

## A. SERMON SCRIPTURE

**Title: Born to Grow**

### **1 Peter 1:17-2:3 (ESV)**

And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for

“All flesh is like grass  
and all its glory like the flower of grass.  
The grass withers,  
and the flower falls,  
but the word of the Lord remains forever.”

And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

## B. GROUP DISCUSSION

1) Read I Peter 1:17-2:3. Talk together about what you see and what Peter is talking about. What are some of the messages? Who is his audience?

2) We are more than just "are" Christians, we are "becoming" Christians. What does that mean and how does that make you feel?

3) Why do we tend to create growth through mechanical over organic methods? What is wrong with engineering growth? When is it good, and when is it not compatible with God's methods?

Why do we like it? What do we not like about growth organically or agriculturally?

4) Have you ever felt like you are more (should be more) than what you have become?

5) Why is Faith, or "having tasted" something that proves a real birth? Why is sincere love for other Christians also proof?

6) How do we continue to grow in Christ into adulthood?

7) Prayer and praise