



## 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!

**Week 1 – Things the Bible Never Said**  
***God doesn't give you more than you can handle.***

**OPENER**

Share a life hack have you discovered that makes your life easier!

**FOCUS TEXT – 1 Corinthians 10:13 (CEB)**

<sup>13</sup> No temptation has seized you that isn't common for people. But God is faithful. God won't allow you to be tempted beyond your abilities. Instead, with the temptation, God will also supply a way out so that you will be able to endure it.

**ADDITIONAL TEXTS**

- 1 Corinthians 10
- Galatians 6:2-5

**GROUP DISCUSSION**

- Has anyone ever told you that God doesn't give you more than you can handle? How did you feel?
- What hinders your ability to experience hope? What contributes to your hope?
- Take a moment to dream: what does life look like on the other side of your challenges, struggles, or hardships?

**TAKEAWAY**

God is big enough and loving enough to help you through whatever life gives you. There is no reality in your life that renders you beyond hope or your life beyond change! We were not created to experience life alone nor were we ever expected to handle everything in our lives alone. God is with you to help you handle whatever comes!

**PRAYER**

God of the Universe, you are greater than all. You have promised to not abandon me and to hold me through whatever comes my way. No temptation or pain is beyond your victory or your love. Give me the strength to follow your lead and to rest in your grace. Thank you for remaining with me. Amen.

**JOURNAL**

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

**Week 2 – Things the Bible Never Said**  
***Everything happens for a reason.***

**OPENER**

If you won the lottery, what is the second thing you would do?

**FOCUS TEXT – Romans 8:28 (CEB)**

<sup>28</sup> We know that God works all things together for good for the ones who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose.

**ADDITIONAL TEXTS**

- Matthew 7:13-14
- 2 Corinthians 1
- Revelation 21:1, 3-4

**GROUP DISCUSSION**

- Has anyone ever told you that everything happens for a reason? What did it make you think or how did you feel?
- What are ways that you see or experience God's presence in hard times?
- Share a time that God took something bad and used it for good.

**TAKEAWAY**

Just because God doesn't cause everything does not mean that God is not there. God is always present with us, especially in our suffering. God is working for good in our lives, always! There is a purpose and plan that God has for you, and God has given you the Spirit to guide, direct, love, comfort, and be with you through it all, bad and good.

**PRAYER**

Spirit of Presence, you never leave my side. You may not cause evil and pain, but you can use evil and pain for good. Give me faith to trust and follow you even though I do not understand how you work and move in the world. You have shown me that life wins, that hope wins, and that love wins. Thank you for your plans. Thank you for your guidance. Thank you for your presence. Amen.

**JOURNAL**

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

**Week 3 – Things the Bible Never Said**  
***Love the sinner, hate the sin.***

**OPENER**

What topic could you easily give a TED Talk about?  
(Presenting a great idea in 18 minutes or less).

**FOCUS TEXTS**

**1 Peter 4:8 (CEB)**

<sup>8</sup> Above all, show sincere love to each other, because love brings about the forgiveness of many sins.

**Romans 5:8 (CEB)**

<sup>8</sup> But God shows his love for us, because while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

**ADDITIONAL TEXTS**

- John 8
- Psalm 51

**GROUP DISCUSSION**

- Have you ever felt defined by a mistake? What was that like? Have you ever defined somebody else by a mistake?
- Share a time when you received love when you felt like you didn't deserve it.
- Practice defining one another by love: go around the group and share your favorite characteristic about each other.

**TAKEAWAY**

God loves us. God loves us while we sin and when we are broken, that is good news! Hate has no part of what God asks us to do with one another. Jesus called us not to judge, but to care and focus on our own sin while we love everyone around us. Love sinners. Period.

**PRAYER**

Loving God, You do not have nor give a spirit of hate. You call me to love and only to love. Gently show me my own sin so that I can grow. I long to love others and the world as you do. Amen.

**JOURNAL**

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

**Week 4 – Things the Bible Never Said**  
***God helps those who help themselves.***

**OPENER**

If you could give someone else a superpower, who and what would it be?

**FOCUS TEXT – Matthew 15:25 (CEB)**

<sup>25</sup> But she knelt before him and said, “Lord, help me.”

**ADDITIONAL TEXTS**

- Proverbs 14:23-31
- Isaiah 40:28-31

**GROUP DISCUSSION**

- Have you experienced the limits of your abilities? What is one of your limits?
- Share about a time that working with others made work or life easier or more enjoyable.
- Where do you need Jesus or others to help you?

**TAKEAWAY**

When we believe that we are where we are because we worked hard to earn it, we get it wrong. We are where we are because of the talents, opportunities, and gifts that the Grace of God has given us. We cannot do life alone and we were not made to do life alone! God is with you and you have a community around you ready to love and receive you, just as you are. God helps those who can't help themselves.

**PRAYER**

Original Helper, You help me most when I cannot help myself. I am weak, I am limited, I am in need. You honor my work and my efforts and hold me up when I cannot go any further. I am dependent upon you and your Spirit, God. Thank you for my limits. Thank you for your presence. Amen.

**JOURNAL**

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....