

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.



- change happens in circles, not rows -

What Do We Do With Suffering?

**Where we often look determines our _____
— so, in the midst of sorrow, _____ the Savior!**

I. Sorrow of Drought (v1-5)

A. Our view of prayer is a direct reflection of our _____.

B. Trials, persecution, and suffering do NOT cause us to drift from God, our _____ do!

II. Sorrow of Drowning (v6-11)

A. We cannot trust our own _____
_____ above the truth of God.

B. A proper _____ gives us a correct view of our circumstances!

Growth Group Guide

For the week of April 15th, 2018

Spring Growth Group Information:

- **Today begins the thirteenth 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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MY STORY:

1) What beverage do you find quenches your thirst best?

DIGGING DEEPER:

As a group please take turns reading Psalm 42 out loud.

1) Psalm 42:1-4 paints a bleak picture. We have all had times of feeling stressed, overwhelmed, or sorrowful. What kinds of "brooks" or "thirst alternatives" does the world offer to help quench or drown these emotions? What "brooks" does God offer? How effective have you found one compared to the other? (Feel free to give personal examples of the effectiveness of both sources)

2) Psalm 42:5 & 11 – These verses are considered the refrain or chorus of this psalm. (Note that it is also repeated in Psalm 43:5) Would you say these verses come across as a pep talk or a kick in the pants? When you feel distant from God or spiritually dry which approach do you respond to best? Can you share an example?

3) Vs. 42:7 – "Deep calls unto deep" sounds like a really cool song lyric, but what does it really mean? Is it literal or symbolic? Take a look at Jonah's prayer from "the deep" in Jonah 2. What are some similarities in the tone, words, even conditions of Jonah 2 in comparison to Psalm 42? What can we as Christians today learn from these two authors who were praying out to God under different circumstances?

TAKING IT HOME:

1) The last verse of Psalm 42 mentions God providing help or salvation, depending on your translation. Can you think of or list what God has helped you through or what He has saved you out of over your lifetime?

2) For those of you really struggling or feeling you're under spiritual attack take time this week to reread 1 Samuel 17. Even though it's a familiar story try not to skim but instead focus on what were the keys to victory. Which of them can you apply to your battle?