

Creekside LifeGroup Study

LEADER NOTES

January 26th, 2020

Time to Grow!

Part 2 of 2

Hi LifeGroup leaders! Here are some notes to guide your study time with your group. “Time to Grow!” is a 2-part LifeGroup study designed to raise the value of growing in our walk with God (part 1) and to give a practical tool for planning next steps for growth (part 2). For part 2 of your time together, your group is going to use Creekside’s Spirit Growth Planning Tool. This resource is designed to give your group members an opportunity to both assess where they are at in their spiritual journey and to make a plan for a growth step.

*NOTE – For today’s study, please make sure you have a hard copy of Creekside’s Spiritual Growth Planning Tool for each of your group members. You can pick these up at Creekside on Sunday, or you can print them from lifegroupleaders.ca/studies

MEETING OUTLINE

Here’s an outline of what you can do when your group meets.

- ICEBREAKER – Growth Spurt. Over the past year both of our daughters have gone through a growth spurt. We’ve noticed they are eating like crazy and the clothes they fit in a year ago don’t fit them anymore! Did you experience a growth spurt as you were growing up, a short period of time when you grew like crazy? What do you remember about that time? What did you think about yourself? What did others say? Or, if you have children or nieces and nephews, have you watched them go through a growth spurt recently? Describe this to the group.
- VIDEO – watch the LifeGroup video for Time to Grow part 2.
www.lifegroupleaders.ca/studies <https://player.vimeo.com/video/385325910>

PLANNING TOOL

- After the video, hand out a copy of the Spiritual Growth Planning Tool to each of your group members, then begin to look at this resource together.

Creekside's Spiritual Growth Planning Tool

Say to your group - In the video Jeff talked about two Scriptures related to spiritual growth. The first one is 2 Peter 3:18. Can someone read that verse for us?

Ask - "What do you think it means to grow spiritually? How can we know if we're growing?"

God's desire and plan for your life is that you would **grow** in your walk with Him.

"... but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

2 Peter 3:18 NIV

Say - OK, let's take a look at another Scripture Jeff mentioned. It's 2 Corinthians 13:5. Can someone read that verse for us? (read from THE MESSAGE paraphrase below)

His desire is that you would be **intentional** about **how** you will grow.

"Test yourselves to make sure you are solid in the faith. Don't drift along taking everything for granted. Give yourselves regular checkups ... Test it out. If you fail the test, do something about it."

2 Corinthians 13:5 (The Message)

Ask, so what do you think it means to test ourselves spiritually? Why would Paul ask us to do this?

What does it look like to "drift along"? Drifting along can be going through the motions - attending church, for example, but not really putting effort into my own growth journey.

Have someone in the group read each of these questions below. Ask the group, so, what do you think? What does it mean to be stalled? Can you relate?

- Do you sometimes feel stalled in your walk with God?
- Are there areas of your life where you sense you could grow, but you have yet to do anything about it?
- Are you growing in your faith and could benefit from a resource to help you think through how to accelerate your growth?

Read the introduction and the 4Ds (4 Directions) explanations below. Note that the question for each “Direction” is intended to get your group members thinking about their own spiritual journey and planning a growth goal.

Creekside’s Spiritual Growth Planning Tool is for you! This resource will help you develop a customized plan to grow your walk with God. Using Malcolm Webber’s “4Ds” * (four directions) this plan allows you, in cooperation with God’s Spirit, to set goals and chart your path for growth. Each “D” is an important aspect of growing in your faith.

Here are the “4 Ds” each with a question you will ask to plan your growth:

Direction 1 - Engage with God. *“How will I bring God into my growth plan?”*

Direction 2 - Engage with Truth/Knowledge: *“How do I engage with Scripture and other material to grow as a follower of Jesus?”*

Direction 3 - Engage with Others: *“How can other people help me grow in this area?”*

Direction 4 - Engage with Experience: *“How can I have experiences that will help me mature in this area?”*

Are you ready to grow? Check out the 4Ds Spiritual Assessment!

Now take some time to read through the actual assessment as a group. Let the group know that after you read through this together, you will take 10 minutes to go through this assessment on your own. Then you will each share your insights with one or two others in your group.

