

Growing in Christ

Getting Acquainted. Each person is invited to tell about the place he or she grew up, and an early memory from there.

Preparing for the topic. What experiences have you had with things that did not grow up as you hoped they would? Examples would be: your yard, a garden, a potted plant ---perhaps even a person. What might have kept it from growing? Are there things that might be keeping people from growing spiritually?

THE GOAL. The Bible urges Spiritual Growth. Please read:
speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, (Ephesians 4:15, ESV)

Discussion: Since the verse presents “Christ-likeness” as the goal of growth, each person is invited to bring up an aspect of Christ’s character that would be desirable to grow into. How would that character quality make a difference in your daily life?

THE METHOD. Something will grow only if it is alive. This verse shows the ways that growing is similar to the way someone becomes a Christian in the first place.

⁶ Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. (Colossians 2:6-7, ESV)

Discussion: What truths about “becoming” a Christian also apply to “growing” as a Christian? For example, using the verse as a model, “just as” you received Christ by faith, “so” continue to live by faith (daily relying on Him). Can you think of other words to put into the blank?

THE POWER. Fortunately you are not expected to grow by relying on your own resources. Jesus says, **“⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.” John 15:4-5.**

Philippians 2:13. God is at work in you both to will and to do according to His good pleasure.

Discussion: What does this “abiding in Christ” look like in terms of practical living?

THE PRAYER. You are invited to share prayer requests, and to add this prayer in closing:
Paul prays that God “may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may have strength to ... know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” (Ephesians 3:16-19, ESV)