

“Grow ... in our Relationship with God and God’s People”

Our Vision and Mission as Jesus’ Disciples, Part 3

Small Group Study

Week of Nov. 8, 2009

This week we continue to go more in depth into our new statement of vision and mission by looking at our call to “grow.”

To Begin ...

1. Who to you is an example of what it means to be a mature Christian?
2. What is it about that person’s life that you admire?

Review the Sermon and Go Deeper ...

For each of the sections from Mark’s sermon outline, read the Scripture and answer the questions that follow:

We grow through ...

... ***admitting*** we need ***help***

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (Mt. 5. 3)

1. Being “poor in spirit” means that we are “spiritually poor or bankrupt.” Why do you think Jesus would say that the kingdom of heaven belongs to people like this?
2. Why is this be important to our spiritual growth?

... the ***hard stuff*** of life

... we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him who have been called according to his purpose. (Rom. 8:28)

1. What does this verse say about what it is that God can use for good in our lives? Does this mean that bad things are good? If not, what does it mean?
2. How is it that each of the things below can help us to grow as described?

- ***troubles*** can grow ***trust***
- ***temptations*** can grow ***obedience***
- ***trespasses*** can grow ***forgiving hearts***

... the practice of ***spiritual disciplines***

“... train yourself to be godly.” (1 Timothy 4:7)

1. Spiritual disciplines are things we do on a regular basis that help us grow in our relationship with God (prayer, study, meditation, silence, solitude, etc.). What images come to mind when you hear Paul use the word, “train” in the verse above? How does this relate to our spiritual growth and spiritual disciplines?
2. What spiritual disciplines are you currently involved in? How are they helpful?

3. One great resource the church has is the video series about spiritual disciplines called, *The Life You've Always Wanted*. If your group has not gone through it, we encourage you to talk about doing it! Also, below are some other book resources you might consider reading if you want more information about spiritual disciplines.

See: *The Life You've Always Wanted*, John Ortberg
The Spirit of the Disciplines, Dallas Willard
The Celebration of Discipline, Richard Foster

... the **deeper community** of a **small group**

Jesus went out ... and spent the night praying to God. When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve. (Luke 6:12-13)

1. What can we learn from Jesus' example of choosing a small group to go deeper with? Why is it important in the church for people to be able to have a group to go deeper with?
2. How might a small group help us grow spiritually?

... **expressing** our faith **in service**

It was he who gave ... to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we ... become mature ... (Eph. 4:11-13)

1. Notice the connection in this verse between "works of service" and becoming "mature." How does serving help us to grow spiritually?
2. Can one grow spiritually without serving?

Making it Personal and Practical ...

1. Are you experiencing any of the three hard things "trouble," "temptation," or other people's "trespasses" right now? How can your group support you in this?
2. What is one thing you could do that might help in your spiritual growth?

Praying Together ...

1. Share concerns with one another, and pray for those concerns.
2. Pray that God would be doing His growing work in each of us.