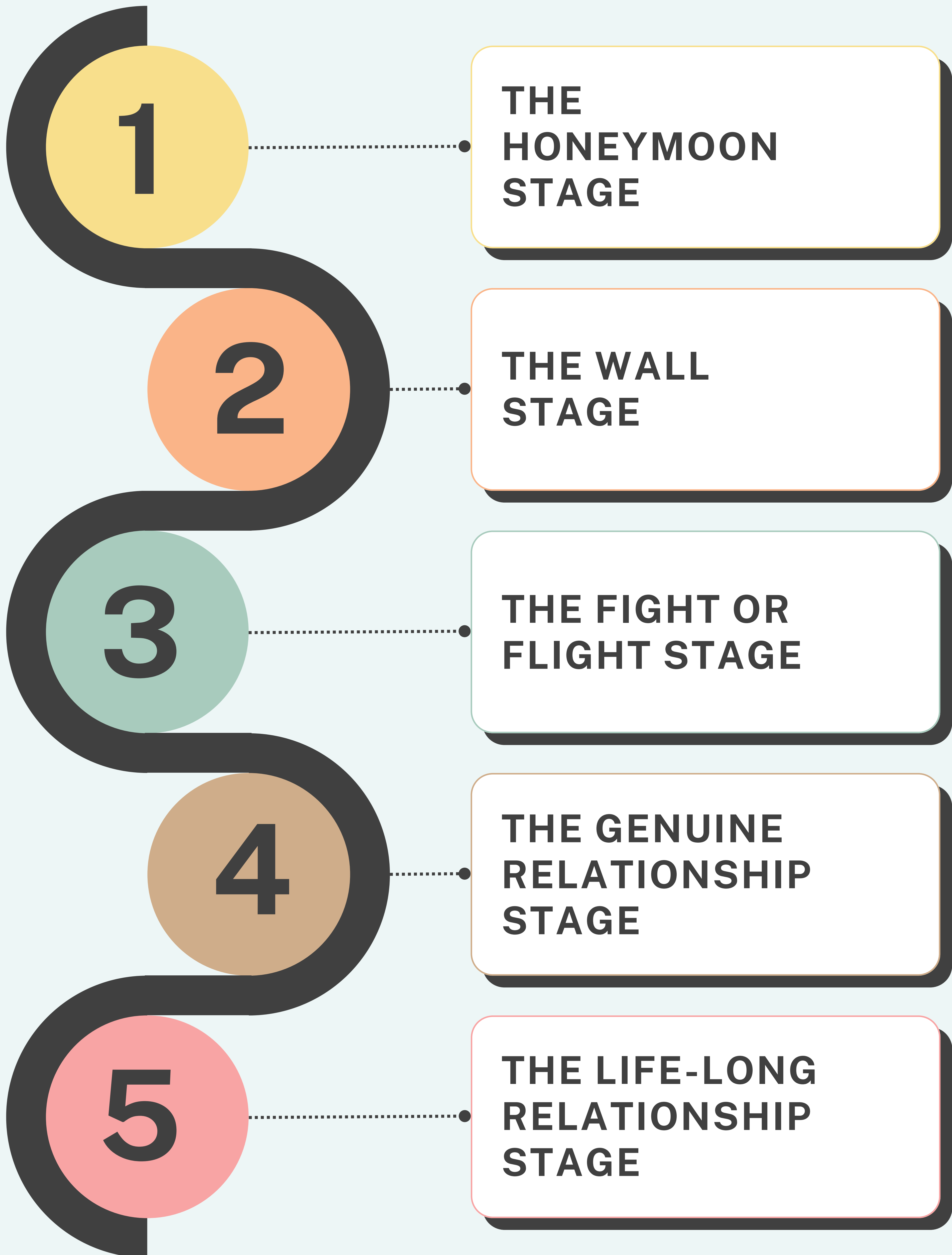


STAGES OF MENTORING



STAGES OF MENTORING

We encourage our mentors towards faithfulness in mentoring and pray that each mentoring relationship becomes a life-long journey. However, one of the most significant obstacles that hinder a long-standing relationship is the unrealistic expectation of the mentors when they first begin. There is a saying that “All frustration comes from unmet expectations.” I believe this is true in mentoring. One of the biggest obstacles in mentoring is when the hopes and dreams that you have for your Forerunner don't come true. If you want your kid to make all A's and he fails gym class, the enemy will lie to you and tell you that you're a failure and this will never work.

Here are some stages of mentoring that most mentors experience.



THE HONEYMOON STAGE

The Honeymoon Stage – New is fun! All is good! Typically, the mentee loves his mentor and puts on their best act to impress his mentor. The mentor pulls out all the stops for his mentee. He takes him to the coolest places and visits him as often as possible. Life is good. This mentoring thing is easy! Everyone gets along great, and the sky's the limit for this mentoring relationship.

Sooner or later, this stage will turn into...



THE WALL STAGE

The Wall Stage – Wait a minute. What’s going on? Everything was going so great, but something had changed. Why isn’t she talking to me? When did they move, and why doesn’t his cell phone number work? He told me he’d show up, and he’s nowhere to be found.

These unfortunate events lead to self-doubt regarding your impact as a mentor. You start saying things like, “Is it me? Did I do something wrong? Is it because I’m not cool enough? I knew this would happen. Maybe I should just quit. He’s probably better off without me anyway. It’s not like I have much to offer in the first place.”

