

Growth Group Homework

For the week of January 12, 2014

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!

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Imagine for a moment the San Diego Chargers made it to the Super Bowl this year! Which of the following would be true for you as you watch the game?

- a) The more people in the room the better
- b) Just a few of us viewing it will do
- c) The food is just as important as the game
- d) Expect loud comments to come out of my mouth
- e) I'll do more talking to friends than watching the game
- f) I'm aware of how depressed I'll be the day after, if they lose
- g) I'd prefer to do something else other than watch the Super Bowl
- h) Other

2. As you look to 2014, 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 past weekend we read in 1 Peter 1:5 how followers of Jesus can have the perspective of hope and confidence no matter what life throws at them because they are “shielded by God’s power until the coming salvation.” How does Psalm 22:16-22 reinforce this point and further explain what it takes to keep this kind of hope and confidence?

2. This week we heard the good news that the tests and suffering we encounter are more about confirming our faith than an attempt to disqualify it. How do the following verses further build your confidence and hope that God is at work no matter what life throws at you?

John 16:33

Ephesians 3:20-21

1 John 3:1-3

As you look toward 2014, which of these verses would you like to remember the most?

TAKING IT HOME

What are you looking forward to in your Growth Group this quarter?

Is there anything you personally want to put extra focus on to grow yourself spiritually?

Possible ideas for you personally:

- Personal time with God
- Serving others
- Time with family
- Additional time on Growth Group homework
- Prayer
- Using my gifts & abilities
- Words of kindness/encouragement
- Other

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 because we are 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.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of January 12, 2014

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!

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Imagine for a moment the San Diego Chargers made it to the Super Bowl this year! Which of the following would be true for you as you watch the game?

- i) The more people in the room the better
- j) Just a few of us viewing it will do
- k) The food is just as important as the game
- l) Expect loud comments to come out of my mouth
- m) I'll do more talking to friends than watching the game
- n) I'm aware of how depressed I'll be the day after, if they lose
- o) I'd prefer to do something else other than watch the Super Bowl
- p) Other

2. As you look to 2014, 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 past weekend we read in 1 Peter 1:5 how followers of Jesus can have the perspective of hope and confidence no matter what life throws at them because they are “shielded by God’s power until the coming salvation.” How does Psalm 22:16-22 reinforce this point and further explain what it takes to keep this kind of hope and confidence?

1 Peter 1:5

⁵ who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. *[NIV]*

Psalm 22:16-22

¹⁶ Dogs surround me,
a pack of villains encircles me;
they pierce my hands and my feet.
¹⁷ All my bones are on display;
people stare and gloat over me.
¹⁸ They divide my clothes among them
and cast lots for my garment.
¹⁹ But you, Lord, do not be far from me.
You are my strength; come quickly to help me.
²⁰ Deliver me from the sword,
my precious life from the power of the dogs.
²¹ Rescue me from the mouth of the lions;
save me from the horns of the wild oxen.
²² I will declare your name to my people;
in the assembly I will praise you. *[NIV]*

2. This week we heard the good news that the tests and suffering we encounter are more about confirming our faith than an attempt to disqualify it. How do the following verses further build your confidence and hope that God is at work no matter what life throws at you?

John 16:33

³³ “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” *[NIV]*

Ephesians 3:20-21

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. *[NIV]*

1 John 3:1-3

¹ See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. ³ All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. *[NIV]*

As you look toward 2014, which of these verses would you like to remember the most?

TAKING IT HOME

What are you looking forward to in your Growth Group this quarter?

Is there anything you personally want to put extra focus on to grow yourself spiritually?

Possible ideas for you personally:

- Personal time with God
- Serving others
- Time with family
- Additional time on Growth Group homework
- Prayer
- Using my gifts & abilities
- Words of kindness/ encouragement
- Other

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 because we are 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.