

Growing Together

CONNECT TOGETHER:

10 minutes

Host Tip: If your group is unable to work through the entire session, we have recommended on question or activity with an asterisk (*) in each section of the study.

1. Have you had a chance to invite a friend to church or to your small group yet? How did they respond?
2. *Check the progress of your group outreach project.
3. Who have been some of the greatest examples of Christian love for you?

GROW TOGETHER

50 minutes:

MEMORY VERSE

"By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 13:35 NKJV

Watch the Session video now and fill in the blanks in the session one outline. Refer back to the outline during your discussion time.

Growing Together

1. Growing together requires _____.

Love is patient... It is not rude ... it is not easily angered. 1 Corinthians 12:4-5 NIV

Be humble and gentle in every way. Be patient with each other and lovingly accept each other. Ephesians 4:3 GW

2. Growing together requires _____.

Love rejoices in the truth. 1 Corinthians 12:6 CEV

Speak the truth in a spirit of love. Ephesians 4:15 TEV

Speaking the Truth in Love

- Check Your _____.

“Why worry about a speck in your friend’s eye when you have a log in your own?... First get rid of the log in your own eye; then perhaps you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend’s eye.” Matthew 7:3-5 NLT

- Plan Your _____.

- Plan _____.

The right word at the right time is like precious gold set in silver. Proverbs 25:11 CEV

- Plan _____.

A wise friend’s kind reprimand is like a gold ring slipped on your finger. Proverbs 25:12 MSG

- Plan _____.

Thoughtless words can wound as deeply as any sword, but wisely spoken words can heal. Proverbs 12:18 TEV

- _____.

- Say it _____.

*A wise mature person is known for his understanding. The more pleasant his words, the more persuasive he is. **Proverbs 16:21** TEV*

- Say it _____.

- Say it _____.

*A soft answer turns away wrath. **Proverbs 15:1** NKJV*

*If someone is trapped in sin, you should gently lead that person back to the right path. **Galatians 6:1** CEV*

*An honest answer is a sign of a true friendship. **Proverbs 24:26** TEV*

3. Growing together requires _____.

*Love keeps no record of wrongs. **1 Corinthians 13:5** NIV*

*Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. **Colossians 3:13** NIV*

*In the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. **Matthew 7:2** NIV*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Host Tip: If your group has eight or more members, we suggest you break into subgroups of three or four people for greater participation and deeper discussion. At the end of the discussion time, come back together and have someone from each group report on the highlight of their discussions.

1. * This lesson covered three aspects of love that can sometimes be very difficult: patience, truthfulness, and forgiveness. Which part of the lesson was most meaningful to you? Why?

2. Where does impatience show up in your life?
3. What is the difference between judging people and confronting them in love?
4. How do you respond when someone hurts you? Why is it so hard to forgive people who hurt us? What are the consequences of choosing not to forgive?

SERVE TOGETHER

10 minutes

1. In what way do patience, truthfulness, and forgiveness impact your ability to serve in ministry?
2. * Is there someone in your church or small group with whom you need to seek reconciliation? Why wait any longer? Reach out to that person this week with truthfulness and forgiveness. We will pray together about these relationships during the Worship Together section of this study.

SHARE TOGETHER

10 minutes

1. * How can un-forgiveness or resentment in your relationship with someone who is not a follower of Christ affect their openness to Jesus Christ?
2. How do unity and love in your church affect your church's testimony to your community?

WORSHIP TOGETHER

10 minutes

1. As Pastor Tim closed his message, he asked: "Do you need to be patient with someone? Do you need to speak the truth in love to someone? Do you need to forgive someone?" Take a moment to quietly reflect on these questions. Write down a name or situation that comes to mind.

Name or Situation _____.

2. * Break into sub groups of three or four people, or pair up with your spiritual partner. Tell each other if you have a relationship that needs healing, either through patience, truthfulness, or forgiveness. This is not a time to share details or assign blame. Simply mention the person's name or the nature of the relationship (e.g., brother, colleague, mother, neighbor, friend, etc.). Share as openly as you feel comfortable so the group can pray more specifically for you. Then, as an act of worship and because it will please the Father, pray for each other, asking God to soften your hearts and give you courage and grace to initiate the healing process. If you are not yet ready to reconcile, then pray that God will help you to become "willing to be ready."

BEFORE YOU LEAVE

Recruit a volunteer to be your group ministry project coordinator! His or her job will be to contact your church this week and ask for some practical suggestions as to how your small group can serve your church. You will need this information for next week's small group meeting.