

Applying It In My LifeGroup time - 15 minutes

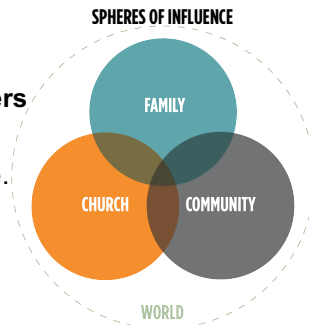
1. What ways has the gospel reached, grown and empowered you? Your family? Your church? If you feel ready, share your own testimony of conversion, growth and empowerment in Christ. Each week, make this a practice for someone to share their story.
2. How often do you take time to thank God that the gospel is already at work and bearing fruit in our church, community and world? When was the last time you thanked God for the faith, love and hope of your friends and family?

3. Our mission is “**Growing fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ**” through the pathway of...

REACH: Every person an opportunity to believe.

GROW: Every believer a fully devoted follower.

EMPOWER: Every follower on mission.



Where are you at in your response to the gospel? What's your next step for growth? How can you be involved in God's work to reach, grow and empower through the spread of the gospel?

MEMORY VERSE | WEEK 1

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. – Colossians 1:3-5

Prayer TimeGroup time - 15 minutes

Thank God for the gospel of grace, which gives imperfect people confidence to live for God. Thank God for those you know who live a life of faith, love and hope. Thank God that the gospel is still bearing fruit all over the world and thank Him specifically for the places you are familiar with.

Finish your prayer time by praying for the needs of those in your *Growth Group*. Take a few minutes to share prayer requests. Ask someone in the group to record your prayers so you that in future weeks you can see where God is answering your prayers.

UNDILUTED JESUS *Thank God for the Gospel*

The Church in Acts

What does the gospel do?

The Gospel Reaches

Colossians 1:3-5a

The Gospel Grows

Colossians 1:5b-6

The Gospel Empowers

Colossians 1:7-8

God is at work!

Sunday, September 11, 2016

South Shores Church

(949) 496-9331

Pastor Ty Guy

www.southshores.org

GROWTH GROUP HOMEWORK

Week of September 11-17, 2016

Getting StartedGroup time - 20 minutes

1. If there are new people in your group, briefly introduce yourselves – Share your name; when you came to *South Shores Church*; where you live; if married, how long you have been married; and if you have children, share their names and ages.
2. Take a few minutes as a group to look over the *Growth Group Covenant*. (Your leader will have it at your first meeting). This helps everyone know what to expect.
3. What are some past health trends on which you have jumped onboard? What is your current favorite health food? What is your favorite guilty pleasure (non-healthy food)?

FOR GROWTH GROUP TIME

Getting Into God's WordGroup time - 40 minutes

Read All of Colossians as a Group (15 minutes)

1. Paul is writing from prison to encourage this young church by showing them what it is like to believe in Jesus and follow Him. Paul encourages them (and us) to explore the nutritional riches of the Undiluted Jesus. As you read, what were some highlights that stood out to you? What initial questions did you have that you now look forward to discovering the answers?

Read Colossians 1:1-2

2. What important components of Paul's letter are found in the first two verses? What does Paul mean by calling the Colossian Christians "saints?" Some say Paul's entire letter can be summarized by the terms "grace" and "peace." What is the significance of these gifts from God the Father?

Read Colossians 1:3-8

3. Why does Paul begin with thanksgiving? How does giving thanks alter the focus of these verses? What is Paul expressly thankful for? What words would you use to describe the progression of the gospel at work in the Colossian church?
4. How do hope, faith and love intersect in the work of the gospel? What evidence is there for the Colossians' conversion? Why should we think this would be the regular result of becoming a disciple of Jesus?

Read John 15:1-8

5. In Colossian 1:6 Paul says that the spread of the gospel will result in bearing fruit. According to John 15, what is the prerequisite for bearing fruit? How are we to understand the relationship between responding to the gospel and abiding in Jesus? What results come from bearing fruit?