

**Suffolk  
Discipleship Pathway**



**lightwave**



- Why don't people who come to our Church special events want to come to our services?



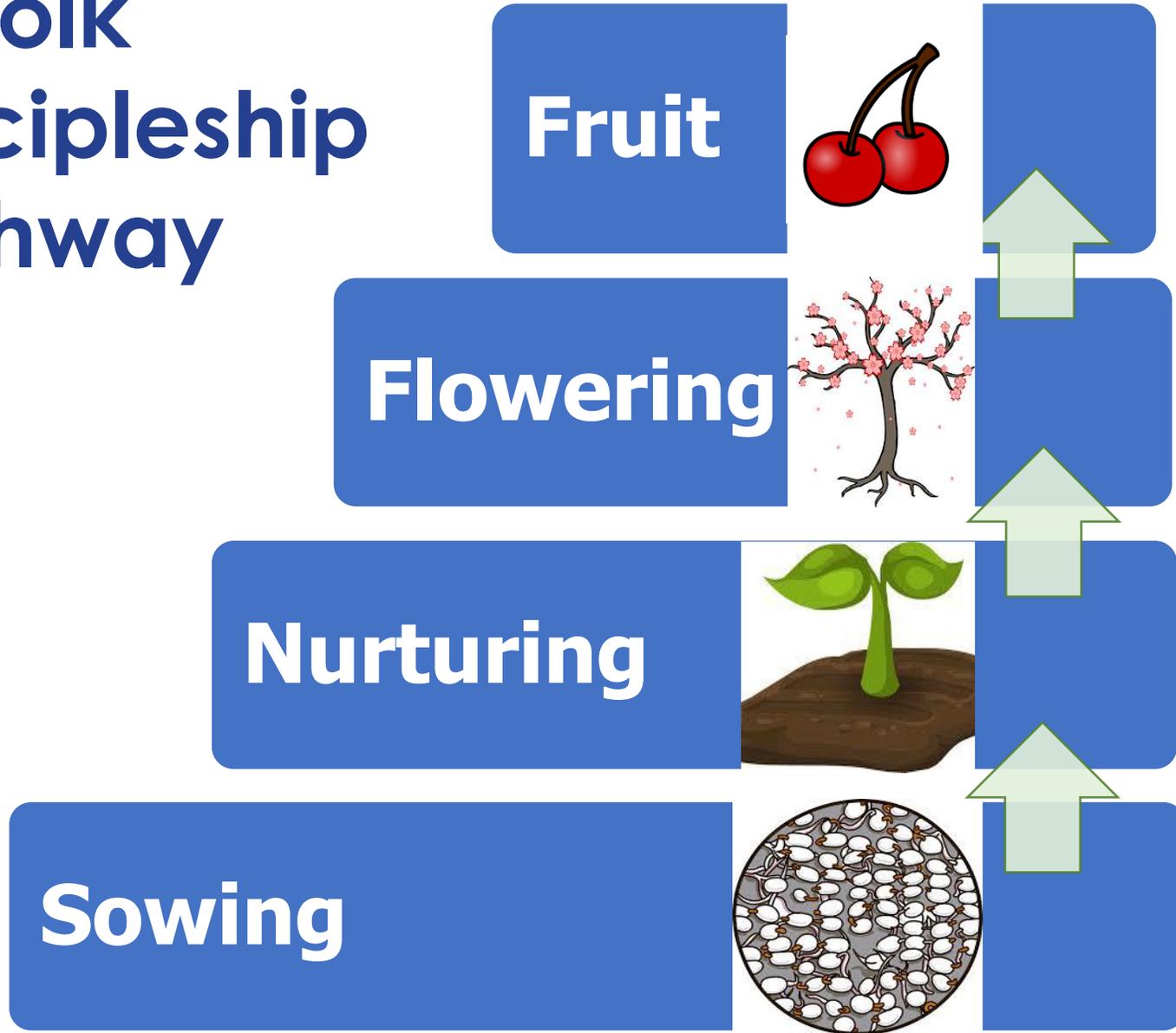


- For most people faith is like a journey... something you travel along at your own individual pace.

The Suffolk Discipleship Pathway is a way of describing the steps that most people take on their way to discovering and growing in faith.

