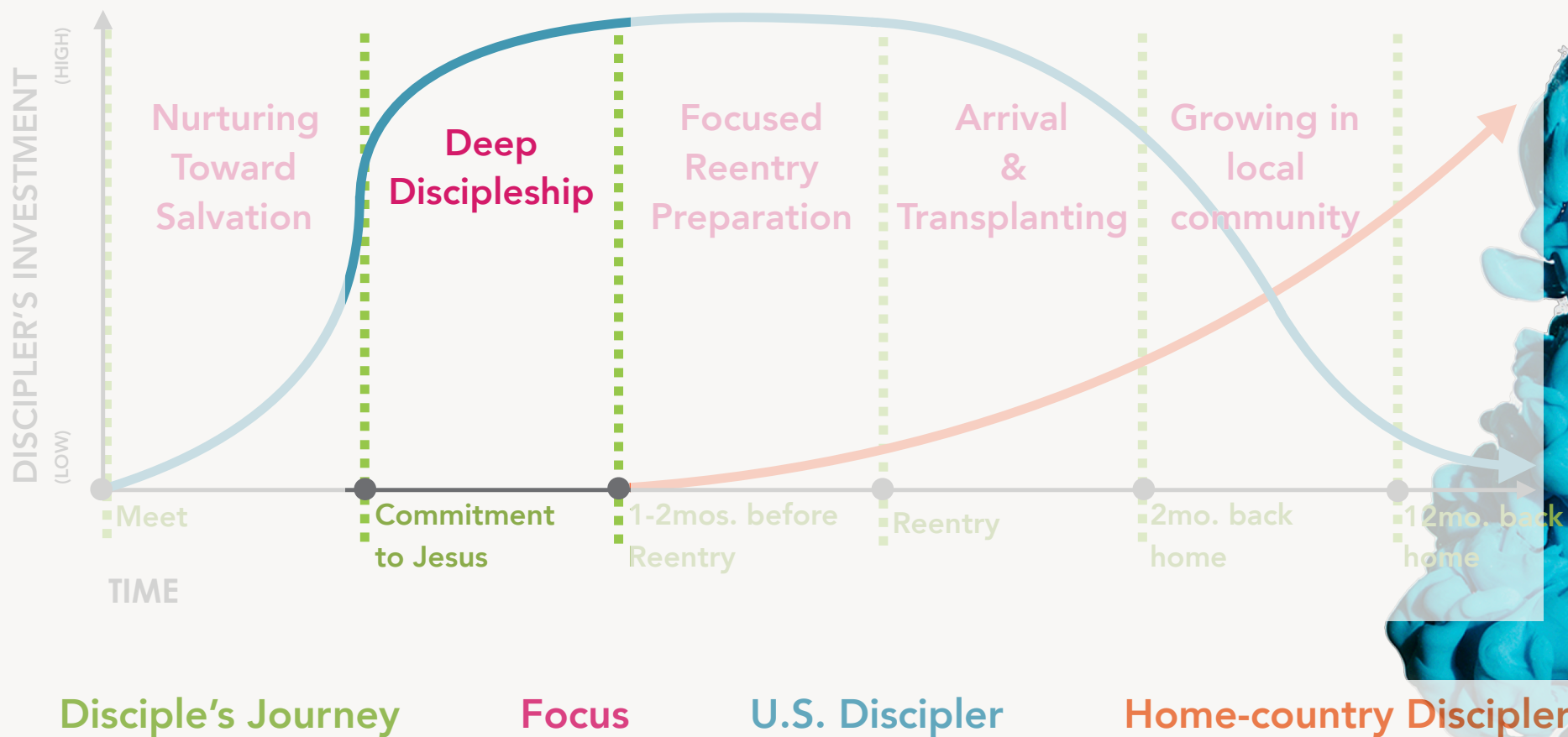
Disciple's Journey

Focus

U.S. Discippler

Home-country Discippler

Deep discipleship



Deep discipleship

They experience:

- Joy in new faith
- Uncertainty about identity
- Spiritual attack
- Desire to share + uncertainty how



Deep discipleship

- *Make time* for discipling.
- Keep it simple - Bible and prayer.
- Preserve their culture in every way possible.



Deep discipleship

- *Make time* for discipling.
- Keep it simple - Bible and prayer.
- Preserve their culture in every way possible.
 1. God made and loves their culture! (Rev 7, Acts 17)
 2. We want replication!



