

THEOLOGY OF

Grow

MISSION

**We exist to glorify God as gospel-centered disciples who...
Gather, Grow, Give, & Go**

FRAMEWORK

**Grow Spiritually
Grow Relationally
Grow Missionally**

WHY GROW?

We GROW in groups and courses in order to:

- **Grow spiritually in our knowledge and understanding of the gospel and how our relationship with Christ affects our heads.**
- **Grow relationally in authentic and accountable community with others as our relationship with Christ affects our hearts.**
- **Grow missionally in our understanding of how our relationship with Christ affects our hands.**

Our Grow groups are defined as three or more people who meet regularly, aim for relational connection and authenticity, seek to understand and apply the gospel, and are committed to resolving sin and the conflict it produces. Those in the group are committed to pursuing the truth of the gospel, carrying and helping resolve one another's burdens, praying, and praising the Lord together. They grow in their understanding of the gospel by studying Scripture and encouraging and considering one another. These groups are also marked by their hospitality and service.

Hebrews 10:24-25

²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Acts 2:42-47

⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Galatians 6:1-2

¹ Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. ² Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

James 5:16

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

Courses contain predetermined content that is repeatable with a determined start and stop date and usually meet in large groups with the ability to break into smaller groups for deeper discussion. Courses serve as entry points for Grow groups.

EVIDENCE FOR COMMUNITY

In Scripture, we are clearly called to be in community (Hebrews 10:24-25). God Himself models community for us in the Trinity and invites us into community with Himself through the death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Christ. Throughout Scripture, we see God starting with one man and expanding his community to reach the ends of the earth (Romans 8-10; Matthew 28:16-20). Acts 2 paints a clear picture of what the early church looked like and what characteristics marked the early believers. The Apostle Paul speaks, specifically, about community in his letter to the Galatians along with the authors of Hebrews and James (see above verses). We realize that the enemy loves to attack in isolation and that community is necessary to help the believer stand strong in the faith. Community can also be used evangelistically to draw non-believers into ultimate community with the Lord

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

We believe a key aspect of being a fully formed follower of Christ is to grow spiritually. We desire to see people further their understanding of what it means to be a gospel-centered disciple who gathers, grows, gives, and goes. Growing spiritually means both the acquisition of truth and the application of truth, and we believe that truth is only found in Scripture.

RELATIONAL GROWTH

Another key aspect of being a fully formed follower of Christ is to grow relationally. Relational growth requires consistency, which is a commitment that carries a cost of time, attention, and sometimes resources. Consistency creates a rhythm that allows for hospitality, authenticity, vulnerability, accountability, and the sharing of prayer requests.

MISSIONAL GROWTH

While groups are marked by spiritual and relational growth, they are inadequate without the third marker of missional growth. As believers, we are called to live outside of ourselves, carrying out the mission of our King. The response of a group growing spiritually and relationally is seeking opportunities to respond to the needs within the body and then the community around them.

ELEMENTS OF GROW

All groups should be marked by the Word of God (the Bible) and the Work of God (the Gospel). Groups should gather together with the ultimate goal of growing in an understanding of God's Word and our gospel identity. Taking it a step further, we teach and share that identity as we spread the good news, the Work of God. Learning from and alongside one another is how God designed us as believers. We long to see every person grow relationally, spiritually, and missionally inside a group.

RESOURCES

- *Gospel-Centered Small Groups* by Michael Kelley and Chris Surratt
- *Group Guideposts* by Mission Church
- *Find Your People: Building Deep Community in a Lonely World* by Jennie Allen