

## **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.



## **Wisdom: Revealed During Crisis**

### **I. During crisis, Wisdom knows when to be silent.**

A. David knows his \_\_\_\_\_

B. David holds his \_\_\_\_\_

C. David maintains \_\_\_\_\_

### **II. During Crisis, wisdom makes observations:**

A. David recognizes the \_\_\_\_\_ of life

B. David recognizes the \_\_\_\_\_ of human pursuits

C. David recognizes his \_\_\_\_\_ for God

# Growth Group Guide

For the week of February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018

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## Spring Growth Group Information:

- ***Today begins the fourth week 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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**Context:** Questions are based around Psalm 39:

### **My Story:**

1. We've all been in situations where we wanted to say more than we could, but wisdom kept our mouth shut; describe one time you felt that way. What were the challenges to doing the right thing?

### **Digging Deeper:**

1. The Psalmist describes the personal anguish he felt when wisdom led him to 'keep his tongue from sin', and how it 'muzzled' his mouth, yet made him 'hot', around the 'wicked' (v.1-3), but how wisdom also led him to openly share his feelings with God (v.4). How could this be a good response for us today?

2. The resulting prayer is not what we might expect when a 'wicked' person does us wrong; it's not one of vengeance or justification, but rather it's a prayer for perspective (v.4-6) and renewed hope in God (v.7). That honored God, but what makes that sort of prayer difficult for us as people to pray?

3. The prayer that follows this affirmation of loyalty to God is, save me (v.8). This is interesting, for it seems to indicate that perhaps God has brought this crisis to teach the Psalmist and to test him (cf. v.9-10). What hangs in the balance regarding our responses in these seasons when God brings trials and tests?

### **Taking it Home:**

Before the wicked, the Psalmist is faced with the moral dilemma of being both a person of faith (or hope, v.7) and a person of transgressions (v.8). Similarly, we today can shy away from sharing our faith because we feel like hypocrites ourselves. But no one's perfect, and God uses imperfect people.

How is the Lord leading you to go beyond your past, to becoming the person God can use today?