

## Pray Together

**Use the first few minutes of your time together to lead your group in a focused prayer time.**

- **Praise:** Spend time praising God for who He is.
- **Repent:** Take a few moments to silently confess any sin that is lingering in your heart.
- **Ask:** Verbalize your needs and the needs of others to God.
- **Yield:** Surrender your will to God.

## Read Together

Today we conclude a six-month study of what it means to grow in Christ. Living things grow; the biblical expectation for living disciples is that they are growing disciples. To highlight major areas in which disciples need to grow, we've been following a simple acrostic: G-R-O-W-I-N-G. Here are the marks of a growing disciple...

G	Grace	A growing Christian knows the gospel is rooted in God's redeeming grace and is sustained and secured throughout life by His amazing grace
R	Renewal	A growing Christian is someone whose life is being shaped and reshaped by the Spirit of God as the mind is being renewed by the Word of God
O	Obedience	A growing Christian is an obedient Christian. More than a person who has enhanced religious thoughts and opinions, authentic growth results in active obedience.
W	Witness	A growing Christian provides visible and verbal witness to the gospel of Jesus.
I	Injury	A growing Christian pushes through injury, relying on the hand of God and trusting in the heart of God through the hurts and hardships of life
N	No!	A growing Christian knows that the way to avoid a marginal life is to develop a life with margins
G	Generosity	A growing Christian is a giving Christian. Claiming growth in Christ while separating this claim from the use of time, money and talents is inconsistent with the profiles of growth found in Scripture.

Acts 2:42-47 should be very familiar to Warren members. As you read this passage, it's impossible to ignore the God-honoring, life-giving generosity that flowed from people who had been changed by Christ. A growing disciple who is not generous is a contradiction in terms. Claiming growth in Christ while separating that claim from your use of time, money and talents is inconsistent with the profiles of growth found in Scripture.

And while statements like these are very easy to affirm and look nice when re-tweeted, submitting this area of our lives to the lordship of Jesus is much more difficult. In spite of the challenge, growing Christians know the heavenly reward that comes through radical stewardship.

## Discuss Together

**Use these questions to engage in an informative and impactful discussion.**

- Acts 2:42 describes four distinctives of the early church. They were devoted to 1) the apostles' teaching 2) the fellowship 3) the breaking of bread and 4) prayers. How would a devotion to these things instill early believers with a radical generosity? Are these four distinctives prescriptive for 21st Century North American Christians or do they simply describe an ancient practice? If they are prescriptive, how do modern disciples devote themselves to these foundational distinctives?



- Acts 2:43 notes that “awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.” Most Bible commentators believe the phrase “every soul” refers both to believers and nonbelievers who were in Jerusalem. *Everyone* was in awe of the “many wonders and signs” the apostles were performing! These signs that were being performed pointed to Christ; through them, the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. A faithful, growing church has a unique testimony to everyone in their community. What is God doing through Warren Baptist Church that brings the awe of Christ to those in our community? What does our community need a church to be or to do in order to proclaim the awe of Christ?
- Acts 2:44 says, “And all who believed were together and had all things in common.” What does it mean when the Bible says that early believers “were together”? Why was this practice so valuable for them? How do 21st Century North American Christians live life together (consider Acts 2:46-47a)? Discuss the spiritual unity that could come from diverse disciples living life together. Share a testimony of how your spiritual life has been enriched by living life together with other believers.
- Acts 2:44-45 says, “And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.” What does it mean when the Bible says that early believers “had all things in common”? Why was this practice so valuable for them? How do 21st Century North American Christians live a life where they share “all things in common”? Discuss the spiritual unity that could come from sharing their possessions with the needy members of their group.
- What does it look like for the church to care for the good of every man, woman, and child in the community?
- Because believers in the early church were generous with their possessions and the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus, God was generous with His harvest. Acts 2:47 provides a statement of hope: “And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.” How is your Life Group prepared to welcome new believers or pre-believers join your fellowship? What would your life group need to do differently to help new believers or pre-believers grow in Christ?

## Do Life Together

**These questions are designed to be asked in a smaller group of 2-4 people. The smaller setting will provide better opportunity for authentic responses. In your smaller group time, take notes to help others remain accountable to their answers. Grow together!**

- How is God calling you to “grow up” in Christ this week?
- How can Jesus redeem this area? How has He proven that in Scripture?
- Who will keep you accountable to this commitment this week?

## Pray Together

Read and pray through Ephesians 4:17-24.

