

*reasoning
behind:
the staircase*

step one: faith

this step is the steepest out of the seven. the first step to heaven, from what i have read and gathered seems to be the hardest. i remember reading in a devotional once that you cannot have faith in God and still worry. having faith is believing in God with all of your heart and truly putting things into his hands. i made this step so tall because i feel like putting all your faith into God is very hard.

personally, i know i struggle with this. i tend to worry a lot and be fearful of what is to come. i know i am on my journey to "climb this step" to have full faith in God and the future He has planned for me.

step two: honesty

for this 'block' i took the concepts of *two truths and one lie* and removed the center of the step. i painted the block black because of the saying, "little white lies". black is the opposite of the white and the truth is the opposite of the lie. metaphorically, if you were to lie, you would fall through the gaping hole in the center of the stair.

to me, being truthful isn't easy. making up an elaborate story is my passion, it's called writing. for many years of my life, i tried to write my own life. forgetting that my life was written for me. i would fabricate stories to make them exciting, to make my "character" seem more exciting. as i grow older i am focusing more on the blessed life that God has bestowed upon me, rather than this alternate life i had made up in my head.

step three: *character*

i made this block a rainbow of colors. the person you are obviously takes major role in this concept of 'making it' to heaven. now that seems simple and easy, however i have read and always believed that humans have layers. we are complex and intricate in our own respective ways. no two people are the same, and not only on the outside - but cheekily, on the inside.

who we are is a scary concept. everyone has flaws. everyone commits sins. what factors of our character are taken in account? now that i couldn't tell you. personally, there is no fine line between being a bad person and a good person. yes, there may be a lot that takes part in it, but i do not feel that there is any sort of 'fence'. you are who you are, and whether or not you have that figured out for yourself... God knows, and that is what matters.

step four: heroism

for this step, i kept it blank. just, white. now this is because, the things you do for others never go unnoticed. i kept it blank because although this is a staircase towards heaven, this step is a double edged sword. it's good to help others, to be a hero. but recently, personally, i have been struggling with taking care of myself. because i was so focused on *this* step. i wanted to be the hero that i couldn't paint my own step.

now here is where this step really gets vulnerable for me. you may stop reading if you'd like.

i stepped back. in something i should not have stepped back in. i have lost myself because i was so invested in being everyone's hero, that i wasn't my own. i let someone go in order to please another person, and now i am suffering that consequence. what i took away from creating this step was that... God loves selfless and kind hearted individuals. however, not making yourself a priority, is disrespecting His creation, you.

step five: *celebrate God*

for this step, i shaped it to hopefully resemble to nativity scene. i added red & white stripes on it to look like a candy cane. this is because, it is a common misconception that 'celebrating God' means going to church every sunday. on religious holdiays, such as christmas, it's safe to assume you would go to church and pray with your family. and although this isn't bad in any shape or form, it's not the only way to celebrate God.

for me, i praise God as much as i can. i count my blessings every night in a journal, thanking God relentlessly for this life i live. i am God Reliant, i need Him in everything i do. with every moment i am worrying, i am not having faith in Him. i may not have an exact number of how many times i pray or acknowledge His power, but i can say with one hundred percent certainty that it's a lot.

step six: development

in the wise words of hannah montana, 'nobody's perfect'. we are all striving for perfection. but when does it come? i believe that continuing to be better and trying your hardest to be good and learning from your mistakes shows personal growth, development. for my sixth step i wanted to embody this the best way i could. i, well mr.grandi, cut of the end of the block to almost look like the block is 'loading'.

my personal development has been shaky, i am someone who doesn't often reflect and make changes to my life. it's sad to say, i have only learned from my mistakes, when someone else has pointed out to me. regardless, i am growing and i am being better as the years, months, weeks, days, hours, minutes go by.

step seven: *grace*

give the grace you have received from God. this step was painted green because green happens to be the color of forgiveness. for the amount of times God has given grace to His children, it is only right for those same humans to give grace at a level similar to His. if you were allowed to make those mistakes and God was still as loving and nurturing as He always has been, you have no right to treat another human anything less than that.

giving grace is different then giving second chances. in my own life, if someone has hurt me, i must respect myself enough to separate myself. yet, i never wish ill upon anyone who has hurt me. i pray for them, and i give grace. they may or may not enter my life again, however i give grace and forgive.