Growing Together – Cultivating a Life with Jesus

Growing Together

Acts 2:42-47 | Pastor Chris Lenhart | 8/30/26

<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 use Christian community to cultivate a life with Jesus?

We grow as we devote ourselves to Jesus together (42-43)

We grow as our lives become available to one another. (44-45)

We grow through ordinary, shared rhythms. (46)

As we grow together, our shared life becomes a compelling witness to Jesus. (47)

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

Heb. 10:24-25
Gal. 6:2
Rom. 12:9-13
Col. 3:12-17
1 Pet. 4:8-10

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

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 – **Acts 2:42-47**

Pauses for Reflection and Discussion –

1. "The people around us become part of the environment God uses to form us."
   - *Who has God placed in your life or Christian community who has helped shape you to become more like Jesus, perhaps even through difficulty, disagreement, forgiveness, or patience? What might God currently be teaching you through the people around you?*
2. "Jesus intended more for His disciples than just the consumption of spiritual content. He gave us Himself, and then, He called us into a community of others."
   - *Where are you most tempted to make your spiritual life private or self-sufficient, and what would it look like to become more genuinely known, supported, challenged, and encouraged within Christian community?*
3. "Within the healthy rhythms and limits God has given me, am I making room in my life for others?"
   - *Who are the people God has entrusted to you in this season, and what might healthy, intentional availability look like toward them without neglecting the boundaries, rest, family relationships, and time with Jesus that God has also given you?*
4. "There is gladness because in these sorts of communities, we are discovering how God uses our shared lives with Jesus to actually sharpen and shape one another."
   - *Where are the ordinary spaces (home, table, walk, small group, coffee, etc…) that could become places of deeper Christian community in your life? Is there someone you could intentionally invite into one of those spaces?*
5. "Their shared life in Jesus gave visible credibility to their witness for Him."
   - *If someone who does not yet follow Jesus observed the way we love, forgive, serve, welcome, and care for one another, what picture of Jesus might they see? Where could your own relationships more clearly reflect the good news you believe and proclaim?*

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:

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Prayer Requests

Family

Church

Community

Career & Friends

Other