

Small Group Guide: Spiritual Growth Principles

Opening Question: What's one area of your life where you'd like to see spiritual growth this year?

Key Takeaways:

1. Spiritual maturity is not automatic; it requires intentional effort.
2. There are four key principles for spiritual growth:
 - a. Feeding on God's Word
 - b. Developing spiritual habits
 - c. Helping each other grow
 - d. Being committed to grow

Discussion Questions:

1. The pastor used a bicycle wheel illustration to represent our spiritual life. How does this visual help you understand the importance of having Christ at the center of your life?
2. Why do you think it's important to "feed on God's Word"? What challenges do you face in maintaining a consistent intake of Scripture?
3. The sermon mentioned six ways to grasp God's Word: hear, read, study, memorize, meditate, and apply. Which of these do you find most challenging? Most rewarding?
4. How has being part of a community (like this small group) helped your spiritual growth? Can you share an example?
5. The pastor mentioned that we are "as close to God as we choose to be." What are your thoughts on this statement? What factors might influence our choices in this area?
6. What spiritual habits have you found most helpful in your own life? Are there any new habits you'd like to develop this year?

Bible Study Questions:

1. Ephesians 4:14-15 (NIV) - "We are not meant to remain as children... Instead, we are meant to hold firmly to the truth in love."
 - What are some modern-day "winds of teaching" or ideas you believe could distract believers from growing spiritually?
 - How can holding firmly to the truth in love help us mature in our faith?
2. Matthew 4:4 (NIV) - "Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes out of the mouth of God."
 - What does it mean to you to "feed" on God's Word?
 - How can we ensure that our spiritual diet is balanced and healthy, similar to how we strive for a healthy physical diet?
3. Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV) - "Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together..."
 - Why do you think meeting together is so emphasized in the Bible?
 - What are some creative ways we can "spur one another on" in love and good deeds within our community group?
4. 1 Corinthians 9:25 (NIV) - "Every athlete in training submits to strict discipline."
 - What spiritual disciplines do you find most challenging to practice regularly, and why?
 - How can the concept of training like an athlete apply to our spiritual growth?
5. Joshua 1:8 (NIV) - "Study it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful."
 - What does "prosperous and successful" mean from a biblical perspective?
 - How can we apply this verse to ensure we are living in accordance with God's Word in our daily lives?

Practical Applications (choose or recommend one or two):

1. 21-Day Challenge: Commit to a daily quiet time with God for the next 21 days using the provided scripture cards or a Bible reading plan.
2. Scripture Memorization: Choose one verse from the church website's memorization page to learn this week. Share it with the group next time you meet.
3. Spiritual Habit Audit: Review the four spiritual habits mentioned in the sermon (weekly worship, community groups, daily time with God, scripture memorization). Identify one area where you'd like to improve and make a specific plan to do so.
4. One-Another Exercise: Choose one of the "one another" commands from the New Testament (e.g., encourage one another, pray for one another) and practice it with someone in the group this week.

Closing Prayer: Close the session by praying for each other's spiritual growth, using some of the insights and commitments shared during the discussion.