“4 Ds” SPIRITUAL ASSESSMENT

The following statements are designed to help you determine how you're doing in your walk with God and what next step you may want to take. Using the "4 Ds" you will think specifically about 4 key areas of your life, then you will put together a plan for how you sense God is leading you to grow. As you read these statements, be honest, paying special attention to growth areas or ways you have become complacent. Allow God to speak to you. After all, this is about your relationship with Him.

PRAY. Before you begin, ask God to speak to your mind and heart as you reflect on these statements.

How am I doing right now? Please rate each statement with a 1 - 5, "1" being "nowhere close" and "5" being "I'm doing well".

DIRECTION 1 - ENGAGE WITH GOD

- My self-worth is based on what God says about me.
- The fruit of the Spirit is a growing reality in my life (see Galatians 5:22-23).
- I regularly commune with God through prayer, listening and discerning his will for my life.
- My actions stem from my walk with God.
- I have a keen awareness of God's blessing, presence and power in my life

DIRECTION 2 - ENGAGE WITH TRUTH/KNOWLEDGE

- I regularly read the Bible to understand it and apply it to my life.
- I understand God's character and salvation plan outlined in the Old Testament.
- I understand the New Testament's emphasis on the Gospel and how to embody that message.
- I understand major Christian doctrines and allow them to shape my life.
See <https://www.creeksidechurch.ca/beliefs/>
- I interpret and respond to our world through the lens of Scripture.

DIRECTION 3 - ENGAGE WITH OTHERS

- I regularly attend church to worship with other believers.
- I regularly engage in community in a small group.
- I am open with a few friends about the weaknesses in my life.
- I am accountable to a few friends about my spiritual growth.
- I have 3 or 4 friends who build into my life with encouragement and hope.

DIRECTION 4 - ENGAGE WITH EXPERIENCES

- I understand Jesus' mission in the world and align my life with His mission for me.
- I feel equipped and confident to share Jesus' message with those outside the faith.
- I serve others in the church and/or community as an expression of my faith.
- I invest in those who are newer in their faith journey to help them grow.
- I love the mission of my church and do what I can to carry it out.

After your group members have taken the assessment, take a few minutes to read together through the Plan portion below. The goal is that, with the Spirit's leading, each group member will choose one specific plan, one area of growth, to pursue over the next month or two. You are encouraged as a group to find one or two other people to partner with and tell your plan to. Then, in the coming weeks, you are encouraged to check in with each other on your progress!

MY PLAN

Take a few minutes now to look back on your responses in the assessment. What next steps do you sense God is leading you to take?

Three important parts of your plan should be ...

1. Make it specific
2. Include a timeline.
3. Decide who you will tell about your plan.

PLAN EXAMPLES:

1. I plan to begin reading the Bible for 15 minutes each day, using the Youversion daily reading plan app. <https://www.youversion.com/>
I am going to share my plan with Pete in my LifeGroup and ask him to check in with me over the next month about how I'm doing.
2. My goal is to begin serving in the kids ministry at Creekside. I will contact the leadership team within the next two weeks to get started in the application process. I have shared my plan with Karen and she has agreed to ask me in two weeks how things are going.
3. My plan is to understand more about who I am in Christ. To explore this, I am going to read Neil Anderson's book, Victory Over the Darkness, and then spend one lunch hour each week for the next 4 weeks walking and thanking God for who I am in Him. I have shared this plan with Dave and he has agreed to pray with me and encourage me in my plan.

Growth Goal Ideas: Here are some ideas for goals you could choose.

- Take a spiritual retreat. Spend a half day in a quiet place, reading Scripture, praying and listening for God's leading in my life.
- Get baptized as a declaration of my faith in Jesus.
- Memorize 20 verses of the Bible this month.
- Invite my friend () to church.
- Attend Alpha this fall to learn more about the basics of Christianity.
- Read a book about God's character such as "Knowing God" by J.I. Packer

MY GOAL:

WHO I WILL TELL:

By God's grace and power, I determine to grow in my relationship with God by following through on this commitment I've made.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

*Malcolm Webbers 4D's material can be found at
<https://www.leadersource.org/about/models.php>

Book Recommendation: The content for this resource has been greatly influenced by Dana Allin's book, "Simple Discipleship: Grow Your Faith, Transform Your Community".