

Grow in Groups

Who We Are: August 30, 2026

I. Opening Prayer

- Ask the Holy Spirit to help your group learn and hear what He would teach and encourage.

II. Weekly Sermon Discussion (20-40 minutes)

- Read the scriptures, and discuss what stood out to you.
- Engage with one another by reflecting and sharing what our Church is learning together.
- Example insights and questions are provided to help generate discussion if needed.

Focus your conversation on the scripture and how it applies to you. Be careful of straying off the topic, and if you do, encourage one another to ask, **“How does this scripture apply to this?”**

Continue: Community, Knowing Jesus, and Making Him Known

Read: Acts 1:14; Acts 2:42, 46-47; John 15:9; Philippians 3:8-10

The Early Church experienced incredible moments with God, but their story was not built on a single moment. Again and again Acts tells us, **“they continued.”** They continued in prayer, the apostles’ teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, and meeting together. They continued in relationship with God and relationship with one another.

One of the most powerful, faith-filled things you can do is simply **continue**.

But biblical continuing is more than white-knuckling our way through religious routines. Jesus said, **“remain in my love.”** Spiritual disciplines are meant to be disciplines of love—expressions of a living relationship with Jesus rather than **habitual religious routines**.

The WHY behind what we do matters. We Gather, Serve, and Grow because we want to **know Jesus**.

Paul said everything else was worthless compared with the **“surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.”** Jesus wasn't simply an addition to Paul's life; Jesus became the center of Paul's life. Paul wanted more than information about Christ—he wanted to know Him experientially: His resurrection power, participation in His suffering, and a life becoming like Him.

And when we truly know Jesus, we begin to make Him known. That is what happened in Acts. As believers continued together in a loving, Christ-centered community, their lives became a

visible witness to the people around them, **“and the Lord kept adding to their number daily those who were being saved.”**

The goal isn't simply to Gather, Serve, and Grow. **The goal is Jesus.** We continue together so that we can know Him, become like Him, help other's become like Him, and make Him known.

- Acts repeatedly tells us that the believers **“continued.”**
 - Why do you think continuing is often more difficult—and ultimately more transformative—than starting? What is something in your relationship with Jesus that you need to continue in right now? What is pulling you away from that relational continuing?
- Jesus says in John 15:9, **“remain in my love.”**
 - What is the difference between continuing in a loving relationship with Jesus and simply maintaining a religious routine? Have any of your spiritual disciplines ever become more about the WHAT than the WHY?
- Acts 2:42 shows believers continuing in the **Word, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer.**
 - Why do you think God designed these things to happen in community rather than Christianity being an entirely private relationship between you and God?
- Paul considered everything else a loss compared with the **“surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus.”**
 - What is the difference between knowing things *about* Jesus and actually *knowing Jesus*? How have you experienced Jesus personally rather than simply learned about Him?
- When we truly know someone, we begin to understand what they love and value.
 - Where have you noticed yourself beginning to love what Jesus loves or value what He values as you've grown closer to Him?
- Acts 2:47 connects the life of the Christian community with people being drawn to Christ.
 - What would people learn about Jesus simply by watching the way our Group loves, serves, forgives, supports, and cares for one another?
- The Early Church became known for a loving, Christ-centered community that cared for people in practical ways.
 - What could our Group do together that would make the love and character of Jesus visible to someone outside the Church?

- **Continue in Community → Know Jesus → Make Him Known.**

- Which of those three areas is God challenging you in most right now? What would taking one practical step in that area look like this week?

III. Share & Prayer (20-40 minutes)

Time to **'take off the mask'**! Jesus doesn't want us to be hypocrites who wear masks.

- A personal life update, your current spiritual condition. Use emotional language to be real!
- Challenges or victories that you are experiencing.
- What's really going on in your life? How are you doing? How can your group pray for you?
- Are there applications from the Discussion that you need prayer support?
- How can your Group support you this week?

When sharing prayer requests, include your personal prayer needs. Example – rather than simply sharing **“Please pray for my friend’s cancer journey,”** include personal prayer: **“Please pray as I’m struggling with my friend’s cancer journey, and I need guidance on how to encourage her in this season.”**

Have someone, or everyone, close your time out in prayer for one another.