

Week 2 - We Are Family - Grow Together

Weekly Discussion & Journal Guide

Sermon Notes

This week, Matt talked about how, as God's family, we are made to grow one another in faith. That means that we are meant to encourage, challenge, admonish, correct, nurture, and provoke one another in following Jesus. Often this will look like seeing gifts in one another, and calling one another to use those gifts to serve Jesus in the world. Sometimes it will look like having a 'vision' for one another, and encouraging one another to follow after Jesus in ways that they cannot yet see for themselves. It's not only as "brothers and sisters" that we can do this for one another, but also as a kind of "spiritual fathers/mothers" for one another (1 Tim. 1:2,18), as we learn to "build one another up in love" (Eph. 4:16). It's so amazing - and humbling - that one of the primary ways God grows us is simply through one another...and so we want to do more of that for one another here at Park Church!

Questions

1. How have brothers/sisters in Christ helped you climb the mountains you have to face?
2. Talk about someone who has been like a "spiritual father/mother" for you (ie, mentoring, modelling, leading you). What was that experience like?
3. Has anyone ever helped you discover your gifts? Share about it.
4. When has someone specifically challenged, corrected, or admonished you in faith? How'd it go? Have you ever done that for someone else? How'd *that* go?
5. Why does your faith sometimes become complacent?
6. How can we be more intentional about stirring one another up?
7. Can you imagine taking an active role in growing someone else's faith? What excites you about that? What causes you to hesitate?
8. Think about someone who you feel led to challenge/grow/encourage/build-up in faith. What's one step you could take this week towards that?
9. Take some time to celebrate and point out different gifts that different Group members have.
10. **BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** when you think long term about how our Community Group can share Jesus with our town/area, what gift does our Group have bring to the table?

Additional Reading

1 Timothy 4:11-16, 1 Corinthians 12, Acts 20:17-38, 1 Thessalonians 5:6-11, Colossians 3:12-17, Hebrews 10:19-25

Text Group Prompts

1. Check in with one another on how the Year of the Bible reading is going and mention one thing you've learned about God from Exodus this week.
2. Encourage one another in their gifts or stir one another up this week.

Daily Readings

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Exodus 17-18	Exodus 19-20	Exodus 32	Exodus 33-34	Deut. 5-6	Psalm 77

Looking Ahead to the Summer!

This is our last Group meeting of the 2017-18 “church year”, but that doesn’t mean it should be the last time you see each other until next fall! We strongly encourage you to stay connected: have a Community Group BBQ, game night, service project, block party, women’s tea, ax throwing night, big game hunt...something to stay in touch, continue to grow one another in faith, and work together to share Jesus with your friends and neighbors.

Some of the text groups ended up being fantastic, and some, not so fantastic. If you’re in a text group that’s going well, keep it up over the summer! Check in, pray for each other, stir one another up! If it’s not going well, why not try to get it re-started over the summer?

Also, we encourage you to attend the Sunday Beach Dinners and/or the Park Kids Summer Playdates (parkchurchnj.com/summerkids) with people from your Group, and invite some non-Park folks to attend. They’re great ways to expose others to the Christian community without coming on a Sunday morning (but feel free to invite to a Sunday morning as well!).