

Growth Group Homework

For the week of September 14, 2014

Welcome to the Fall Quarter of Growth Groups!

This week we kick off our Fall 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, encourage one another to grow and to see God change your lives from the inside out!

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. What's something you did this past summer that was fun or enjoyable – i.e. going to a movie, swimming, family gathering, vacation, barbeque, etc?

2. If you could go back in time and have a conversation with anyone besides Jesus, who would you choose and what would you talk to them about?

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 weekend Larry mentioned that there are over 30 "one another" commands in the New Testament that can't take place in a large group of casual acquaintances and strangers. Below are a few of these "one anothers." After reading each verse below, identify the "one another" command in each one.

Romans 12:10

Romans 12:16

Romans 14:13

Romans 15:7

Romans 15:14

Colossians 3:16

If you've been in a Growth Group or other small group Bible study before, can you think of any times when you've seen any of these "one anothers" being put into action in your group?

If you've haven't been in a Growth Group before, which one or two of these would you most like to see happen in your new group?

2. Larry talked about how the church has become something we go to instead of something we are. Why do you think so many Christians are willing to settle for a concept of church which is nothing more than a weekly concert with a lecture?

Can you think of any attitudes, actions, or perspectives that a person would need to change in order to go from considering the church as simply a place and a program, to viewing it as a community of believers where you develop significant relationships?

TAKING IT HOME

In preparation for going over the Covenant in your Growth Group, take a moment to jot down some of the reasons you joined a Growth Group this quarter. What are you looking forward to the most?

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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Romans 12:10

10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. [NIV]

Romans 12:16

16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. [NIV]

Romans 14:13

13 Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister. [NIV]

Romans 15:7

7 Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. [NIV]

Romans 15:14

Paul the Minister to the Gentiles

14 I myself am convinced, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with knowledge and competent to instruct one another. [NIV]

Colossians 3:16

16 Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. [NIV]

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