

The Purpose of Grace Growth Groups:

Growth Groups help you take your next step with God by developing meaningful friendships built around God's Word. As we connect with one another and with God's Word, incredible things take place and we naturally grow. In community, this growth occurs through 4 primary activities:

We SHARE Life

Each week we'll take time to connect and share what is happening in our lives. This will become more natural as we begin to feel more comfortable with one another. Sharing life and accepting each other is essential to the healthy relationships needed for growth groups.

We STUDY God's Word

Each week we'll study the previous week's sermon text, though we will not rehash the sermon. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life. Accountability to God's Word is transformational and brings spiritual growth in our lives. We also take time to seek God in prayer for relevant needs and issues present in our group.

We SUPPORT Each Other

Each week we'll learn how to care for one another as Christ instructed us. People who know each other well, care for each other well. This care will take many forms, such as prayer, encouragement, listening, challenging, accountability, advice, and meeting real needs.

We SERVE Together

Spiritual growth is fostered not only by what we gain through the support and input of others, but also through service to others. Jesus reminds us that the world will know we're his disciples by our love. The role each member fills in serving one another and the local community is essential; for we were created to serve others, not ourselves. Throughout the semester, we will serve the other members of our group and together the group will serve the local community through one service project.



Prayer of the Guilty

2 Observations from Psalm 38:

- I. The _____ of sin. (1-14)
 - a. The weight of sin (1-4)
 - b. The suffering of sin (5-8)
 - c. The sorrow of sin (9-14)

- II. The _____ response to sin. (15-22)
 - a. "I Wait for you, Oh Lord" (15-17)
 - b. "I confess my iniquity" (18-20)
 - c. "Oh my God, be not far from me!" (21-22)

Growth Group Guide

For the week of January 21st, 2018

Spring Growth Group Information:

- **Today begins the first week (Week 1) of our Spring Semester of Growth Groups.** Each semester lasts for 15 weeks. Sunday's mark the beginning of each new week.
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The Context of Psalm 38:

It is a song full of pain and dark with guilt, as David felt the sore effects (seemingly both physical and spiritual) of his sin. Commentators guess at the occasion of this in David's life, but there is no certain link to a specific time or event. This is one of those noted as the Penitential Psalms, along with Psalms 6, 32, 51, 102, 130, and 143.

My Story:

1. Describe a time when someone has acted unrighteously to you and as a result it caused you to feel angry. How did you resolve it with the person and with God?

Digging Deeper:

1. Verses 1-4 describe the deep sense of guilt that David feels, regarding his sin toward God; what is it about sin that weighs us down and keeps us from God and experiencing our best life?

2. David describes the physical and spiritual consequences in his life as a result of his sin (vv. 1-14); have you ever experienced similar effects in your life as a result of your sin?

3. David's response to his sin was to wait on the Lord and confess it, to be made righteous once more (vv.15-22); why does God desire forgiveness with us and a right relationship so badly?

Taking it Home:

Take a moment and ask yourself – is there anything in my life right now that I know is keeping me from greater intimacy with God? Take some time to confess it to the Lord, and find someone in your group to confess it to.

(Note: we confess to God to get forgiveness and we confess it to a trusted friend to be held accountable and receive relational healing.)