

LIFE ON MISSION

SESSION FIVE - GROW

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever noticed a change for the better in another person? Did you wonder what happened to bring about that change? Having a relationship with Jesus should change us. The Bible tells us that we are to be transformed. In Galatians 5:22-23 we are reminded that having the Holy Spirit within us should bring about positive change.

The most compelling evidence for the power of God to change a life is simply that: a changed life. When you change and grow into someone who is more like Jesus - someone who is more loving, patient, and kind than ever before - people notice. It's not a matter focusing on self-improvement and trying to change ourselves. It's about inviting God in, turning it all over to Him, and asking Him to do the heavy lifting.

So this week, we're going to talk about growth. We are called to be disciples of Jesus and that means that we are to develop daily habits that help us to be more like Him as we continually rely on Him, and learn from His example. And we are also called to make disciples, and to help them do the same!

MEMORY VERSE

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is -- His good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:2

WATCH AND LEARN - GROW (DVD Teaching Notes)

As you watch the DVD teaching for this session, use the **Teaching Notes** below to fill in the blanks, and record any key thoughts, questions, and statements you want to remember or look into further.

- Matthew 28 doesn't say, "Go and make _____."
- This is about a _____ of _____.
- _____ and _____ are not two different things we do. It's all a part of a process.
- When we are the _____ of Christ, then we can serve the _____.
- It's not until you grow that you can _____.
- Learning can happen in the _____, but spiritual growth has to happen in _____.

FIGURE IT OUT

1) Has there been a spiritual mentor in your life? If so, how has that helped you grow?

2) *Kyle Idleman talked about the words of Jesus in John 15, where He compared branches (us) to being connected to the vine (Himself). Kyle offered, "A simple challenge to Christians; be the branch." What do you think that means/ How can you "be the branch"?

3) As you are out there making disciples, you (as a disciple yourself) get a chance to grow through those relationships. Describe a time that you grew as a result of helping someone else understand Jesus better?

4) *What spiritual disciplines or practices help to connect you with the Holy Spirit and train you for godliness? How does that help you "put the Gospel on display." For others?

5) *Pastor Tim challenged us to make disciples, not converts. He noted that evangelism and discipleship are not the two different things we do, but that each of them are part of one process: that of making disciples. What happens when people separate evangelism and discipleship?

LIVING IT OUT

In this section, talk about how you will apply the wisdom you've learned from the teaching and Bible study. Then think about practical steps you can take in the coming week to live out what you've learned.

- 1) **Read Galatians 5:22-23.** From the list of the fruits of the Spirit, identify the one that you wish was true in your life. What are you going to do this week to grow in the area you identified.

- 2) As you grow in this area, how will this empower you to help others grow?

- 3) In her testimony, Katherine talked about discipling people in her life. She said, "You really only need to be one step ahead of them." What does that mean to you?

- 4) Who in your life are you one step ahead of, and currently discipling? If you are having a difficult time coming up with a name, commit to praying and watching for an opportunity to help someone grow as a Christ-follower.

DIGGING DEEPER

If you feel God nudging you to go deeper, take some time between now and our next meeting to dig into His Word. Explore the Bible passages related to this session's theme on your own, jotting your reflections in a journal or in this study guide. A great way to gain insight on a passage is to read it in several different translations. You may want to use a Bible app or website to compare translations.

READ HEBREWS 10:24-25 25

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but to encouraging one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

1) What do these verses tell us about the role of community in our spiritual growth)?

2) The words, “one another” appear twice here, and countless times throughout the New Testament. Use a Bible app or online version to find other references to “one another.” What does this tell us about how we are to walk with Jesus?

3) Who spurs you on to love and good deeds? If you don't have someone in your life who does that, pray about finding someone you can encourage, and who will also be an encouragement to you.

DAILY QUIET TIME

Each day read the daily verses and give prayerful consideration to what you learn about God, His Spirit, and His place in your life. Then record your thoughts, insights, or prayers on the lines below each verse.

DAY 1:

“Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 1:6)

Growth is affected by how we respond to what God wants to do in our lives. How are you responding to God’s good work in you?

DAY 2:

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:1-2)

What are three things in your life that need to be “thrown off” so that you can run with perseverance?

DAY 3:

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.” (Deuteronomy 6:4-9)

In what ways are loving the Lord your God a continual practice and topic of conversation in your house as you grow together?

DAY 4:

“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.” (Colossians 2:6-7)

In what ways would you say your roots are growing down and your branches are growing up in Christ?

DAY 5:

“I am the vine, you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit: apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5)

What are you currently doing to remain connected to the vine? What fruit are you seeing as a result?
