

Who Are Growing
Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the [recent sermons page](#) at our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the sermon slides and small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, October 8th, 2023



We Are Disciples

FALL 2023 SERMON SERIES
granthamchurch.org/sermons

Grantham Church
BRETHREN IN CHRIST

Sermon Title: Who Are Growing

Scripture Reading: John 15:4-5; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Ephesians 4:11-16

Sermon Focus: Jesus said that his disciples cannot grow and bear fruit apart from him. We must stay connected to the center and source of spiritual life. And the Apostle Paul said that we can only prepare the soil for this sort of growth, and then plant and water. But it's God that brings the real growth. So, how do we partner with God in this work? In the third message of our series, Pastor David invites us to reflect on how growth happens as disciples and what it looks like when we have good "soul soil" in place.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person or by video call. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 together. The Apostle Paul tells the saints at Corinth that their problems of division, quarrelling, and licentiousness proves that they are still infants in Christ and need to grow up into him. Instead of becoming disciples who make disciples, they were doing church but living in the flesh. How do you see this happening today? Also, why do you think so many Christians never learn how to feed themselves and help younger disciples grow in Christ?
2. Read John 15:4-5 together. Jesus is adamant that we must stay connected to him if we are going to grow in our faith. We cannot grow as disciples without a direct relational connection to him. Since we relate to Jesus through the Spirit, what does it look like to connect with Christ daily? How can we live with an awareness of the Lord's presence and our need for him in our lives?
3. Paul said that "God causes things to grow" (speaking of spiritual growth) but we certainly have a part to play in becoming disciples of Jesus. For starters, there must be intentionality in partnering with God in our growth. Share how you have experienced this in your relationship with Christ. Also, share how you have seen God grow you or someone else after a time of faithful perseverance.
4. If we're honest, spiritual growth can be much slower than any of us would like. But it doesn't appear that Jesus is concerned as much about that as he is that we would be intentional in *stumbling* forward in him. In fact, we can walk around feeling guilty and defeated because we think that Jesus is always unhappy with us. This isn't helpful, nor does it reflect the Lord's heart. Do you need to accept the grace and forgiveness of Jesus for you in an area of repeated failure?
5. Pastor David said that there are ways (conditions) that we can create to prepare our "soul soil" for spiritual life and growth. Share how you have experienced God using these things in your own life. Also, do you sense that God is inviting you to give the Spirit more to work with in your walk with **Jesus**? If so, what is it?
 1. Staying connected to "the Vine" through spiritual disciplines (e.g., prayer, fasting, Scripture reading, study, confession, fellowship, sacrifice, service, etc.).
 2. Giving the Holy Spirit something to work with (e.g., a teachable heart; your time, talents & treasure (financial resources, tithing, giving), etc.).
 3. Allowing for the planting of seeds and the watering of your spiritual life (soul) through other disciples (e.g., working the spaces, worship, teaching, learning, etc.).