Characteristics by Live Development Stages

First Stage – Leaving Home

18 – 22 years old

* Breaking psychological ties
* Choosing careers
* Entering work force
* Handling peer relationships
* Managing time and money
* Adjusting to independent life

# Second stage – Reaching Out

**23 to 28 years old**

* Selecting a mate
* Settling in to work and progressing in careers
* Parenting
* Becoming involved in communities
* Being a responsible consumer
* Purchasing a home
* Interacting socially
* Achieving autonomy

# Third stage – Questions/Questions

**29 to 34 years old**

* Searching for personal values
* Reevaluating relationships
* Progressing in careers
* Accepting growing children
* Establishing a permanent home

# Fourth stage – Mid-life Explosion

# Mid-30s to early-40s

* Searching for meaning
* Reassessing marriage
* Reexamining work
* Relating to teenage children
* Relating to aging parents
* Reassessing personal priorities and values
* Adjusting to single life

# Fifth stage – Settling Down

# Mid-40s to mid-50s

* Adjusting to an empty nest
* Becoming more deeply involved in social life
* Participating actively in community concerns
* Handling increased demands of older parents
* Managing leisure time and budgets to support college-age children or ailing parents

# Sixth stage – Mellowing

**56 to 64 years old**

* Adjusting to health problems
* Deepening personal relationships
* Approaching retirement
* Expanding hobbies
* Financing new leisure time
* Adjusting to the loss of a mate

# Seventh stage – Retirement

**65 and older**

* Disengaging from paid work
* Reassessing finances
* Being concerned with personal health care
* Searching for new achivement outlets
* Managing leisure time
* Adjusting to a more constant marriage companion or adjusting to single life
* Searching for meaning
* Becoming reconciled to death