

WEEK 2: JANUARY 8-14

## DISCIPLESHIP GROUP LESSON



### MEETING AGENDA

1. **OPENING PRAYER** - Ask one person to open the meeting in prayer.
2. **GROWTH QUESTIONS** - Ask everyone the Growth Questions.
3. **ATTENDANCE** - Take attendance through the DG Attendance System.
4. **TODAY'S LESSON** - Go over this week's DG lesson.
5. **GIVING** - Encourage everyone to give on the App.
6. **CLOSING PRAYER** - Ask for prayer requests and pray.



#### GROWTH QUESTION #1

Who would like to share a highlight, praise report, or testimony from this week?



#### GROWTH QUESTION #2

What did you learn from this week's sermon?



#### GROWTH QUESTION #3

What was your most important accomplishment this week?

## PROVE IT!

### TODAY'S PASSAGE:

*Matthew 3:7-12 NLT 7 But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming to watch him baptize, he denounced them. "You brood of snakes!" he exclaimed. "Who warned you to flee the coming wrath? 8 Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God. 9 Don't just say to each other, 'We're safe, for we are descendants of Abraham.' That means nothing, for I tell you, God can create children of Abraham from these very stones. 10 Even now the ax of God's judgment is poised, ready to sever the roots of the trees. Yes, every tree that does not produce good fruit will be chopped down and thrown into the fire.*

*11 I baptize with water those who repent of their sins and turn to God. But someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I'm not worthy even to be his slave and carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. 12 He is ready to separate the chaff from the wheat with his winnowing fork. Then he will clean up the threshing area, gathering the wheat into his barn but burning the chaff with never-ending fire."*



### INTERACTIVE QUESTIONS

What did you learn from what we just read?

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## GROWTH PRINCIPLE #1

Repentance of our sins always results in a changed life.

- The proof that someone has repented of their sins is a changed life! (v. 8)
- DEFINITION - Repentance (metanoia): a conviction that results in a change of thought and behavior
- Just because someone claims to be a Christian, goes to church or wears a t-shirt with a cross on it, doesn't make him/her a follower of Jesus Christ.
- To follow Jesus, we must first turn away from our sin so that we can turn toward Him.
- Turning away from our sin is called repentance and is generated through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- "Change your thinking, change your life." - Marco Garcia



### INTERACTIVE QUESTIONS

What sinful mindsets and behaviors did you repent of or do you need to repent of in order to produce positive change in your life?

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## GROWTH PRINCIPLE #2

No one can be saved or produce spiritual fruit without repenting of their sins.

- Anyone who has not repented of sin and been born again, cannot bear spiritual fruit and can only look forward to a day of fiery judgment. (v. 10)
- DEFINITION - fruit (karpos): the effects or results that are produced by being connected to Jesus Christ; the attributes, character, and works of Jesus Christ; the fruit that is produced by the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer **(Galatians 5:22-23)**
- Being fruitful doesn't save you from the fiery judgment, it only proves that you have been saved.
- Only those who have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and have become children of God can bear fruit. For apart from Jesus, we can do nothing.
- "We cannot connect with the Lord and be fruitful until we are willing to disconnect from our sin." - Marco Garcia

***John 15:5 (NLT) - Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.***

- A branch that is disconnected from the vine can never produce fruit. That is who we are before we are joined to Jesus Christ.



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### INTERACTIVE QUESTIONS

When you read the phrase "thrown into the fire," what do you think it is referring to? Who is thrown into the fire? What fruit or results do you see in your life today that you could not have produced before you entered into relationship with Jesus Christ?

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## GROWTH PRINCIPLE #3

Only those who have repented of their sins qualify to take the next step of being baptized.

- God requires that we repent of our sins and turn to Him through faith in Jesus Christ before we can be baptized. (v. 11)
- We should not get baptized as a ritual.
- Baptism is a physical representation of a spiritual reality.
- Going under the water signifies that we are burying our old sinful way of living. Coming out of the water represents the power of God raising us up to live a new life in Jesus.

***Colossians 2:12 (NLT) - For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.***



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### INTERACTIVE QUESTIONS

Why shouldn't we baptize someone who has not repented of their sins? Imagine yourself in a conversation with a friend who wants to be baptized but is still practicing sin, what would you tell them?



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### CLOSING QUESTIONS

What is one thing from today's lesson that you learned and will apply this week?

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# GIVING

**Giving unleashes a harvest of blessings in our lives in direct proportion to the generosity we use to sow into the Kingdom of God and the lives of others.**

**2 Corinthians 9:6 (NLT)**

*Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop.*

*Encourage everyone to give their tithes and offerings.*

# PRAYER



**QUESTION #1**

Who are you  
praying for to be  
saved?



**QUESTION #2**

Who can you  
invite to the next  
meeting?



**QUESTION #3**

What are your  
prayer requests?