

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of January 13, 2013

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## Welcome to the Winter quarter of Growth Groups!

This week we kick off our Winter Growth Group quarter. Your first meeting will include a potluck dinner, time to get acquainted, as well as time to discuss your Growth Group Covenant. The homework has been shortened this week to allow ample time to accomplish this.

To prepare for this week's meeting, take some time to focus on the questions below and be prepared to share your answers with the group. Have a great first meeting as you come together to connect and encourage one another to grow and to see God work!

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### GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Most of us enjoy the relatively consistent temperature and weather we experience year round here in San Diego County. If you had to move this winter and live in a cold weather city or area, where would it be and why?

2. As you look to 2013, what are one or two things you're looking forward to?

3. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

### DIGGING DEEPER

1. This week we heard how Abraham remained faithful to God even after hearing nothing from God for 13 years. This kind of patience and faithfulness can be no small challenge for any of us. How might the following verses help us remain faithful and patient even when God seems to be silent?

Psalm 37:7-9

James 5:7-11

2. Our faithfulness lived out over the long haul is revealed in the character we display in our attitudes and actions. As followers of Christ, God has given us all we need to live out his

character. As you read 2 Peter 1:3-9 what character qualities would you hope to further develop or continue to live out in 2013?

### **TAKING IT HOME**

What are you looking forward to the most or hoping to accomplish in your Growth Group this quarter?

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### **THE PURPOSE OF GROWTH GROUPS**

Growth Groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth through meaningful Christian relationships and the study of God's Word. (Romans 8:29 & Hebrews 10:24-25). Here's how it will happen:

#### **SHARE**

Each week we'll take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first this sharing will include planned "sharing questions." But after the first few weeks, it will become more informal and personal as we feel more comfortable.

#### **STUDY**

Each week we'll study a section from God's Word that relates to the previous weekend's sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life.

#### **SUPPORT**

Each week we'll learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (John 15:9-13). This care can take many forms, such as prayer, encouragement, listening, challenging one another and meeting real needs.

#### **SERVE**

Spiritual growth is fostered not only by what we gain through the support and input of others, but also through service to others. The role each of us fills is important to the health of the church and for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the community in which we live (Ephesians 4:11-16). Throughout the quarter, it is our hope that you can find and/or be affirmed in the ways God has designed you to serve and make a difference in God's Kingdom.

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#### Psalm 37:7-9

Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him;  
do not fret when men succeed in their ways,  
when they carry out their wicked schemes.

[8] Refrain from anger and turn from wrath;  
do not fret--it leads only to evil.

[9] For evil men will be cut off,  
but those who hope in the Lord will inherit the land. [NIV]

### **James 5:7-11**

Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. [8] You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. [9] Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

[10] Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. [11] As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy. [NIV]

2. Our faithfulness lived out over the long haul is revealed in the character we display in our attitudes and actions. As followers of Christ, God has given us all we need to live out his character. As you read 2 Peter 1:3-9 what character qualities would you hope to further develop or continue to live out in 2013?

### **2 Peter 1:3-9**

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. [4] Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

[5] For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; [6] and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; [7] and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. [8] For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. [9] But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins. [NIV]

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