

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!

- 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.
- 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!



Week 1 - Earn All You Can **JOURNAL OPENER** If you could do anything to earn a paycheck, what would it be? FOCUS TEXT – Ephesians 4:28 (CEB) ²⁸ Thieves should no longer steal. Instead, they should go to work, using their hands to do good so that they will have something to share with whoever is in need. **ADDITIONAL TEXTS** • Proverbs 31:13-24 Proverbs 10:16 **GROUP DISCUSSION** What are ways that earning money can cause harm to others? • What does it mean to you to earn money with common • How do you imagine Jesus would respond to the ways money is earned in our society? PRAYER REQUESTS **TAKEAWAY** Earning seems to be a favorite concept of so many around us in "hustle" culture, but John Wesley is sure to add some guidance to this call. Hear this as a blessing: may your earning be through honest industry, not at the expense or harm of others. May your earning be driven by common sense, not at the expense of yourself or waste. May your earning be at fair value, in all of the ways it costs, to not equal more than its worth. **PRAYER** Engineer of Life, you have given me all that I need to toil, not in vain, but in pursuit of what you offer as abundance. Your labor is forgiving when I seek the fruits of your Spirit. In my earning, remind me that you are the one who gives value; my worth is not from my earning



and there is no independence or life without you. In you, and in you

alone, may I find ultimate wisdom and true value. Amen.

Week 2 - Save All You Can **JOURNAL OPENER** How did your family talk about money when you were growing up? FOCUS TEXT - Matthew 6:19-21 (CEB) ¹⁹ "Stop collecting treasures for your own benefit on earth, where moth and rust eat them and where thieves break in and steal them. ²⁰ Instead, collect treasures for yourselves in heaven, where moth and rust don't eat them and where thieves don't break in and steal them. ²¹ Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. **ADDITIONAL TEXTS** Luke 12 **GROUP DISCUSSION** John Wesley spoke of saving as living into a life of simplicity rather than hoarding. Where do you experience excess? • What could it look like to use money as a way of planting seeds for the future? A future beyond you? Have you given thought to who gets your what is left after you are gone? How do you approach this? PRAYER REQUESTS **TAKEAWAY** Though dollars do not grow on trees, every cent is a seed. What good are seeds, stored up in a warehouse, unable to grow in the soil? How small does a walnut feel now, knowing that someday it can provide shade and shelter for many? Saving is not only about storing up grain. Saving is about intentionality and consideration of how our seeds can grow for now and for the future. PRAYER Original Gardener, you tend diligently and kindly to your creation. Your wisdom guides you when to store and when to plant. The art of life is a mystery to me as I try to grasp at an idea of stewarding your



goodness. Welcome me as your apprentice as I want to learn all that I can from you. Establish with me a legacy that elevates you. Amen.

Week 3 - Give All You Can **JOURNAL OPENER** If you had one million dollars to give away, what would you do? FOCUS TEXT - Proverbs 11:25 (CEB) ²⁵ Generous persons will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed. **ADDITIONAL TEXTS** Luke 19:1-10 **GROUP DISCUSSION** • Share a time that you felt joy when you were generous to someone else. · How can giving of our resources invite us into deeper relationship with others? If you could ask God for anything, what would it be? **TAKEAWAY** Martin Luther spoke on the three necessary conversions for Christian life: the heart, mind, and purse. Generosity impacts the PRAYER REQUESTS soul of the giver in a way nothing else can, inviting them into deeper relationship with others and with God. You were created by a generous God, a God that offers an abundance of love and grace to you freely. Consider all that God has given to you. What would it look like to truly give all that you can? **PRAYER** Generous God, you graciously offered me your very breath so that I can have life. You extravagantly offered forgiveness even to the point of sacrificing the life of your own son. Teach me your overflowing love. Lead me to live and love out of abundance. Show me the unrestricted and boundless joy that comes from giving. In your magnanimous, benevolent, life-creating name, Amen.

