

Grow Together

Who We Are: Week 2 — “Grow”

I. Check-In

Under 2 mins per person

A check-in helps the group build connection, honesty, and relational awareness.

- A personal life update
- Current spiritual condition
- Challenges or victories
- Reflect on your emotions with emotional language

Finish by stating: **“I’m in!”**

II. Weekly Sermon Discussion

20–30 minutes

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

If You Are Going to Grow, You Need a Grove

Read: Ecclesiastes 4:9–12, Proverbs 15:22

Redwood trees can grow more than 300 feet tall, yet their roots remain surprisingly shallow. Their strength comes from growing together in groves, where their root systems spread outward and intertwine with the trees around them. Their connection provides stability and support.

The same principle is true in our spiritual lives. God did not design us to grow alone. We need other believers whose lives become intertwined with ours—people who encourage us, strengthen us, challenge us, and stand beside us when storms come.

Good seed and good soil are essential, but if we are going to grow, we also need a grove.

- Why do you think spiritual growth becomes difficult when we try to do it alone?
- What stands out to you from Ecclesiastes 4:9–12?
- Who are the people currently helping you grow spiritually?
- What is the difference between simply being around Christians and actually intertwining your life with them?

- Where are you most tempted to isolate yourself rather than allow others to support you?
- What would becoming more connected to a “grove” look like practically in your life?

We Need Different Levels of Connection

Read: 1 Corinthians 15:5–6, Luke 10:1–3, Matthew 10:1–4, Matthew 17:1–3

Throughout Jesus’ ministry we see different levels of community and relationship. There were more than **500** witnesses of the resurrected Jesus, **72** disciples sent into ministry, **12** disciples who regularly did life with Jesus, and an even smaller inner circle who experienced some of His most personal moments.

These relationships give us a helpful picture of the different levels of connection we need:

500 — The Church Gathering

72 — The Church Serving

12 — The Small Group

5 — The Inner Circle

At Community of Faith, we pursue those closer relationships through **Connect Groups** and **Discipleship Groups**. Sunday gatherings are important, but they cannot replace having a smaller group of believers who truly know us and an inner circle with whom we can share the depths of our heart, mind, and soul.

- Why do you think Jesus intentionally developed different levels of relationship?
- What can happen when the Sunday gathering is our only meaningful Christian community?
- Which of these levels of connection is strongest in your life right now? Which is weakest?
- What should a healthy small group provide that a Sunday gathering cannot?
- What qualities should you look for in the people you allow into your inner circle?
- Who are the people in your life who truly know what is happening in your heart, mind, and soul?

Get Connected, Not Just Close

Our generation has more opportunities for connection than perhaps any generation before it. Yet being **close** to people is not the same as being **connected** to them.

We can attend the same church, sit in the same room, follow one another online, and know what is happening in each other’s lives without ever developing relationships deep enough to help us grow.

Like the roots of a redwood grove, Christian community requires our lives to actually become intertwined.

We have to start intertwining our lives and grow together.

- What is the difference between being “close” to people and genuinely “connected” to them?
- What keeps people from developing deeper Christian relationships?
- Is there anyone in your life who knows the real condition of your heart and your relationship with Jesus?
- What would you need to risk or change in order to develop deeper relationships?
- How could this group become more than a weekly meeting and begin genuinely doing life together?

- What is one practical step you can take this week toward becoming more connected?
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III. Share & Prayer

20–30 minutes

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

- What’s really going on in your life? How are you doing? How can your group pray for you?
- Where do you need the support of your “grove” right now?
- Is there an application from today’s discussion that you need prayer and accountability to follow through on?
- How can your group support you this week?

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

Remember: If you are going to grow, you need a grove.