

## BETTER TOGETHER

### SINCE JESUS IS >

Hebrews 10:19-25

- (1) **BOLDLY** draw near to God.  
1 John 2:1-2/ 1 Timothy 2:5
- (2) No matter what happens, don't lose **HOPE**.  
Numbers 23:19/ Psalm 119:90
- (3) Help each other to **LOVE** and do **GOOD DEEDS**.  
1 Corinthians 15:33, Proverbs 13:20/ Proverbs 27:17  
Matthew 22:36-40, 1 Corinthians 13:1-7/ Ephesians 2:10, James 1:17, 19, 26

### WHY “BETTER TOGETHER” IS A FACT, NOT A CLICHÉ

- (1) Christianity is a **TEAM SPORT**.  
1 Corinthians 12:12-27/ Romans 12:4-5/ 1 Corinthians 10:24/ 1 Peter 4:10
- (2) The church is God's **PLAN A**.  
There is no **PLAN B**.  
Hebrews 10:24/ 1 Timothy 3:15
- (3) Some **DECISIONS** are too **IMPORTANT** to make alone.  
Proverbs 15:22/ Proverbs 12:15/ Proverbs 14:12
- (4) Some **TRIALS** are too **HARD** to bear alone.  
Matthew 26:36-38/ Ecclesiastes 4:9-12/ Galatians 6:2-5
- (5) Some **TEMPTATIONS** are too **STRONG** to resist alone.  
Ephesians 6:10-16/ James 5:16

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of April 15, 2018

**SPECIAL NOTE:** *This weekend's sermon addressed important issues related to our Growth Group ministry. Because of this we've changed up the homework a little so groups can spend more time discussing how to apply the sermon.*

## QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

## MY STORY

1 Other than at church, can you think of any other small groups you've been a part of in your life (i.e. Boy Scouts, a sports team, a book club, etc)? How have those small group experiences been similar to or different from your Growth Group experience?

2 Larry talked about how peer pressure can be a good thing if we pick the right peers. Can you think of a time in your life when you made the wrong choice of peers? How did those wrong choices impact your life?

3 For many Christians the church is something they go to instead of something they 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?

## DIGGING DEEPER

This weekend we looked at two of the more than 30 "one another" commands in the New Testament ("spur one another on toward love and good deeds" and "encouraging one another"). These commands can't take place in a large group of casual acquaintances and strangers, but need a small group of committed people (like a Growth Group). Below are a few of the other "one another" verses. After reading each verse identify the "one another" command it contains.

**Romans 12:10**      **New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>10</sup> Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

**Romans 12:16** New International Version (NIV)

<sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

**Romans 14:13** New International Version (NIV)

<sup>13</sup>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.

**Romans 15:7** New International Version (NIV)

<sup>7</sup>Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

**Romans 15:14** New International Version (NIV)

*Paul the Minister to the Gentiles*

<sup>14</sup>I myself am convinced, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with knowledge and competent to instruct one another.

Which one of these “one another” verses is the hardest for you to maintain or put into practice?

Which of these “one another” verses do you think are the most important for us in helping each other to love and do good deeds?

## TAKING IT HOME

1

Each quarter we begin with reviewing the 4 S's of Growth Groups which describe the four primary functions that take place in a group. They are:

**SHARE:** Taking time to share what is happening in our lives.

**STUDY:** Discussing a section from God's Word that relates to the previous weekend's sermon in order to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life.

**SUPPORT:** Learning to care for one another through prayer, encouragement, listening, and meeting real needs.

**SERVE:** Finding and/or being affirmed in the ways God has individually designed us to serve and providing opportunities to serve as a group.

In what ways do you see these 4 S's reflected in what Larry talked about this weekend?

What have you enjoyed most about each of these functions either in your current group or a previous group you've been in?

Is there anything you'd like to see your Growth Group start doing or do more of when it comes to any of these four functions to make your experience even better?

It's easy to wonder if our Growth Group is or isn't meeting our needs. But this weekend we heard it's all of our responsibilities to spur each other on to love and do good deeds. Can you think of anything that **YOU** could start doing, stop doing, or do more of to make the Growth Group experience even better for everyone else in your group?

**2** Growth Groups are supposed to be a place where we can share our important decisions, trials and temptations. Despite this truth, some people still find it hard to share these things. Why do you think that is?

**3** Are there any decisions, trials or temptations you're currently facing that you would benefit from sharing with your group so they can pray for you?

**Praise/Prayer Requests:**

→

→

→

→

→