

GROWTH GROUPS

Kick-Off 2021

Growth Groups Kick Off Study 2021

Goals for our Groups

1. To begin or continue to build a safe place where people can flourish and grow together.
2. Look at Mark 10:35-45
3. Remember our vision for Crossroads and how this translates into the culture of our groups as disciple making disciples.
4. Provide some shape to the year in terms of our teaching program.

Introduction

Crossroads has over 50 growth groups meeting in homes and other venues all around Canberra. Each group is unique, not only because of who is in that group, but because of the experiences of those in the group, life stage, group stage etc.

We hope this study will help you start well for 2021.

Getting Started

Depending on where your group is at will depend on what's helpful. You may all know each other well, have new people in your group or be meeting for the first time. At the end of this study there are some suggested icebreaker ideas for you to consider.

If your group is new (or you have new people in your group) you might like to try breaking up into smaller groups of 3 or 4 for 5 mins to try out the ideas below. You can keep reorganising into different small groups till everyone has met each other. Remember larger groups are more difficult for people to feel comfortable to share. Spend the next few weeks taking time to intentionally get to know one another.

Mark 10: 35 – 45

A couple of weeks ago we looked at this passage in our church gatherings. Read the passage together then in pairs or small groups (whatever makes people feel comfortable) discuss the following:

1. What stands out to you anew?
2. What does it show us about what our King Lord Jesus is like?
3. What does it show us about what we are like?
4. What does it show us about what we can be like as Spirit empowered disciples of Jesus?
5. What key verse would you choose as central to this passage?
6. How does this passage shape the way you think about being part of this group and our church?

Come back together as a group and share some of your findings.

Our Vision for Crossroads

At Crossroads we want our vision to be shaped by the Gospel.

We want to see the news of Jesus producing more and more life-long disciples, who together see the gospel reach further and deeper into Canberra and beyond.

How do you see the Mark passage and our vision above shaping the purpose of our Growth Groups?

Setting/Resetting the Expectations of our Group

If the purpose of our group is to grow life-long disciples how does that translate into the life of our group? Whether you're a group that's continuing on, or brand new, this study is a chance to set/reset the culture and expectations of your group. Below are questions to think about to work out group expectations and culture. You might want to write these things down, so as a group, you can check in later in the year to see how you are going.

1. What practical ways can we be thinking about being part of God's plan in growing life-long disciples in our growth groups?
 - i) How do we want to pray for each other e.g.: prayer partners, small groups? Do we want a prayer coordinator? Prayer diary?
 - ii) How do we want to show love to one another or be there for one another in concrete ways?
 - iii) How do we want to help each other grow in our knowledge and love of the Word?
 - iv) How do we want to encourage each other in our personal relationship with Jesus?
 - v) How do we want to encourage one another to cooperate with the Holy Spirit in transforming us to live as Christ's disciples?
 - vi) How do we want to work through conflicts, disappointments, misunderstandings when they arise?
 - vii) How do we want to encourage our leaders and give them helpful feedback?
 - viii) How do we want to follow people up who haven't been coming for a while?
 - ix) How do we want to organise our Bible study discussions? e.g.: small groups, pairs, large groups.
 - x) How do we want to serve together as part of our broader church or at the services on Sunday?
2. What practical ways can we be thinking about seeing the Gospel reach further and deeper into Canberra and beyond?
 - i) How do we want to be praying for the lost?
 - ii) How do we want to be praying for and encouraging our Global partners? Would we like to have a Global Partner contact who coordinates group prayer and letter writing for our Global partner?
 - iii) Do we want a group that is always welcoming and open to unbelievers?
 - iv) As a group would we like to consider ways that we could reach out to our friends and neighbours with the Gospel?

Teaching Plan for the Year

Mark 9 – 16	January - April
Genesis 1 – 12	April - June
Esther	June - July
1 Corinthians 8 – 16	July - September
Prayer	October
Micah	November-December

What's Coming Up

If you would like to know what's coming up at church in terms of events and announcements check out our Crossroads Phone App.

Appendix - Icebreakers

1. Using the cards from the Dixit game.
 - a) Find a card that shows how you are feeling as you start this year and share with your small group.
 - b) Find a card that shows how things have changed for you from this time last year.
2. Share some good experiences from when you were a child or young adult.
3. Share one or two things about your personality that would be helpful for others in the group to know as we grow and learn together.

Some examples:

 - Sometimes once I start talking, I can't stop, so you might need to remind me to pause and let others share. You can do this by _ _ _ _.
 - I feel quite shy in a group and would prefer to have some time where we pray and share in pairs.
 - I take a while to work out what I'm thinking so give me time and space to think and share...
 - I need to discuss things out-loud to learn.
4. Choose from one of the words below that best describe your relationship with God at the moment. Share with your new friends why this word is helpful.

Close	Safe
Disconnected	Strange
Searching	Doubtful
Friendly	Life giving
Open	Careful
Angry	Boring
Mysterious	Alone
Afraid	In trouble
Dynamic	Questioning
New	Precious
Intimidating	Peaceful
Unsure	Overwhelming
Loving	Sustaining
Stagnant	Other:

5. How does this quote make you feel or what comes to mind?

'There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations - these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub and exploit - immortal horrors or everlasting splendours.' C.S.Lewis

6. Two truths & a lie – Get each member to reveal three 'facts' about themselves, two of which are true and the other false. Then have the group try to guess which is which.
7. Holiday – Ask each member to share their idea of a perfect holiday or day off.
8. Review – Ask each member to share what was the last movie they watched or book they read. Would they recommend it to others?
9. Learning from Experience - Have members introduce themselves and explain one thing they have learned "the hard way".
10. Therapy – Have members introduce themselves and share what most energises them and ticks them off.
11. Dinner Plans – Have each member complete the following sentence: If I could have dinner with any person, living or dead, it would be _____ because _____.
12. Good or New – Ask each member to share something good or new they have experienced in the last 24 hours.
13. Pipe Cleaners – Bring some pipe cleaners and have each member of the group create something from a pipe cleaner that says something about them.
14. Puzzle Ball – Bring a kid's shape-sorter and have a race to see who can put all the shapes in the ball the quickest. (Believe it or not, this actually works!)

For more ice-breaker suggestions:

Icebreakers - <http://fervr.net/youth-group/top-13-youth-group-mixers-icebreakers/>

Icebreaker questions app for your phone - <http://icebreakerquestionsapp.net/>