

Navigating Transition: Greenhouse to Wild Field



If you are a recent graduate out of college or have recently started your career, the transition can be disorienting. The Greenhouse represents whatever structure it is you have left and the Wild Field represents the city marketplace.

What's true of the Greenhouse?

- Warm & Safe (externals more controlled)
- Structured for maximum growth
- Predictable customized environment designed to serve your needs
- Cultivators present
- Limited possibilities
- Hard to get lost
- Shared Resources
- Static

What's true of the Wild Field?

- Exposed & Vulnerable to elements
- Unstructured but still growing
- Unpredictable diverse environment that may be indifferent to your needs
- Cultivators to be found
- Limitless possibilities
- Easier to become lost & disoriented
- Competition for resources
- Changing

Practices to Navigate the transition (expanded on next page):

- Seek community/resist isolation
- Intentionally create structure for growth (drift vs. design)
- Embrace failure and learn from diversity
- Take ownership by finding mentors
- Pursue your dreams (faith is taking the risk of living even with the doubts you have)
- Seek to become rooted by discovering who God's created you to be
- Seek the well-being of others in love
- Trust God and lean into the adventure

Seek Community/Resist Isolation:

Transition can be a time of extreme vulnerability. You've left the support of the greenhouse and now you're exposed to the elements. Don't be surprised if old sin patterns and temptations wreak havoc. Community will take time to find and create. Be patient and don't give up. It will require more energy than you think.

Create Structure for growth:

We don't drift into discipleship. Live with intention and be proactive in creating new rhythms of life during this season. Design your life in such a way that you aren't being formed as much by the culture at your place of work, but rather, you're able to be faithfully present because of the life-giving structures you've created.

Embrace failure and learn from adversity:

Be kind and compassionate to yourself. Life is about prototyping through failure and represent our best learning moments. Fail fast and fail cheap if you can.

Take ownership by finding mentors:

Transition can be disorienting. Find a couple of people who can walk with you during this time whether in person or virtually. It could be a peer, a mentor, a family member. If you're having a hard time finding someone, don't give up. It takes time to find the right people.

Pursue your dreams:

Don't allow fear of the unknown to paralyze you. It's easy to swap certainty for faith. It's normal to have doubts, but don't let it keep you from moving to a new city, from accepting that job, from ending that relationship, to starting that relationship, to starting that business, etc.

Become rooted by discovering who God's made you to be:

Research shows that only 20% of people know their passions by the time they finish college. Life is a pilgrimage. Vocation is formed, not found and is based on hearing/discerning/listening to the voice of God. The best first step is to go out into the world and do something. Give God something to work with.

Seek the flourishing of others in love:

It can be a cruel and unforgiving world. Treat others as you would want to be treated. Everyone is made in the image of God whether they acknowledge it or not.

Trust God and lean into the adventure:

Some of the richest times in your life can be been during transition. Don't miss what God has for you. Very often, God is doing things in real time through a dynamic process. Embrace Wayfinding (one step at a time) vs. Navigation as we can't engineer our life forward. Life is not a problem to be solved, but an adventure to be explored.