It helps churches and small groups to think about how they can provide stepping stones to faith for the people they are in contact with.

# Suffolk Discipleship Pathway



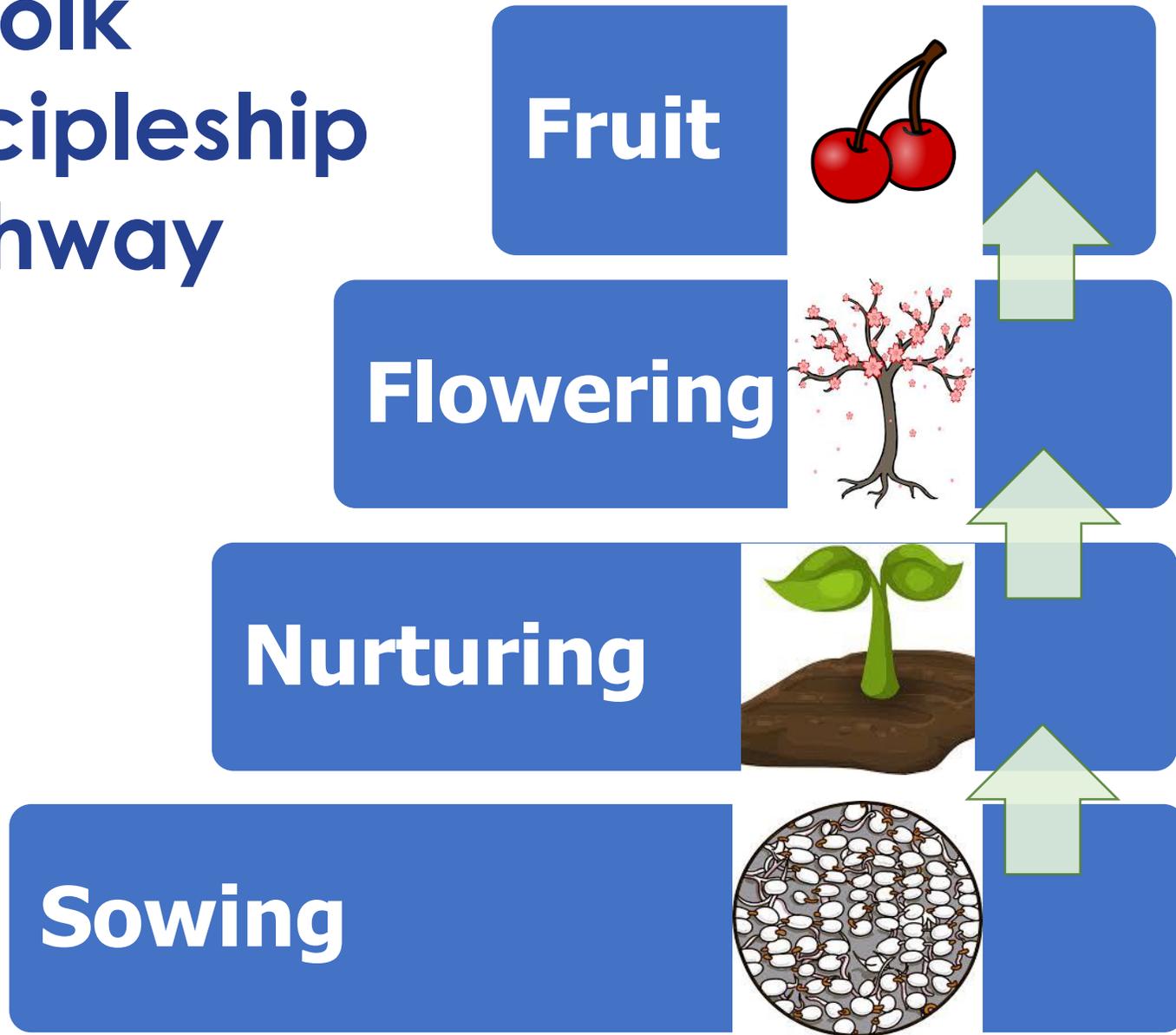
 Growing in God



[www.light-wave.org](http://www.light-wave.org)

Based on Sowing, Reaping, Keeping model.  
(Lawrence Sunglehurst's acclaimed book of the same name and developed by Fresh Expressions in MSM course.)

