

This guide is intended to help you be better prepared to engage in making disciples in your small group. They are based off of the Sunday sermon listed in the top right corner. If you missed Sunday, make sure you take the time to listen to the sermon before your small group meeting. You can find the messages on our website.

Prayerfully considering these questions will help equip you to practice mutual ministry with your family at Vertical. While it's not likely that all of these questions will be asked during your small group meeting, we believe that your personal walk with Christ will be strengthened as you meditate upon the truths that God is teaching you through His Word.

1. Spiritual maturity requires us to make a decisive break from our past and to move beyond spiritual infancy. What deliberate steps can you take to mature in your faith? Identify one area where you feel God is calling you to grow and take a step towards that growth.
2. Considering 1 Peter 4, what does it mean to you to 'live for the will of God' rather than 'the lusts of men'? Can you share a personal experience where you had to make a choice between these two paths?
3. What evidence can you give that you are living for Christ in the "dash?" What is one area that you can change to bring it under submission to Christ so that you can live more faithfully in your life?
4. Knowing that sin is determined, what footholds do I leave available for sin? What are the steps for demolishing those footholds in my life?
5. How can you make a change in your life to treat sin as serious and determined to destroy you?
6. Joe mentioned that often people in the deception of sin often say "my relationship with God has never been better." What are some other lies you tell others to cover up your sin?
7. What is at the heart of your struggle (or your deep desire) that drives you to choose sin rather than choose righteous obedience to Christ?
8. In the story of Cain and Abel, we see the relentless pursuit of sin and God's invitation to choose a better path. Consider the areas in your life where sin might be 'crouching at your door.' What choices can you make today to master it and walk in righteousness?
9. What sins are still desirable to you? What do you think it is promising to you? How are the promises of God better than the promise of this sin?
10. Reflecting on the call to action to make a decisive break with the past, discuss the challenges and rewards that come with leaving old ways behind and committing to a life that radiates Christ-like virtues.
11. In contemplating the steps necessary for Christian growth, what role does the community of believers play in supporting each other to 'aim up' and strive for resilience and growth in faith?