

**Lesson Aim:** To discuss what it means to respond to God's call to discipleship; specifically in our call to grow in our relationships with God and others.



*connecting*

Bridge LifeGroups are **currently on summer break until mid-September**. We will continue to offer study questions each week in this **simplified format**, which can be useful for personal devotions and/or discussion starters for LifeGroups that choose to meet for a portion of the summer break.

**Prayer:** Start your time together by asking the Holy Spirit to lead your discussion or devotional time.

1. **Read 2 Corinthians 4:13-18 & 2 Peter 3:10-18.** What are some things that encourage or challenge you in these verses?
2. In his message, Scott made the statement that “in some respects spiritual growth is similar to physical growth”, and he referred to both our physical and spiritual needs for food and family. What are some ways you have discovered this statement to be true?
3. **Read Psalm 19:7-11; Jeremiah 15:16; Matthew 4:4 & James 1:23-25.** What are some things that encourage and challenge you about God's Word in these verses?
4. What are some ways you've been able to develop healthy habits in “eating God's Word”? How has this helped you to grow spiritually?
5. **Read Psalm 51:1-3, 62:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-21; Hebrews 4:16, 13:15 & James 1:5.** According to these verses, what are some ways that prayer can help us grow spiritually?
6. What are some challenges you face to spending time in prayer? What times and/or places seem to work best for you for spending time in prayer?
7. What are some ways you have personally experienced God working in your life as a result of spending time in prayer?
8. **Read John 13:34-35; Romans 12:10, 15:7; Galatians 6:2; Ephesians 4:2, 32; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 10:24-25 & James 5:16.** These verses are just a small sample of the abundant “one another” verses in the New Testament. Is it possible to experience the things mentioned in these verses apart from growing relationships with other Christ-followers? How have you experienced some of the things mentioned in these verses through relationships with others?
9. What fears might some people have about the risks of pursuing growing relationships with other Christ-followers? What risks are involved in deciding to do life by ourselves as Christ-followers?
10. If you are not significantly connected in relationships with other Christ-followers today, would you be willing to go to [thebridgefresno.com](http://thebridgefresno.com) or call us at 226-4100 this week and join one of our Bridge LifeGroups?



*growing*



*sewing*



*reaching*

**Close in prayer as the Lord leads you.**

This **LifeGroup** Study Guide is designed to help you apply Sunday's message. You can do this homework on your own; however we encourage you to check out our warm and friendly message-based **LifeGroups**! Get a copy of this Study Guide at [theBridgeFresno.com](http://theBridgeFresno.com) by clicking on the “Resources” link.

CONNECT ► GROW ► SERVE ► REACH

- Step One: Connecting with God through faith in Jesus Christ... followed by water baptism
- Step Two: Connecting with a local church... through our Join the Mission membership class

**GROW / GROWING** (2 Peter 3:18; 1 Corinthians 3:6-7; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18)

PRINCIPLE #1: In some respects spiritual growth is similar to physical growth.

PRINCIPLE #2: There are ways in which spiritual growth is dissimilar to physical growth.

PRINCIPLE #3: Spiritual growth never happens by accident.

PRINCIPLE #4: You cannot make yourself grow; but you can create the environment in your life in which growth can occur.

- 2 Essential Areas of Spiritual Growth (Mark 12:28-31):

- ① Vertical growth in our relationship with God
- ② Horizontal growth in our relationship with others

## **VERTICAL GROWTH IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD**

PRINCIPLE #5: Vertical growth with God requires integrating healthy habits into your life.

- The 2 Most Essential Healthy Habits:

- A) Eating the Word of God
- B) Breathing conversational prayer with God

- Additional Healthy Habits for Going Deep with God (John Ortberg – *The Life You Always Wanted* • Richard Foster – *Celebration of Discipline* • Dallas Willard – *The Spirit of the Disciplines*)

## **HORIZONTAL GROWTH IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS**

PRINCIPLE #6: You cannot practice one another community unless you are in growing relationships with other believers.

- The idea of small groups is rooted in God
- The idea of small groups is rooted in the Early Church
- LGs are for everybody who wants to move from being friendly to making friends
- How do I get involved?

## **CONTINUING DOWN THE PATHWAY TO DISCIPLESHIP**

- Step Three: Grow vertically in our relationship with God through healthy habits
- Step Four: Grow horizontally in our relationships with others through LifeGroups