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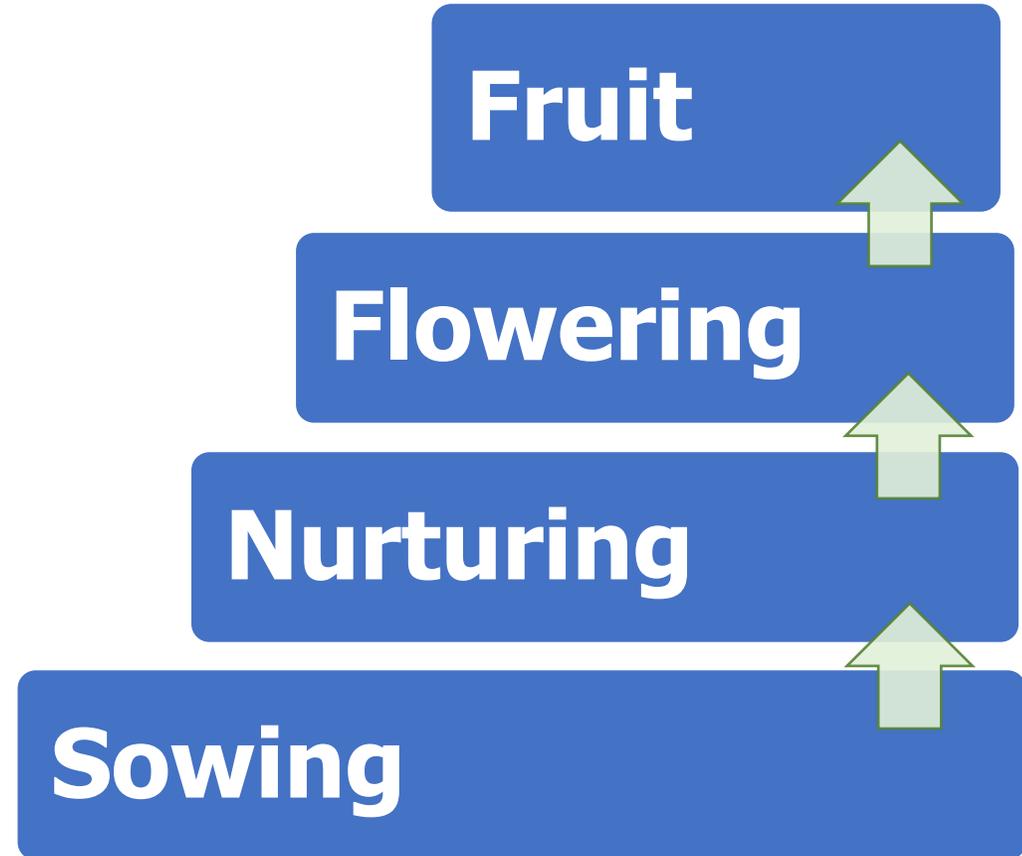
Connecting with people to share the love of God by sharing a mutual interest or meeting a need.  
Low threat – low spiritual content.

