

Week Beginning: 24th February 2019

Worship Series: #4 in series



lifegroups
live life abundantly

living sharing growing

Theme Verse

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

Remember This Week

The way of growth is a call to each of us as individuals but also as a community. The body of Christ grows when its members are well nourished in the word and bound together in Christ; it leads to a life that overflows with thankfulness and grace.



But the godly will flourish like palm trees and grow strong like the cedars of Lebanon. For they are transplanted to the LORD's own house. They flourish in the courts of our God.

Psalm 92:12-13

Lord Jesus, by the power of your Spirit help us to grow in grace, that our lives may overflow daily with thankfulness and praise for what you are working in and through our lives. As we gather together today, grow us in your grace together as we seek to live and walk your way for the glory of your name. Amen.



1. *Share your highs and lows since you last met with one another.*
2. *Share how you went with your living purposefully from last time?*
3. *If your life was a fruit tree, what kind of fruit tree would you be and why?*
4. *What stage of development are you at now? Bearing fruit, fruit rotting on tree, barren and not producing, too much deadwood, in need of pruning and regrowth, other?*
5. *In what season of your life have you grown most physically...emotionally...spiritually?*

MRI, CT Scan, blood tests, bone density scan, mammogram, dental exam, x-ray, angiogram, ultrasound. From the simple bathroom scale and a tape measure to medical equipment costing millions of dollars, we can physically assess, diagnose, prescribe, and treat almost every part of the human body. But there is no scan, swab or scope for your soul. We can't make an appointment and have someone probe, poke or pry and determine the condition of our spirit. But like all things living, even there you are either growing/thriving or withering/dying. So at this week's waypoint we are going to look at the way of growth and explore some outside indicators that reveal an inner spiritual health.

Read Luke 6:43-45:

Re-read it from the Message Translation. [Luke 6:43-35](#)

6. *Which version speaks most powerfully to you? Why?*





7. How do you hear Jesus' words here personally in your own life? As an implied threat - you better be good or else? With indifferent apathy - good people do good things, bad people do bad things...so what? Or as a promise: Good trees grow good fruit and that is my plan for you?
8. How do people ultimately know about the state of our hearts? What is the best evidence you can give to someone else that you are a follower of Jesus?
9. Compare verses 41-42 with verses 43-45 and verses 46-49. How do these 3 sets of verses relate to or help explain one another?
10. Where does our "goodness" come from (Romans 7:18; 2 Corinthians 4:6-7; Colossians 1:27)?
11. Jesus tells us people's good is "produced" from the "treasure" of their heart? What does that mean? Why does Jesus speak to the heart?
12. What do the outward indicators - what comes from your mouth and your actions - reveal about the inner health of your heart spiritually at this point of time?

Whether what is flowing from your lips and lives is or is not the fruit that God has planned for your life right now, remember that it is only by God's grace that you can produce fruit...fruit that lasts. We know that all fruit eventually rots and spoils but the fruit that Jesus produces in our lives when we are growing in him, will never spoil. Here Jesus' promise again: **"Apart from me you can do nothing"** (John 15:5). The way of growth is difficult but Jesus says: **'Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.'** (John 15:4). The promise of Jesus is that when we remain, abide, make our home in him, when we participate in the divine nature, we will be fruitful. The results of his transformation in our life will become evident. His life, bit by bit, will transform our heart. His life, day by day, will make us healthy on the inside. His life, week by week and month by month and year by year, will become more evident through our life because what flows from our lips and lives will reflect what he is doing in us. Read 2 Peter 1:5-8.



Read Colossians 2:6-7

13. How deep are the roots of your faith? When have you felt as if the "roots" of your faith in Christ were barely below the surface? What helped you to sink those roots deeper?

Colossians 2:6-7 encourages a purposeful and intentional growth in our lives - growing downward by being "rooted" in the Word of God, growing upward by being "built up", growing inward so that we can be "strengthened in the faith", and growing outward as we "overflow with thankfulness".

14. Which areas are you doing well in at the moment and which ones need a bit more work and growth?
15. What are some specific steps that you can take to accomplish this in your own personal walk with God?
16. How can you deepen your growth in grace together as a LifeGroup?



- * Praise God for his Word which guides you in His way. Thank Jesus for the good soil of his Word that he has planted your lives into and which provide the nourishment and nutrition needed to bear good fruit. Ask the Holy Spirit to create in you a clean, pure and healthy heart that what overflows from your life may be a fruit that others taste and through it see that God is good.
- * Pray that God would help you grow purposefully and intentionally in his grace - taking the time to deepen your roots in him.
- * Pray for your LifeGroup that his life and grace may become more evident as you do life and grow in his life together.



Turn to the person next to you and make the sign of the cross on the palm of their hand or forehead as you say:

Name, may the life of Christ grow in you and show through you. Amen.