Deep discipleship

- *Make time* for discipling.
- Keep it simple - Bible and prayer.
- Preserve their culture in every way possible.
- Delay baptism and telling family *for a time*



Deep discipleship

Delay baptism and telling family *for a time*

*“He’s become a believer!
...He called his parents,
and they disowned him on
the spot.”*



Deep discipleship

Delay baptism and telling family *for a time*

"The more the baptizer is viewed as an outsider, the more likely it is that intense persecution...will result. ...As in-culture and near-culture believers baptize, persecution for secondary reasons is sharply reduced and ...when persecution does arrive, it is in direct response to who Jesus is."

Nik Ripken, Muslim Background Believers and Baptism in Cultures of Persecution and Violence



Deep discipleship

- *Make time* for discipling.
- Keep it simple - Bible and prayer.
- Preserve their culture in every way possible.
- Delay baptism and telling family
- Beware of sensationalizing

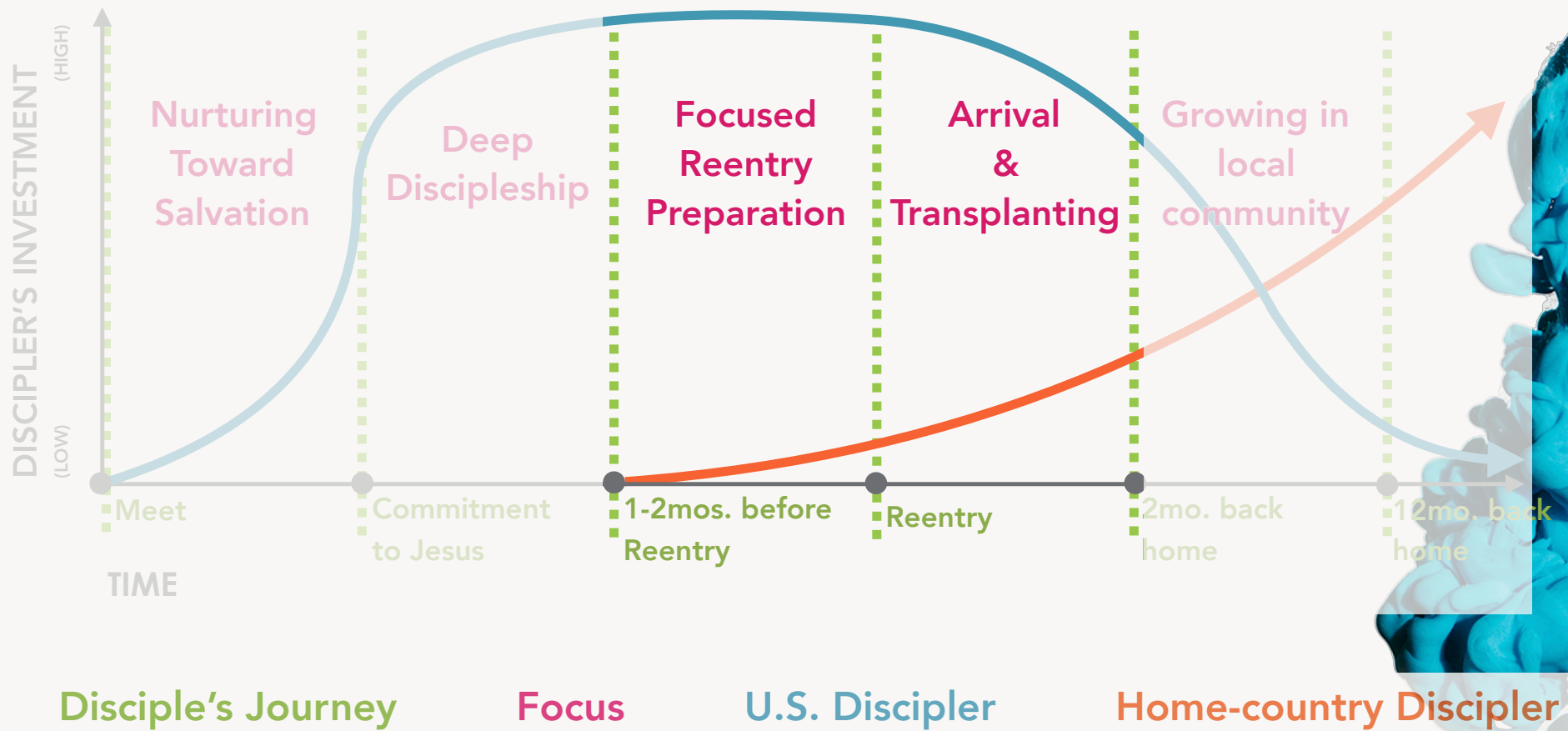


Reflection

How does your discipling plan size up?
What needs to change?



