

Road blocks to  
maturity



# Some reminders

- goal is maturity
- maturity is expressed relationally
- listening to people to discern God's purposes in someone's life
- discerning where the person is living by lies rather than truth
- establishing and respecting boundaries
- understanding ourselves and being honest about who we are



Eve is a third year student who is a very faithful attender of Church and small group. She is obviously keen to learn and grow and you offer to meet for coffee one day to get to know her more. You know that Eve is an excellent linguist and has found it easy to chat with international students.....she has formerly told you of a heart to share the gospel with them.

Eve opens up and tells you that she has been struggling with anger. Her flat-mate is very understanding as is her boyfriend ( who is a relatively new believer), although Eve knows she does not treat them well and is very moody and unpredictable with them.

As you listen to Eve you learn that her father left the family for another woman when Eve was 12 years old. Her mother is a fine Christian woman who has coped remarkably following the divorce. Eve speaks to her father occasionally but speaks of him with disdain.

The next time you meet with Eve she is looking pale and run down. Her conversation is filled with her problems and she relates the story of a particularly bad recent interaction with her father.

Eve is beginning to show some obsessive compulsive behavioural patterns and is aware that she desperately needs to feel in control of everything. Although a very able student she is now struggling to concentrate on her work and is very tired. She makes an appointment with her doctor.

What roadblocks to growth could you identify in Eve's life?

How would you begin to help her?

What are the consequences for her if she does not change?

4. What are the consequences for all involved if she does change?



His pastor has just asked Adam, a second year student, to consider helping lead the youth work in your church next year.

Everyone knows Adam to be a young man of exceptional faithfulness and integrity. He makes every prayer meeting and attends the Church home group. As well as being good-looking he is also very athletic and plays in the football 1st XI. In the student dormitory he is known as the 'wise guy' to go and chat to for anyone who has questions about their faith. He never appears to get angry and everyone admires his self-discipline. He doesn't have a girlfriend although many would like to fill that role.

One day, when under the pressure of a work deadline, Adam finds himself looking at things he should not be looking at on the internet and feels a guilty release from all his tensions.

On the way back from handing in his essay the next morning he bumps into his pastor who asks him if he's made his decision about the youth group yet.....after fobbing him off, Adam goes back to his room where he is suddenly overcome with guilt for the night before. He switches on his computer and clicks on an x-rated site he knows will distract him.....

1. What is happening to Adam?

2. How might these problems have arisen? Could they have been averted?

What might Adam's life look like if he continues like this?

What would maturity look like in Adam?

Please note, all characters are completely fictional! (Although composite pictures of many students we've encountered)