

WELCOME TO GROW GROUPS AT PLATTE WOODS!

You have made a courageous decision to dive deeper into your faith and GROW closer to God. These materials are designed to help guide you either for personal devotion or, ideally, in conversation with others. It is our hope that you can invite friends, family, or neighbors so that you can GROW together!

These materials were created to be adapted and shared. What does that mean? They should be used to fit your personal needs and the needs of the group. This isn't a task to be completed; rather, this is a guide to bring additional insight into your life. It's another voice to encourage you as you learn and grow as a follower of Jesus.

This journey, and these resources, are not meant to be kept private. In fact, we want you to share them with others! Matthew 5:16 tells us to "let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." With you, we believe that sharing these resources will reach people we never dreamed of reaching. We hope that everyone would know the comfort of community and the fullness of God's love!

- The Pastors at Platte Woods Church

TIPS FOR YOUR GROW GROUP

As a host, you want everyone to have the best possible experience in a Grow Group and we realize when people get together it can be a bit messy. Everyone has different experiences, backgrounds, and understandings of God and the world around us. Here are some helpful tips for your group!

- 1. **Check in with each other.** Make time each session to check in as a group. Lead this by sharing "highs" and "lows", using a scale of 1 to 10, or another fun method. It is suggested to do this before your group dives into the material.
- 2. Pray for one another. The group that prays together grows together! Prayer opens our hearts and expands our world. When we pray, we increase our compassion and empathy for one another; groups will have disagreements along the way and prayer helps us overcome those barriers.
- 3. **Be concise.** Healthy groups create space for one another. One of the best things you can do is listen. Make sure not to overshare which may cause others to feel they don't belong.
- 4. Communicate regularly. A simple message of, "I hope you have a great week!" goes a long way. Think about how your group would like to communicate. You can use a group text messaging app, email, or create a Facebook group. Regular communication has a big impact.
- 5. **Meet regularly.** Our recommendation is to meet weekly or bi-weekly. Don't worry if your group needs to take a break. Schedule it in and come back when the group is ready!
- 6. **Share your needs.** The pastors and staff at Platte Woods Church are here to serve you. If there are questions that need further exploration or a major need comes up, we want to know about it!



JOURNAL Week 1 - #Fail- Moses **OPENER** Have you ever seen a funny typo or blooper on TV or in a movie? FOCUS TEXT – Deuteronomy 34:4 (CEB) ⁴ Then the Lord said to Moses: "This is the land that I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob when I promised: 'I will give it to your descendants.' I have shown it to you with your own eyes; however, you will not cross over into it." **ADDITIONAL TEXTS** • Exodus 3:7-12 Exodus 4:10-17 Exodus 34:1 &4-5 **GROUP DISCUSSION** What is your view or experience of failure? • Like Moses never made it to the promised land, have you started something knowing that you'll never be able to finish? What was that experience like? PRAYER REQUESTS How do you think God views us in our failures? **TAKEAWAY** We all fail in so many ways! The story of Moses offers us many examples of his shortcomings, but not one of them makes him less worthy of God's love. Though we may not get to see the full light of success after failure, we do get to hold on to faithfulness. True success is in the grace-filled journey towards God. **PRAYER** Perfector of Creation, you do not fail. I long to be like you though in my humanness I continually fall short. Your grace is sufficient and in you I always find wholeness. Thank you for you unfailing love. Amen.



Week 2 - #Fail- Elijah **JOURNAL OPENER** Are you more likely to finish your personal projects or start many and leave them unfinished? FOCUS TEXT - 1 Kings 19:3-5a (CEB) ³ Elijah was terrified. He got up and ran for his life. He arrived at Beer-sheba in Judah and left his assistant there. 4 He himself went farther on into the desert a day's journey. He finally sat down under a solitary broom bush. He longed for his own death: "It's more than enough, Lord! Take my life because I'm no better than my ancestors." ⁵ He lay down and slept under the solitary broom bush. **ADDITIONAL TEXTS** 1 Kings 19 **GROUP DISCUSSION** Have you experienced a time when your body or mind has failed you in some way? What was that like? • How do you cope when it feels like you gave your all and still failed? PRAYER REQUESTS How does failure affect your relationship with God? **TAKEAWAY** Elijah gave a lifetime to following the voice of the Lord until he could not take any more of the violence, persecution, and being outcast. As his heart, mind, and body failed him God showed up in his low place. Where are you weary? Where do you need God to show up? **PRAYER** Source of Unfailing Power, it is in you that I find my strength, my purpose, and my energy. There are places and times in my life where I feel weary and struggle to carry on, but you carry me forward. You meet me in the cave and in the wilderness time after time. Continue to show up. Share with me your unfailing hope.



Amen.

Week 3 – #Fail- Peter	JOURNAL
OPENER What is a failure that you've been proud of?	
FOCUS TEXT – Luke 22:60-62 (CEB)	
⁶⁰ Peter responded, "Man, I don't know what you are talking about!" At that very moment, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed. ⁶¹ The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter, and Peter remembered the Lord's words: "Before a rooster crows today, you will deny me three times." ⁶² And Peter went out and cried uncontrollably.	
ADDITIONAL TEXTS	
• Matthew 16:21-26	
John 13:2-10aLuke 22:54-62	
GROUP DISCUSSION	
Share a time that you misunderstood instructions or a	
situation. What did you do when you realized your mistake?	
 Have you ever entered a situation too confidently in a way that led to a failure? How did others react? 	PRAYER REQUESTS
 How do you think God responds to us in situations like the ones your group has shared? 	
TAKEAWAY	
Peter's boldness was both one of his greatest assets and greatest	
shortcomings, and Jesus found a way to use them as teaching and redeeming moments. Even after Peter's three denials of Jesus,	
Jesus welcomed him with open arms with three declarations of love. You are created special and loved just as you are.	
Tou are created special and loved just as you are.	
PRAYER	
Gracious Spirit, you reward and humble my boldness. I see myself in Peter's story, both in my failures and in my faithfulness, and see	
your loving response. Thank you for your patience, Amen.	



Week 4 – #Fail- The Woman at Risk of Stoning **JOURNAL OPENER** Share a funny story about a time when technology has failed! FOCUS TEXT - John 8:10-11 (CEB) ¹⁰ Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Is there no one to condemn vou?" ¹¹ She said, "No one, sir." Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on, don't sin anymore." **ADDITIONAL TEXTS** John 8:1-11 **GROUP DISCUSSION** How has a system failed you? Have you ever experienced the consequences of another person's failures? How did that feel? • Have you ever jumped to conclusions that hurt another person? What did you learn from that? PRAYER REQUESTS **TAKEAWAY** There is so much failure in this story on behalf of so many unnamed people and systems. Sometimes we find ourselves pushed into failure that we did not fully create. Sometimes we blame others for failures that are not fully of their creation. God shows you grace in this place, how are you showing grace to others in situations and failures beyond their control? **PRAYER** Unaccusing God, you know all. You know my side of the story and you know all of the other accounts just as well, so in your truth you have no need to make accusations. Hold me accountable to grow in my failings that hurt others. Comfort me when I carry the weight of



the failures of others and systems. You do not fail me. Amen.