Focused Reentry Preparation



Focused Reentry Preparation

They experience:

- Deeper relationship with the Lord, deep bond with you
- Uncertainty about their future
- Counting the cost, again
- Specific questions about how, what, when, where



Focused Reentry Preparation

- Handoffs

~~*"Dear persecuted believer,
You don't know me, but I know
someone who came to faith. Will
you meet with them?"*~~



Focused Reentry Preparation

- Handoffs

***Trust and pre-existing relationship
are essential***



Focused Reentry Preparation

- Handoffs

“What type of people do you want to receive?”

“What vetting will we each require for a safe connection?”

“What will our handoff process be?”



Focused Reentry Preparation

- Handoffs
- Technology (VSee, VPN, Bible)

1-2mo before departure

Test and start using it

Video call: disciple, you, in-country contact



Focused Reentry Preparation

- Handoffs
- Technology (VSee, VPN, Bible)
- Specific Plans
 - *Spiritual disciplines*
 - *1st connection in-country*
 - *1st connection with you*
 - *Code phrase for “Is it safe to talk/write?”*
 - *Answering family’s questions...*



Focused Reentry Preparation

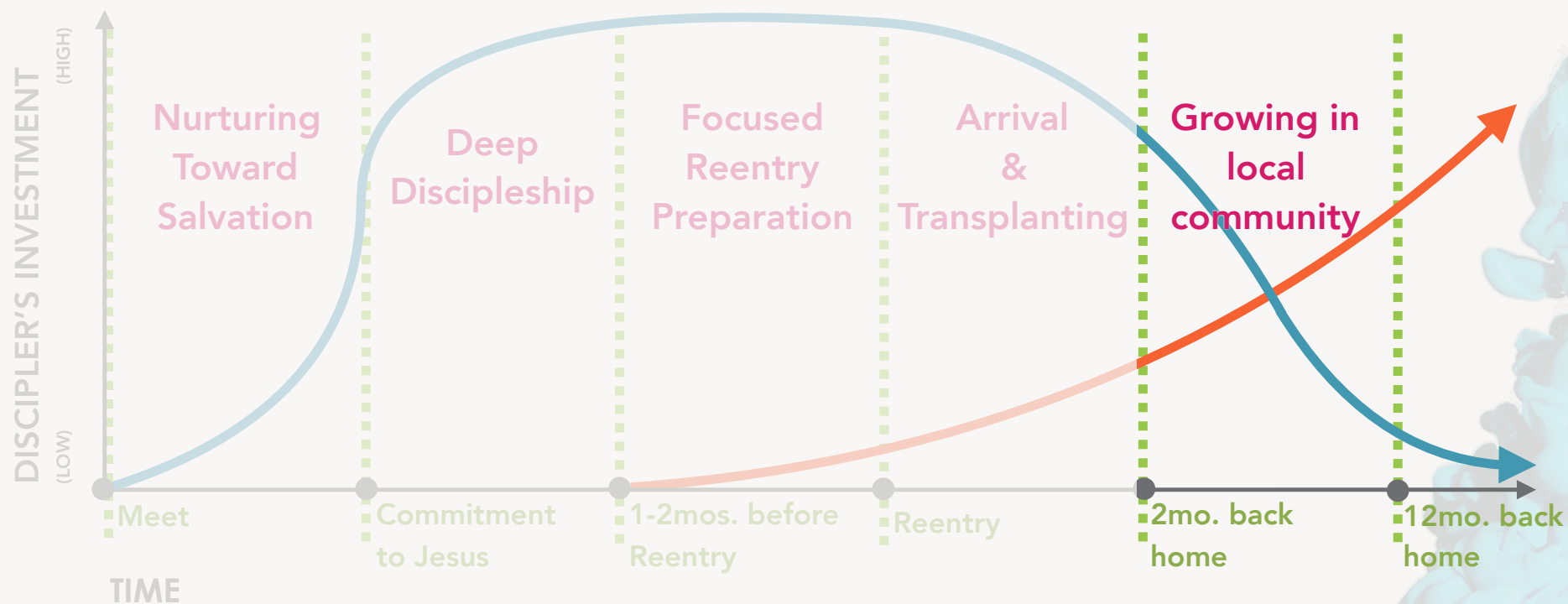
- Handoffs
- Technology (VSee, VPN, Bible)
- Specific Plans

Which of these do you need to prepare for, soon?

