

Growth Group Homework

For the week of April 5, 2015

Welcome to the Spring Quarter of Growth Groups!

This week we kick off our Spring Growth Group quarter. Your first meeting will most likely include a potluck dinner, time to get acquainted with any new members, as well as time to discuss the Growth Group Covenant. The homework has been shortened this week to allow ample time to accomplish each of these.

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 change our lives from the inside out!

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Almost all of us growing up looked forward to the week off of school for Easter/Spring Break. What are some of your favorite memories and/ or activities you did during spring break week as a kid (besides just getting out of school)?
2. We just got past "April Fools' Day!" Do you have any memorable April Fools' pranks that others did to you or you did to others?
3. Looking back at your notes from this weekend's message, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. It's encouraging how God's Spirit can bring a renewed perspective or reminder to a text or Scripture we may have read before. Take a moment and read again the story of the Resurrection in Matthew 28:1-10. What thoughts or observations come to mind as you read the text?

Matthew 28:1-10

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

2 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. 4 The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

5 The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples:

'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

8 So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9 Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me." [NIV]

2. Understanding who Jesus is and what he has done for us is the essential message of Easter. The following passages all contain statements that Jesus made about himself. For each one, identify what he says about himself and any ways you can think of for how his description of himself can have an impact on our lives as believers.

John 6:35

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." [NIV]

John 8:12

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." [NIV]

John 10:7-10

Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. 9 I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.[a] They will come in and go out, and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

John 10:14-15

"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.

John 11:25

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die;

John 14:6

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Which of the descriptions Jesus uses for himself is most encouraging to you?

TAKING IT HOME

1. Looking back at the descriptions of Jesus you listed above, is there one that you'd like to keep in mind this next quarter in Growth Group?
If so, explain.

2. As we begin a new Growth Group quarter what are one or two things you're looking forward to?

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.

WEEKEND OF SERVICE

We're just three weeks away and projects are beginning to fill up! If you or your group hasn't signed up yet, the sooner you sign up, the more options you'll have. Sign up at our weekend services or online @ weekendofservice.com.

THE POWER OF THE T-SHIRT

Don't forget the "Power the T-shirt" and get your Weekend of Service T-shirt for \$5 at any of our weekend services or at the church offices during the week.



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