



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

IN THIS SERIES

An important part of growing as a community is taking the time to name the values and practices that make us who we are, who we want to be, and the way our congregation lives and moves in our community. In this series "Becoming," we seek to ask these questions of ourselves and lay a hope filled path for our future.

In our daily lives, it is the repetitive habits and practices that form and inform the person that we are. The priorities of our time, energy, and resources are a fruit of our passion and evidence of our love. As we move through "Becoming," we will be joining together to explore and try new practices as we discover and integrate new ways to connect with God in the ordinary each day.

Consider for yourself or your group to journal about your experiences as a way to process and recognize the way these practices impact you in different or surprising ways. Who are you becoming?



Week 1 – Becoming – Gather

OPENER

Where is your favorite place to go to be with others?

FOCUS TEXT – Acts 2:42-43 (CEB)

⁴²The believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers. ⁴³A sense of awe came over everyone. God performed many wonders and signs through the apostles.

ADDITIONAL TEXTS

- Psalm 103:1; 63:2, 4; 100:4; 149:1
- Habakkuk 3:17-18

GROUP DISCUSSION

- How do practices and habits shape who you are becoming?
How can you prioritize your worship community in new ways?
- Where do you see or experience God in the ordinary?
- What does 'worship' mean to you?

TAKEAWAY

Exploring the experiences of worship and sacraments in our everyday lives strengthens our connection with God. This week, pay attention: where do you see the sacred works of God in the ordinary parts of life? Consider taking note of these in a journal.

Pause this week in your rhythms to praise and worship God in your favorite way. God is with you and with us when we gather.

PRAYER

Nearest God, you do not leave me. You meet me in the smallest and most ordinary ways each day. Invite me to pause to be with you; I wish to draw near to you. God, you are good. Amen.

JOURNAL

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PRAYER REQUESTS

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Week 2 – Becoming – Grow

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OPENER

If you could become an instant expert on any subject, what would it be?

FOCUS TEXT – Acts 8:35 (CEB)

³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.

ADDITIONAL TEXTS

- John 11:40-44
- Matthew 4:1-11

GROUP DISCUSSION

- What does ‘prayer’ mean to you?
- How do you like to engage with scripture? Have you experienced creative ways of reading the Bible? What is your favorite translation?
- How do personal faith practices shape who you are becoming? How can you prioritize your faith in new ways?

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES

There are countless ways to read scripture and pray! Consider trying a new scripture reading practice this week: reading for an amount of time each day, finding a Bible reading plan, reading the same passage each day for a week, the possibilities are endless!

Consider a new prayer practice: pray out loud, sit in silence for 10 minutes, do a yoga flow to the Lord’s Prayer, write out your prayer, anything new or old to intentionally connect with God.

PRAYER

Choose a word or short phrase to repeat as a group for a few minutes or take some time to sit in silence.
Amen.

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PRAYER REQUESTS

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Week 3 – Becoming – Give

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OPENER

It’s a Friday night after a terribly busy week, how do you spend it?

FOCUS TEXT – 1 Timothy 6:17- 18 (CEB)

¹⁷ Tell people who are rich at this time not to become egotistical and not to place their hope on their finances, which are uncertain. Instead, they need to hope in God, who richly provides everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ Tell them to do good, to be rich in the good things they do, to be generous, and to share with others.

ADDITIONAL TEXTS

- Genesis 2:2-3
- Exodus 20:8-11

GROUP DISCUSSION

- What does ‘tithe’ mean to you?
- In what ways have you practiced sabbath? How could regularly prioritizing rest shape your life?
- Who do you know that embodies these practices of giving and resting? What have you learned from them?

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES

This week, be intentional about seeing your places of abundance. Thank God for the excess and prayerfully consider who you can bless with your time and resources.

Find time in your week to set aside and rest with God. It is okay if you need to work up to a full day of sabbath. Mark this time on your calendar and guard it well.

PRAYER

Generous God, thank you for the gift of rest. You created us in a way that we are not machines, we require pause and connection with you. You give me abundance; I find you most when I share my abundance with others. You are a kind a gentle God. Amen.

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PRAYER REQUESTS

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Week 4 – Becoming – Go

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OPENER

If you were going on a spiritual retreat, what three things (besides your Bible) would you take?

FOCUS TEXT – Zechariah 7:9 (CEB)

⁹The Lord of heavenly forces proclaims: Make just and faithful decisions; show kindness and compassion to each other!

Isaiah 1:17 (CEB)

¹⁷ learn to do good. Seek justice: help the oppressed; defend the orphan; plead for the widow.

GROUP DISCUSSION

- What do ‘mercy’ and ‘justice’ mean to you?
- What places have you overlooked or ignored? Where can your group pilgrimage to encounter life that is different than yours?
- When you regularly practice and prioritize mercy, justice, and pilgrimage, who are you becoming?

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES

Research local organizations that are seeking mercy and justice in ways that interest you. Research injustices that you know very little about. How can you partner with them?

Pilgrimage can be big or small! Research trips across the world. Prayerfully take another route to or from your destinations and pilgrimage through another part of your city. How can you and your group occupy new spaces?

PRAYER

Spirit of All the Earth, you are everywhere. You do not call us to pilgrimage to find you, you call us to action. Guide me in the right direction. Amen.

