

Life Group Guide | September 12

“Reaching for Maturity”

A guide for Life Groups, families or individual study. Life Group materials, including videos, are available at redeemerconnect.com/life-groups or on our new Redeemer Connects mobile app, downloadable from the iTunes and the Google Play stores.



OPENING PRAYER

Life giving Lord, we know that you want us to grow up in our faith to maturity, to bear fruit that reflects the life of Jesus and brings glory to you. One way we do that is by receiving your Word with joy, letting it take root in our hearts and lives, and encouraging others to do the same. By the power of your Holy Spirit may we “grow up in our salvation, now that we have tasted that You, Lord, are good.” (1 Peter 2:2-3). In your bountiful name we pray, Amen.

CONNECTING QUESTION

What skill or hobby have you learned by watching and being mentored by someone else? What went into that kind of teaching? (driving a car, woodworking, flying a plane, etc.)

SCRIPTURE READING

Read Aloud & Meditate on God’s Word: Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23

EXPLORE THE TEXT

1. What four types of soil does Jesus talk about in the parable? What characterized each? What happens to the seed in each kind of soil?
2. How did Jesus describe the four different responses to God’s message in verses 18-23? Why do people respond differently? What troubles and worries tend to choke out your growth in Christ? What gives depth to your soil and nurtures your growth?
3. In order to harvest a fruitful crop certain things need to happen, not immediately, but over time. How does that relate to becoming a mature believer in Christ? What actions and attitudes would you expect to find in a mature Christian?
4. What helps us mature in our faith and relationship with Christ? (Ephesians 4:11-16). Which of these have you experienced...would you like to experience? In what ways can you be an example to other believers? (Ephesians 4:1-6)
5. We can’t assume that just because believers are older means that are wiser or mature! Oswald Sanders said in his book *In Pursuit of Maturity*: “Because we are aging we should not conclude that of necessity we are progressing in maturity. It is our attitudes, not our arteries, that determine the quality of our life. Our age is beyond our control, but whatever our age, our attitudes can be changed by the power of grace and a holy purpose.” What would you say are the marks of spiritual maturity? (Hebrews 5:11-6:3)

6. Read 1 Timothy 4:11-16 where Paul told Timothy to set an example for other believers, even though he was young. In which of these things are you setting an example? For whom?

FOLLOWING JESUS

Would you like to be mentored in your faith? Or is there someone for whom you could provide an example of what it looks like to follow Christ? What would be the advantages of a mentoring relationship?

SCRIPTURE FOR EXTRA STUDY

Isaiah 28:23-29; Acts 17:10-12; Philippians 3:12-17; Colossians 1:28-29; Titus 2:1-15

LIFE GROUP OPTIONAL PRAYER TIME - HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

CLOSING PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Thank God for his Word and his Spirit that helps us grow up in our faith and bear good fruit. Pray for many people to receive God's powerful Word implanted in their hearts, that they "accept it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in those who believe." (1 Thessalonians 2:13).

Our Father...