Growing Together – Cultivating a Life with Jesus

Growing Through God's Word

Psalm 1:1-6; Matthew 7:24-29 | Pastor Chris Lenhart | 8/16/26

<u>Series Goal:</u> That as a congregation we would grow together, cultivating our lives with Jesus, through the same practices that have carried and sustained the church, from its conception.

<u>This Week's Anchor Question:</u>
How does God's Word form us into people who increasingly reflect Jesus?

Learning to Hear Jesus' Words (24)

Learning to Practice Jesus' Words (24-27)

Building a Life, Rooted and Resilient (24-29)

Scriptures to Read, Reflect on, and Study this Week:

Psalm 1:1-6

Matthew 7

2 Timothy 3:16-17

2 Timothy 2:15

Holding Tension: *This space is left empty for unresolved questions, convictions, or prompts for further study/reading…*

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Next Steps: Home-Group Study and/or Personal Discipleship Guide

Matthew 7:24-29; Psalm 1:1-6

Get together as a family or with a friend or group of friends this week!

Start with Prayer: Ask Jesus to guide our time together. Review prayer requests.

Anchor Question: How does God's Word form us into people who increasingly reflect Jesus?

Read the text (or portions) from 2 different versions – **Psalm 1:1-6, Matthew 7:24-29**

Pauses for Reflection and Discussion –

1. "As we inhabit the text, the text begins to inhabit us."
   - *What is the difference between simply reading Scripture and allowing Scripture to become part of the inner conversation of our lives? What practices help us slow down enough to listen?*
2. "The goal is not a greater acquisition of Bible information, but through the Bible to know God more deeply and become more like Jesus."
   - *How can we treasure, study, and defend the Scripture without allowing biblical knowledge itself to become the destination? How can we tell when our engagement with Scripture is actually moving us closer to God and others?*
3. "Biblical wisdom is demonstrated not just by what we know about the Bible, but by the path we are walking on."
   - *Where is there currently a gap between something I know Jesus has taught, and the way that I am living? What might faithful obedience look like in that area?*
4. "We do not study so God will finally or ultimately accept us; but because we already belong to God through Christ, our desire is to handle His Word faithfully."
   - *How does knowing that God's acceptance is rooted in grace change the way we hear Paul's call to diligently and faithfully handle the "word of truth"? Where might I need to approach Scripture with greater humility or care?*
5. "A life rooted in God's Word becomes a life built upon the solid and sure foundation of Jesus Christ."
   - *What have recent pressures, disappointments, or uncertainties revealed about the foundation beneath my life? What practices might help my roots grow deeper and my life become increasingly resilient in Jesus?*

Practical Living – This Week's Application *(choose one or more)*

- Write or journal a prayer to pray daily:
- What posture is this text inviting me to practice? *(i.e. waiting, listening, courage, generosity, humility, surrender):*
- Write or journal a person or place to intentionally engage:

Scriptures to Read, Reflect on, and Study this Week:

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Matthew 7
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Prayer Requests

Family

Church

Community

Career & Friends

Other