



DEVELOP PERSONAL STUDY GUIDE

OCTOBER 11, 2020

TAKEAWAY:

Every Christian is meant to grow and develop in the knowledge and grace of the Lord.

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT:

The God-ordained context of Christian growth is the local church. The two key means in which God develops His children are disciplines and afflictions.

GOSPEL CONNECTION:

Christian development is only possible through the finished work of Jesus on our behalf.

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Think of stories you have heard of people coming to know Christ. What is one of the most impactful stories you have heard?
- 2 What types of things impact you when hearing how others came to Christ? What stands out to you about how people are changed by Jesus?

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

> Read 2 Peter 3:18.

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

- According to this verse, what is the ultimate purpose of our growth and development?
- How do Christians develop and grow best? Explain.
- What makes the local church ideal for the development of Christians?

> Read 1 Peter 2:2.

Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation

- What did 1 Peter 2:2 say about the growth and development of a Christian?
- What are the ordinary means of grace by which Christians can develop?
- How can a Christian read the Scriptures for development?

- How can Christians pray the Scriptures for development?
- How can Christians sing the Scriptures for development?

> Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10.

To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. ⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹ But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. ¹⁰ That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

- In 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, what happened when Paul sought relief for his affliction?
- How does affliction develop us as Christians? How have you experienced this personally?

APPLICATION

- 1 How has the Lord developed you in the context of our church?
- 2 What spiritual disciplines do you regularly practice? What impedes you from spending time in the Scriptures?
- 3 What are some concrete ways that you have developed through the ordinary means of grace?
- 4 How has the Lord used affliction to develop you and shape you into the image of Christ?

THIS WEEK

- Memorize 2 Peter 3:18
- Read Philipians 1:6 on Monday
- Read Colossians 1:9-10 on Tuesday
- Read 2 Peter 1:5-8 on Wednesday
- Read Ephesians 4:15-16 on Thursday
- Read James 1:2-4 on Friday
- Read 2 Corinthians 3:18 on Saturday