When this happens, it leads to the...

3

THE FIGHT OR FLIGHT STAGE

The Fight or Flight Stage – The mentor decides if he is up for this. He is frustrated that mentoring isn't what he thought it would be.

When this happens, either he believes the lie that's:

- This is not working
- My mentee doesn't even like me
- He's a lost cause
- He'll never change

Lies like this are preparing the mentor to “fly” the relationship. Either this happens, or the mentor prepares to reject the enemy's lies and “fight” for the relationship.

When this happens, the mentor realizes:

- They have to make some sacrifices. “This isn't going to be as easy as I thought.”
- My mentee is more hurt than I thought they were, and I don't know as much as I thought I knew.
- The life of my mentee might turn out differently than I wanted it to. Do I trust God is in control, or am I trying to take control?
- I can't really “fix” this kid. Maybe the best thing I can do is just show up and love them no matter what.

What's it going to be? Fight or Flight? This decision either leads to quitting the relationship or...



THE GENUINE RELATIONSHIP STAGE

The Genuine Relationship Stage – The mentee begins to believe that his mentor is the real deal. They start to truly understand that his mentor backs up his talk with action.

The mentee believes that his mentor:

- Shows up even when they don't make the best choices.
- Can be trusted
- Has his back no matter what
- Is who he says he is.

The mentor begins to:

- Truly care for his mentee and loves him no matter what
- Focus more on quality time instead of on deeds or progress
- Understand that only the Lord can change someone's heart
- Celebrates the small wins
- He grows in positivity and perseverance.

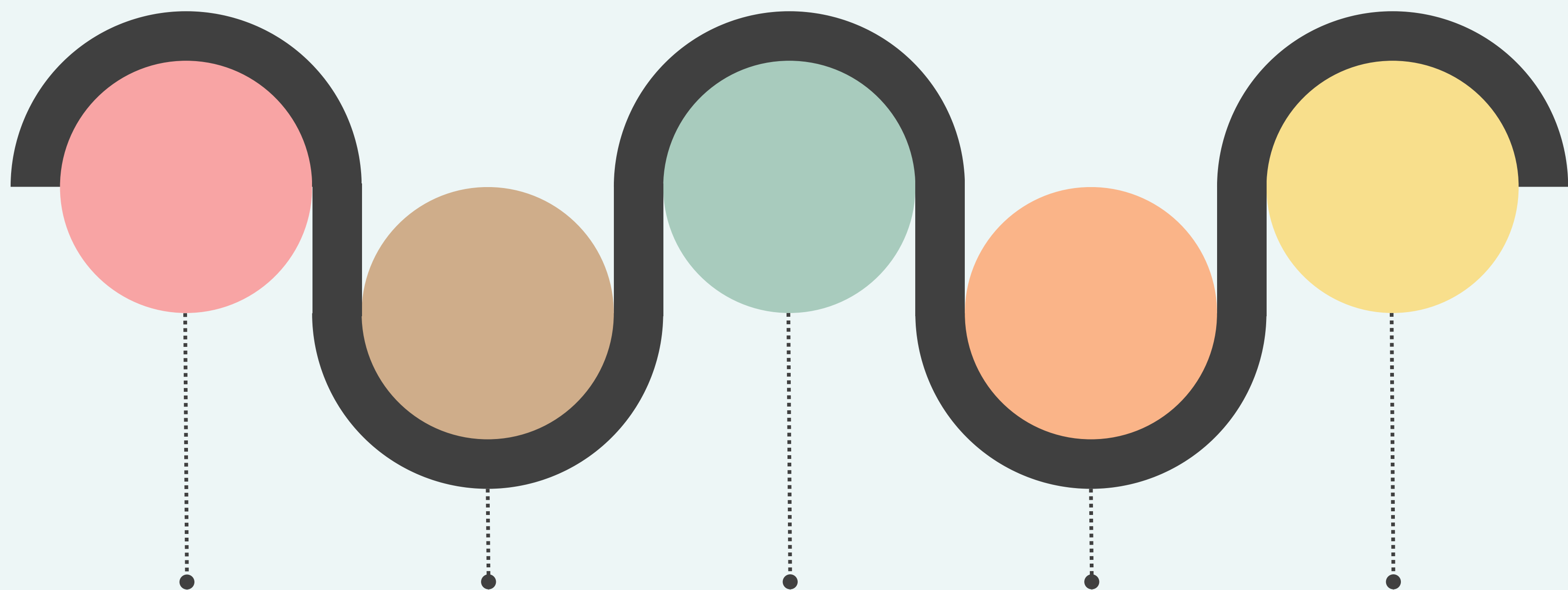
Things are getting real. This looks like it's heading towards the...



THE LIFE-LONG RELATIONSHIP STAGE

The Life-Long Relationship Stage – This is the dream for all mentor/mentee pairings. We want your mentee to know that you will always be there for them no matter what. We hope your mentee picks up the phone and calls you for no reason or stops by your house if he has a few hours to kill on a Saturday afternoon. As morbid as it sounds, we want your Forerunner to be a pallbearer at your funeral. Our desire is for this to be a life-long relationship. It might not happen. It's OK if it doesn't happen. But the opportunity is there. Relationships Change lives.

STAGES OF MENTORING



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