

## **Weekly Study of Sunday's Message.**

**Sunday January 20, 2019. "I Love My Church: Growing".**

### **A. Intro.**

Welcome to the weekly devotional that gives you some specific things to work thru from the message this past Sunday. Whether you were able to attend the worship service or not, this devotional is free-standing and you can still use it to help you dig deeper in your own spiritual walk.

Take as long as you need to dive into this material and feel free to share it.

### **B. Recap.**

Last week we began the series looking at what NCC values and channels their energy and resources into. If you're from the corporate or business world, you'll understand the ideas of core values. These are the beliefs, principles, the primary truths that drive what we do as a church community. But we also believe that these not only are important to us as a body, but they hold value personally for us. If we can find a significant place for us to Gather, Grow, and then Go, (or represent), then we know we come to church to work on continually improving ourselves. Not do more...but be better.

Last Sunday the value was **Gather**. And basically we outlined the importance of regularly coming together with a variety of people, with the purpose of allowing ourselves to be transformed, changed, converted into a person who holds power in a more loving and compassionate way than the world does. And the take away was we have to intentionally find places to come together with other very different people, but who are on a similar path, to be able to develop this better version of ourselves.

### **C. Sunday's Message.**

This Sunday we hit the second value **Growing**. There is this thing that will happen naturally within us, that we all inherently want, when we Gather with the intent and purpose of Growing. And the major benefit of living a life towards Growing is that it gains us authority. Influence on those around us in our daily life. This is the second word in our understanding of personal growth. The first being how we hold any power we have. The second is our understanding of authority and how we grow that.

So...let's talk about authority.

**How do you define, understand authority?**

**How have you seen it practiced?**

**Who in your past handled their authority well? Who didn't?**

### **D. Scripture.**

The primary scriptures used were an in depth study of the authority others noticed in Jesus, what it looked like, and how he obtained it. Let's look at those verses in the order they were shared.

**Matthew 7:28-29.**

**How was Jesus described?**

**What do you think that looked, felt like to actually be there?**

**Luke 2:51-52.**

This passage said, Jesus “*grew in wisdom, stature, and favor*”.

There is no right or wrong answer for the next question, so feel free to have more than one answer.

**What do each of those mean to you?**

**Luke 2:46-50.**

And the final passage talked about how Jesus grew in wisdom, stature, and favor.

**What jumps out to you from this passage about Jesus?**

Finally, Kal challenged us to examine our lives in the areas of wisdom, stature and favor with these understandings, (see where your understanding and these are the same and are different).

Remember there are no right or wrong answers, just a Growing, (see what we did there), understanding of each. And then the questions under each attribute can help us examine if we are working to Grow each of these areas in our lives.

**Wisdom**- The ability to see the future with the same clarity that you understand the past.

**Do you put yourself in situations, experiences, opportunities to grow your body of wisdom?**

**What are your habits and practices that are designed to grow your wisdom?**

**Stature**- the external evidence of an inner continual growth brought about by intentional effort.

**Do you feed yourself with life-giving, healthy, content to grow your spiritual side in the same way you would grow your physical side?**

**How do you care for your soul?**

**Favor**- The public recognition of a life being lived so well it enhances the relationships around it.

**Do you carry yourself in such a way, treat others in such a way, use your words and influence in such a way, that gain favor?**

**What role do you play in the health of your daily relationships?**

**E. Challenge.**

So the final point was the iceberg challenge. Kal showed us that only 10% of an iceberg is visible, and it takes 90% more to keep that 10% visible stable and upright. Our lives are very much the same way. We have to put more effort into keeping our unseen life stable and full, in order to Grow what others can see. 9 to 1 in attention and effort to our inner life than what others see.

So...final question.

**What can you do to increase that 90% to Grow the kind of authority that inspires others?**