



gather.grow.give.go

Small Group Materials

Sermon Series Dates: August 18th-September 29th

Rev. Jessica Richard

Associate Pastor- Intentional Faith Development

Week 1-Intro

Fellowship (10 minutes): Snacks (10 min) or a Meal (20-30 min)

Read:

Acts 2:42-47

The Fellowship of the Believers

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Gather- Psalm 100:2 "Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful song."

Grow- Acts 2:42 "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."

Give- Acts 20:35b "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Go- 1 Peter 4:10 "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms"

Discuss

What stood out to you in the scriptures for today?

What comes to mind when you think about following Jesus (being a disciple)?

Which area (Gather, Grow, Give, Go) do you feel you are the most comfortable in?

Which area do you see as an area you would like to challenge yourself in?

How have you seen yourself draw closer in relationship to God?

What area(s) have helped you to experience God in a new way?

Next Step: Be in prayer for how God is calling you to draw closer in your relationship with God. Take time to assess where you currently are and identify one of the four areas where you would like to focus for the next 4 months. Write down your goal and share it with at least one other person (best if isn't someone in your household).

Prayer (10 minutes). Share joys and concerns.

Sending Forth Prayer (2 minutes):

Holy God, thank you for your presence in our lives. Help us to be open to experiencing you and growing closer in relationship with you each and every day. Give us strength for this journey. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Week 2-Gather

Fellowship (10 minutes): Snacks (10 min) or a Meal (20-30 min)

Read:

Psalm 95:1-7

A Call to Worship and Obedience

- ¹O come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
- ²Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
- ³For the LORD is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
- ⁴In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.
- ⁵The sea is his, for he made it,
and the dry land, which his hands have formed.
- ⁶O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!
- ⁷For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.

Romans 12:1-2

12 I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Discuss:

What words or phrases stand out to you in these scriptures?

What were your first experiences of Worship?

What does it mean to you to gather together in the name of Jesus Christ?

What would it mean for you to live a lifestyle of Worship?

How does the definition of Worship in Romans challenge you or affirm you?

What environments or situations help you to fully dwell in God's presence?

Next Step: Attend a service that is not your "preference", how does that influence your perspective of Worship? Take time to praise God daily. How does your daily worship differ from corporate worship?

Prayer (10 minutes). Share joys and concerns.

Sending Forth Prayer (2 minutes):

Good and gracious God, we praise your holy name. Help us as we seek to live a life of worship that extends to each part of our day. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

Week 3-Go

Fellowship (10 minutes): Snacks (10 min) or a Meal (20-30 min)

Read:

Matthew 5:14-16

14 “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 28:19-20

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Discuss

Who has been a witness to you in your faith journey?

How have you been able to witness (share your story) with others?

What do you think it looks like to let your light shine before others?

Often, preaching the gospel is through actions as well as words. Some have even said “Preach the Gospel at all times. Use words when necessary”. How have you experienced this in your life?

The model we use to serve others is that of Jesus Christ himself. What acts of service stand out to you and why? How have you tried to model that in your life?

How has your view of “the Great Commission” (Matthew 28:19-20) affected the way you view your faith life?

Next Step: (choose something that fits where you are on your journey) Check out a Saturday Serve Day, Set Aside time to go on a Mission Trip, explore organizations you would like to serve with regularly

Prayer (10 minutes). Share joys and concerns.

Sending Forth Prayer (2 minutes):

Holy God, we thank you for the people in our lives that have poured into us, serving us and witnessing to us. Help us to shine our light before others so that you may be given all honor and glory. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

Week 4 -Faith in Action Week

Serving together as a group can not only be a great way to Glorify God but also a great bonding opportunity. Take this week to choose a way to serve together. Instead of seeing this as a “week off” from your study, be sure to communicate that your growth time together is though serving. Next week when you meet you will be discussing your experiences. If your group already has a way to serve, that is great! If not, here are some resources:

Faith in Action- Saturday September 7th and Sunday September 8th

Brandi Molina, the Director of Missions has recommended that small groups sign up for the Sunday morning Numana Food Packing or to be Green Shirts during that event. See the website for details on all of the Faith in Action projects.

<https://plattewoodschurch.org/event/faith-in-action/>

Other resources for serving in the community

<https://plattewoodschurch.org/service-opportunities-2/#inOurCommunity>

Week 5-Faith in Action Storytelling

Fellowship (10 minutes): Snacks (10 min) or a Meal (20-30 min)

Read:

Matthew 5:16

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Discuss

Talk about the Faith in Action project(s) your group or group members participated in. If members were unable to participate this year, have them share about a time they were able to do a service project.

How did you experience God?

How did you see this service opportunity witnessing to the community?

How have you seen God's call in your life through this service opportunity?

How have you grown in your faith through this experience?

Prayer (10 minutes). Share joys and concerns.

Sending Forth Prayer (2 minutes).

Good and gracious God, we thank you for the ways you are working in our lives and in our world. Help us to be your hands and your feet. In the name of Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit, we pray, Amen.

Week 6-Give

Fellowship (10 minutes): Snacks (10 min) or a Meal (20-30 min)

Read:

Mark 12:41-44

41 Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. 42 But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

43 Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. 44 They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."

Discuss

What stood out to you in this scripture?

Jesus points out that the quantity of giving and the heart of giving are two different things. How can you relate to this?

How have you found joy in giving (time, talents, or gifts)?

How have you received God's generosity?

Acts 20:35b says "It is more blessed to give than to receive.", how have you experienced this in your life?

What spiritual gifts has God given you? How have you been able to glorify God through those gifts?

Next Step: (choose something that fits where you are on your journey) Form a giving plan, work toward tithing, sign up to serve at least once a month, take a spiritual gifts inventory

Prayer (10 minutes). Share joys and concerns.

Sending Forth Prayer (2 minutes):

God we thank you for all of the gifts you have given to us. Help us to be as generous to others as you have already been to us. Bless our time, talents, and gifts so that they may be used to glorify you. Amen.

Week 7-Grow

Fellowship (10 minutes): Snacks (10 min) or a Meal (20-30 min)

Read:

Psalm 119:105

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

James 1:22-25

22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. 23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. 25 But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

Discuss:

What stands out to you in the scriptures for today? Why?

How have you seen being in a group help you draw closer in relationship to God?

How have you been challenged by being in a group?

How have you been encouraged by being in a group?

Psalm 119 describes scripture as a lamp and a light for a journey. How would you describe scripture?

What in your life has been a catalyst for you to experience God in a new way or to grow in your faith?

How has your view of discipleship changed or been strengthened over the last 7 weeks?

How have you grown in discipleship? What area (Gather, Grow, Give, Go) would you like to focus on in your life for the next year?

Next Step: Take up a daily spiritual discipline such as prayer or scripture reading. Take time now to mark your calendar as a reminder. In a few weeks, reflect on how you have grown from this practice.

Prayer (10 minutes). Share joys and concerns.

Sending Forth Prayer (2 minutes):

Dear God, we thank you for your Word in our lives. Help us to not only listen to your Word but to also have the courage to live it out. Help us to continue to grow closer to you and closer as your community. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.