Who will help you prepare?



Growing in Local Community



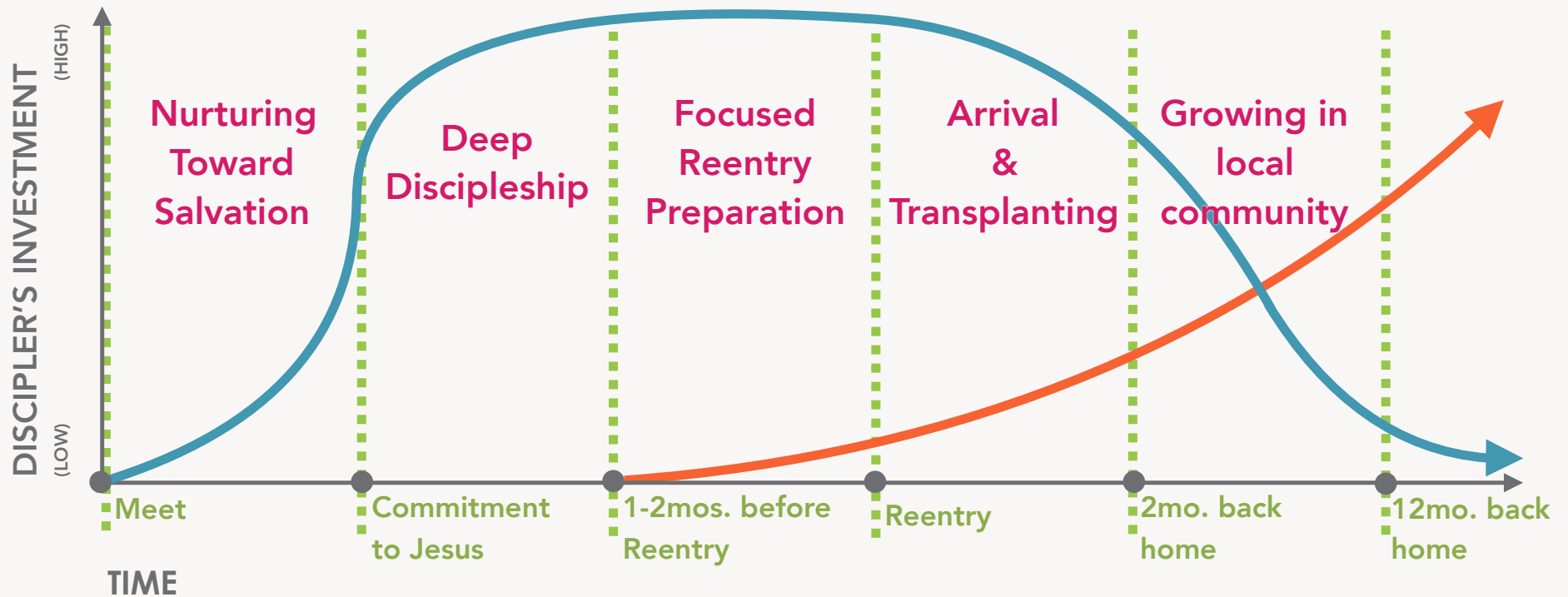
Disciple's Journey

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DISCIPLESHIP & REENTRY TO SENSITIVE CONTEXTS



Disciple's Journey

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U.S. Discipler

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Keep Learning

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Discipling

- Principles of Discipleship tiny.cc/principlesfordiscipleship
- Discovery Bible Study tiny.cc/discoverybiblestudy
- Critical Contextualization, Paul Hiebert
- Toward a Cross-Cultural Definition of Sin, Wayne Dye

Suffering & Persecution

- The Bible
- Open Doors World Watch List
- Nik Ripken, The Insanity of God

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“If you want the most difficult but most rewarding work in the world, minister among Muslims.”

- Samuel Zwemer



It is Well, by Horatio Spafford

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

It is well with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials
should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

My sin—oh, the bliss of
this glorious thought!—

My sin, not in part but the
whole,

Is nailed to the cross, and
I bear it no more,

Praise the Lord, praise the
Lord, O my soul!



Becoming Salt & Light

adapted from Critical Contextualization, by Paul Hiebert

