

## Where We Are Going

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We are so excited that you have decided to join a Growth Group here at LakeView! Growth Groups exist to help you grow in your faith through discussion with the others in your group. The other people in your group will help shape you as you continue to meet. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 says, "Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their efforts. For if either falls, his companion can lift him up; but pity the one who falls without another to lift him up." The materials that we put out – whether video, print, podcast, or any other method are meant to spark discussion about who you believe God to be, how he is at work in your life, and how you are trying to move towards him in your daily life.

Jesus called the twelve apostles to follow him in Matthew 10:1-4. Over the course of roughly three years, he shaped them and molded them into those who would be the foundation for the gospel spreading across the world. But, within the group of twelve, he had an inner circle of three – Peter, James, and John. It was these three that were able to witness the transfiguration in Matthew 17. This inner circle is similar to what we intend Growth Groups to be – a smaller, more intimate group that helps push each other towards Christ.

Our goal with Growth Groups is not that you reach a destination, but rather that you are moving in the direction towards Christ. Being a disciple of Jesus means that you're continually moving towards him. Discipleship is not primarily about reaching achievements like understanding this or that theology, or reading the Bible this much, or being able to pray in this way. Milestones are great and we should recognize them, but we judge our journey as disciples by which direction we are moving – towards Jesus or away from him. Are we growing in our trust in him? Are being sanctified and becoming more like him? Are we growing in wisdom and understanding? Are we sharing him with others?

As we go through this Fall, we will start by using a video series that follows along with the big ideas from the upcoming sermons. We will walk through topics such as how we should wait on the Lord, how to share our testimonies, talking about faith and works, and many others. In the upcoming weeks, we will discuss these topics. For now, let us discuss the direction that we are moving *right now*, and what our faith journey was like over the Summer.

It's easy while on vacation or during a shake-up in life's rhythms for our faith habits, practices, prayer life, Bible reading, etc. to get thrown off. How was your Summer in terms of your faith? Did you grow? Do you feel like you took a step backwards? Did it seem to plateau? Be honest with the others in your group. None of us grow when we try to put on a good Christian face.

How is your faith now? Are you moving towards Christ or away from him? Do you feel like you're stagnant? Why? As we move into Fall, how are you planning to take that next step with Jesus?