# SOCIAL ACTION

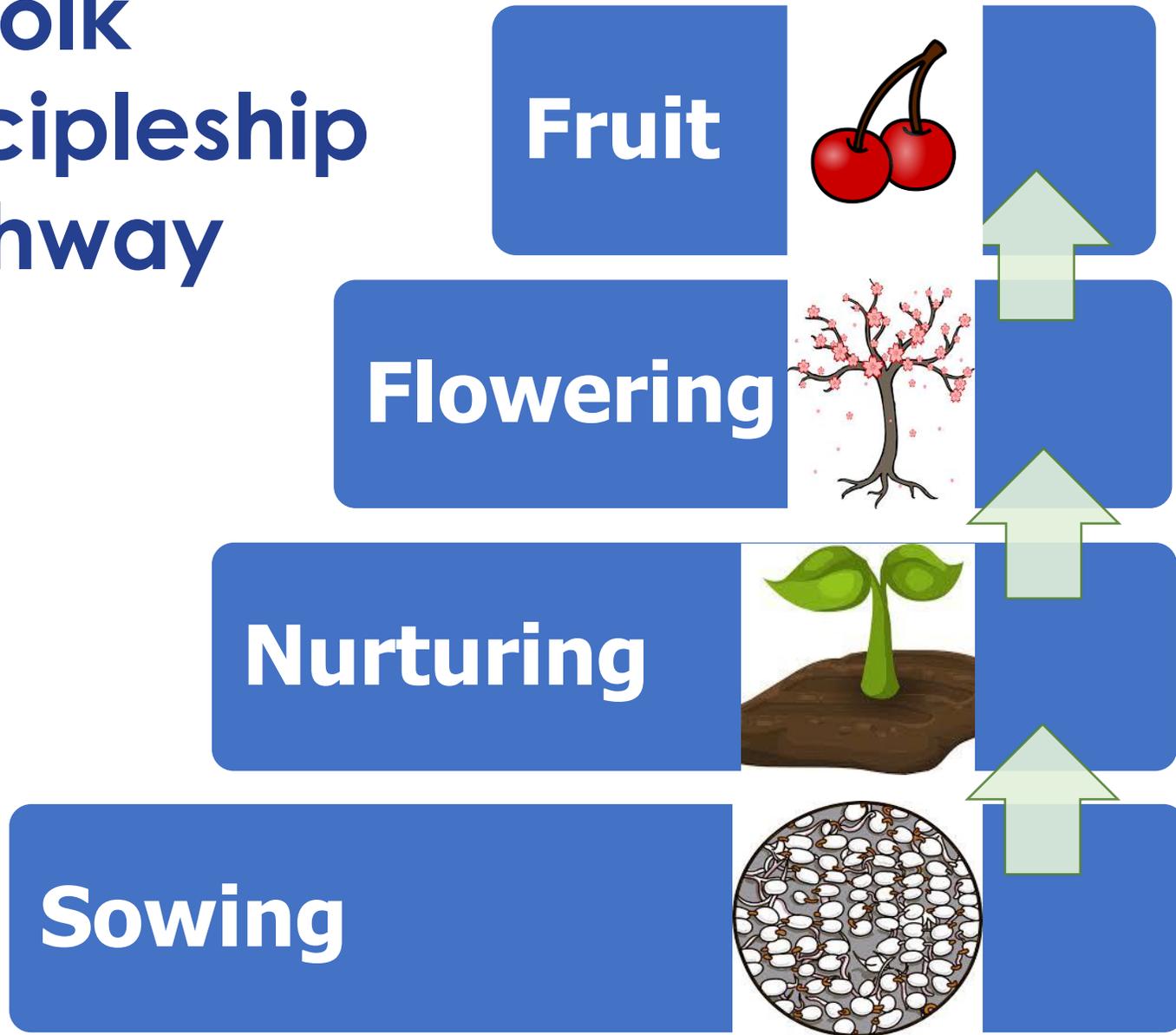
with the Suffolk  
Discipleship Pathway

**loverural**

making Jesus visible  
through loving action



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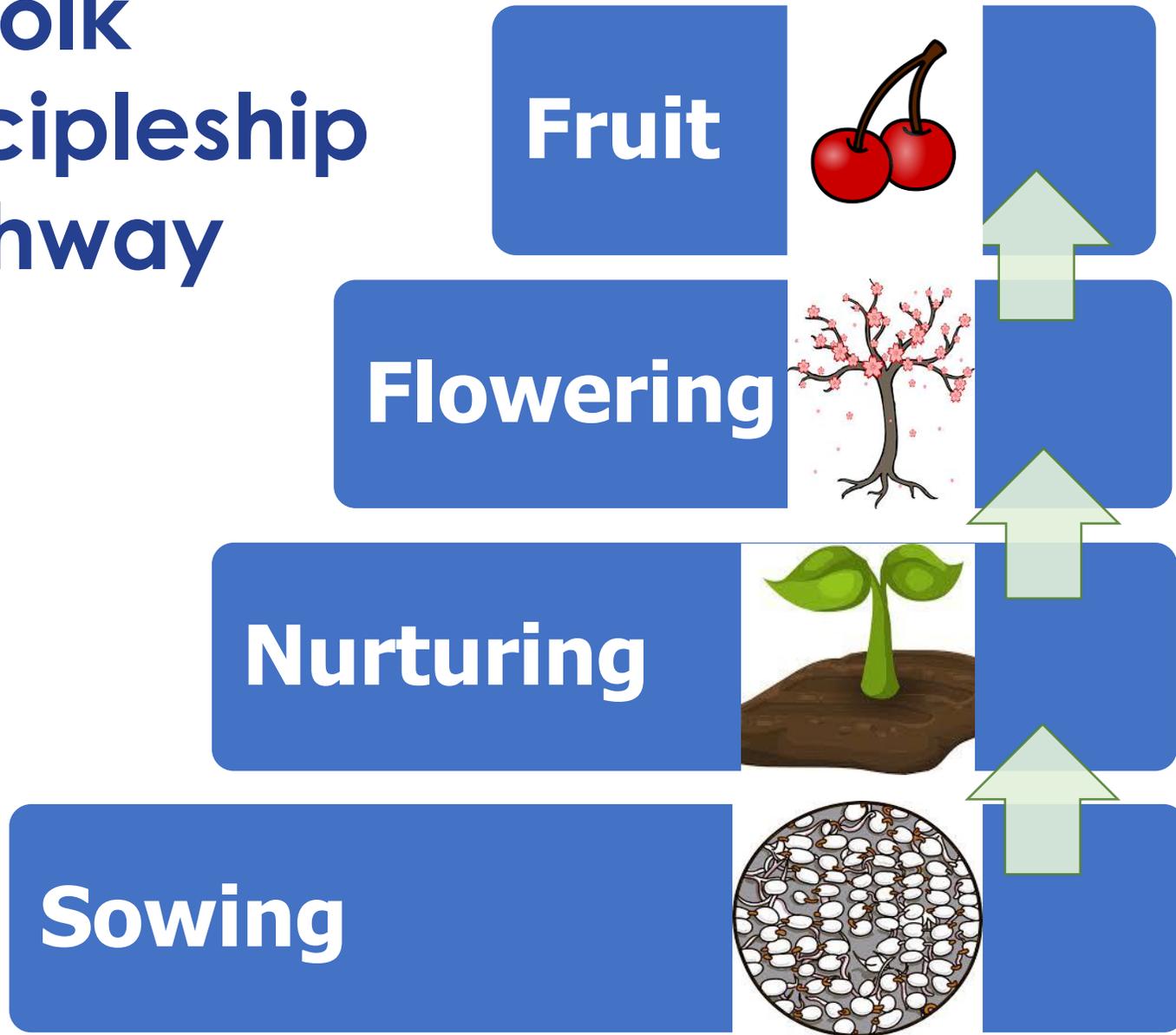
People who have been part of a 'sowing' activity can be invited to a 'Nurturing' activity which has an opportunity to explore faith gently. Not all will accept.

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- Always be invitational – don't remove the activity they are used to – not everyone will be ready to move on with their journey at the same time. Being invitational maintains the trusting relationships that have been built.

