

devoted

growing vertically

GREENHOUSE GROWTH (Acts 2:42-47)

▶ DEVOTED = _____ & _____

MISSION, DEFINITION OF "DISCIPLE" & PATHWAY OF DISCIPLESHIP (Matthew 28:19-20)

▶ OUR MISSION is to _____ ... more Christians and better Christian

▶ DEFINITION OF "DISCIPLE": A disciple is someone who continuously _____ to _____ & _____ like Jesus & _____ others to do the same.

PATHWAY OF DISCIPLESHIP: _____ ▶ _____
▶ _____ ▶ _____

STEP ONE – CONNECT

Connect with God through faith in Jesus Christ
Connect with a local church (like Creekside) through active participation

STEP TWO – GROW (2 Peter 3:18; Mark 12:28-31)

Grow Vertically in our relationship with God
Grow Horizontally in our relationship with each other

PRINCIPLE #1: The secret to spiritual success is not simply _____, but _____.

PRINCIPLE #2: Who you become is a consequence of what you _____.

FARMING & SOIL PREPARATION (1 Corinthians 3:5-7; Hosea 10:12)

PRINCIPLE #3: Only God can make things grow, but we can _____ of our lives in such a way that growth is most likely to occur.

- ▶ Plowing ▶ Sun exposure ▶ Water ▶ Fertilizer
- ▶ Weeding (Removing Growth Inhibitors)

BACK TO ACTS 2:42 & HEALTHY HABITS

- ▶ Mark Your Calendars: October 5-8 / 72 Hours of Acts 2:42

PRINCIPLE #4: We all have about as much of God as _____
_____.

DEVOTED TO SCRIPTURE (Psalm 119:105; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

The Bible...

- ① _____ to us the greatness and goodness of _____
- ② _____ our _____ to think God's thoughts
- ③ _____ our _____ away from sin and towards holiness

- ▶ BIBLE READING PLANS – CREEKSIDE.EG.COM/Resources (Top of the Page)

- ▶ HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE WORKSHOP – Saturday, Sept. 10 from 10am-Noon

DEVOTED TO PRAYER (1 Thessalonians 5:17; Luke 18:1; James 5:16)

PRINCIPLE #5: We know God _____ through Scripture & _____ through prayer.

PRINCIPLE #6: The best way to learn how to pray effectively is to _____.

ADDITIONAL HEALTHY HABITS

Giving Worship Journaling Fasting Sabbath Rest Solitude / Silence
Singing / Shouting Praise Secret Acts of Service Gratitude

Remember: Healthy Habits are never an end in themselves... they help us reach our goal of Growing Vertically in our relationship with God



Sun, Aug 28, 2022 | Scott Hansen, Senior Pastor
Creekside Christian Church

devoted

growing vertically lifegroup questions

For those of you regathering with your LifeGroup, welcome back! For those of you just joining a Creekside LifeGroup, welcome aboard!

Prayer

Open your time together in prayer and invite the Lord to be your guide. Take a few moments to visit and introduce yourselves to one another, especially welcoming any newcomers.

My Story

Share your response to one of the following:

- ▶ What is your personal experience with growing plants or vegetation? What are some surprising joys or frustrations that come along with the green thumb process?
- ▶ What has been an answered prayer for you this summer?
- ▶ What significant factors most contributed to your spiritual formation?

Digging Deep

1. **Read 2 Peter 3:18** – Why do you think God actually commands us to grow spiritually? How does spiritual growth benefit us?
2. **Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17**. Is this claim of Scripture something you wrestle with, or do you believe this to be true? Discuss why the study of Scripture is central to our devotion in following Christ.
3. **Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 again**. The Apostle Paul mentions 4 different effects that the Bible is designed to have on us. Briefly discuss the meaning of each of these:
 - ▶ Teaching
 - ▶ Rebuking
 - ▶ Correcting
 - ▶ Training in righteousness
4. Share one way in which you have experienced or seen God use His Word in your life?
5. Which best describes your current level of Bible engagement? (Be truthful. Everyone in your group is “for you” and wants you to be spiritually healthy!) Where would you like to see yourself regarding this Healthy Habit?
 - a. I rarely take the time to read or study the Bible
 - b. I routinely get into the Bible
 - c. The Bible is getting into me – my life is changed because of it
 - d. The Bible now comes out of me – God’s Word helps me help others

Digging Deeper

6. In this week’s message, Pastor Scott stated that “We know God most fully through Scripture & most intimately through prayer.” Take some time to talk through some of the potential benefits that come from the Healthy Habit of conversation prayer with God. What would the Christian faith be like if we didn’t have prayer access to God?
7. **Read Psalm 55:22, Ephesians 6:18, 1 Thessalonians 5:17 and James 5:16**. God obviously thinks prayer is a must for His children. Besides, He wouldn’t call us to make prayer a habit if it didn’t change anything. But how do you think prayer changes things?
8. Prayer is often an overlooked aspect of the Christian life. It’s easy for believers in our immediate-gratification culture to allow prayer to be come a last resort effort rather than a daily habit. So let’s be honest. We often feel defeated, distracted or even bored when we pray. Why is that? And what advise would you give to someone who is having trouble developing a prayer life with God? What distractions or insecurities are common roadblocks in your daily walk of prayer? How does prayer help align our hearts with God’s priorities instead of our own?

Taking it Home

Toward the end of this week’s message, a number of additional Healthy Habits were mentioned for those wishing to grow their vertical relationship with God. How can habits of (a) journaling, (b) fasting, (c) Sabbath rest, (d) times of solitude/silence, (e) expressing gratitude and (f) performing secret acts of humble service... cultivate and strengthen our relationship with God?

REMINDER & WARNING: Healthy Spiritual Habits are never an end in themselves. In fact, they can be abused and even become a source of pride and legalism. The GOAL behind all healthy habits is to GROW in our relationship with God.

CONSIDER THIS HABIT-BUILDING OPPORTUNITY: 72 Hours of Acts 2:42: As a church we are going to read the entire Bible out loud for 72 hours October 5-8. Will your LifeGroup commit to an hour or two of corporate Scripture reading? Additionally, your group is invited to engage in prayer stations and corporate worship to continue developing these healthy habits. Please join us in this all-church Acts 2:42 experience!

Praying Together

Pray with your group asking God to help us all be diligent in studying His Word, consistent in prayer, and joyous in living out Christian friendships.