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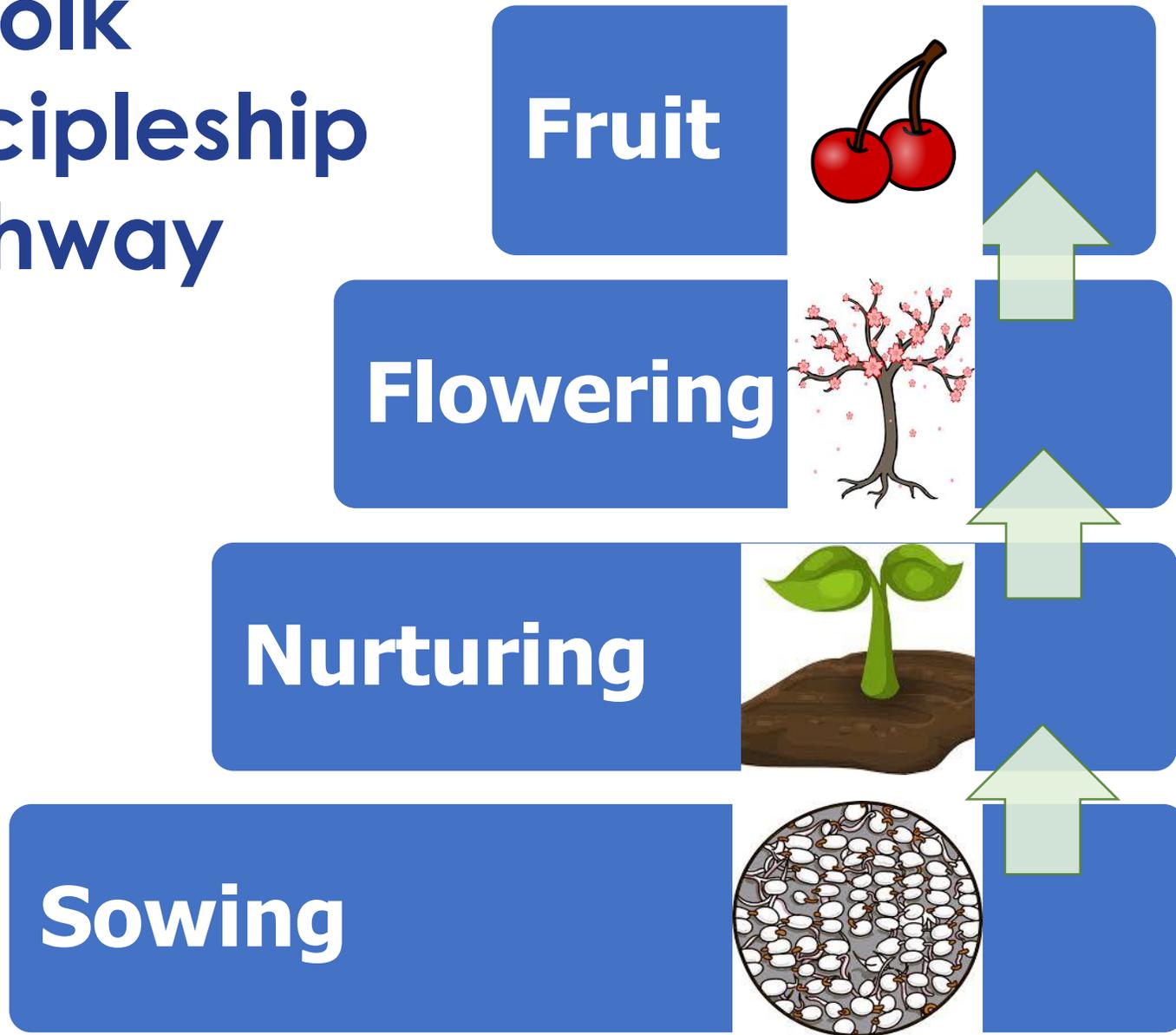


This is an invitational opportunity for people who have been part of a 'nurturing' activity to explore Christianity and their faith in more depth, and to commit personally.

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People continue to grow as disciples within some form of church community. They are able to bear fruit by serving others and encouraging others in their faith.

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## GROUP EXERCISE 1

Imagine your group wanted to reach out to particular people – imagine and draw a potential discipleship pathway for them including examples for sowing, nurturing, flowering and fruit. A worked example for parents with toddlers is provided right:

- All ages caring for the planet
- Men in local pub
- People at a food bank
- Teens on the street

# The Suffolk Discipleship Pathway

**Fruit** – People continue to grow as disciples within some form of Church which could be a parish church or fresh expression of Church. The word fruit conveys on-going development and giving to others in witness and service.

For example: Parent and Toddler discipleship group grows from Alpha.

**Flowering** – Opportunity to find out in depth about Christianity and to commit. Taken up by fewer people so may join up with other small groups or parish activity to provide this.

For example: Alpha with Toddlers.

**Nurturing** – People who have been part of sowing can be invited to join an activity which involves opportunity to explore faith at some level (not all may say yes – so smaller size).

For example: Praise and Play offered to the parents in the Parent and Toddler Group; Messy Church.

**Sowing** – A small group connects with people and shows the love of God by enjoying mutual interest or meeting a need.

Low spiritual content – wide appeal.

For example: Small team starts Parent and Toddler Group.

## GROUP EXERCISE 2

Think about an activity which your church or small group are already engaging in to reach out to particular people – Would it be best described as sowing, nurturing, flowering or fruit?

Is it connected by invitation to other steps of faith? Draw it on a diagram as on the right. Put in your ideas for filling any gaps.

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