

FRUIT: Sharing God

Jesus said: 'Love your neighbour as yourself' Mk12:31

How am I becoming more like Jesus in my relationships with others?

How much have I shared my faith with others recently?

Am I increasing in my love and concern for the lost?

When with others, have I been proud or ashamed of my faith? (Rom1:16)

How am I showing respect and honour for others?

How am I increasing in awareness of social justice and developing a love for the poor?

Do I pray for the sick? Am I seeing people healed?

How am I using my gifts (practical or 'spiritual') for God in the life of the church and beyond?

How am I contributing to the life of my Growth Group?

In what ways am I helping my church be good news to our community?

What situations and which people am I praying for at the moment?

Am I a servant? How do I serve in the church and local community?

Am I facing necessary confrontations with grace, courage and truth or avoiding them altogether?

How aware am I of the needs of the wider world and am I responding in prayer and action?

Are there particular types of people that I struggle to love?

SEEDS: Sowing with God

Jesus said: 'Go and make disciples' Mt28:19

How am I loving and encouraging the people I spend time with – at home, work, church or elsewhere?

How am I encouraging others to grow in their faith and to use their gifts?

Are there times when I've noticed my words or actions drawing others closer to Jesus?

To what extent do people feel I am listening to them?

Am I a person who commits to tasks/promises and is known for seeing them through?

How seriously do I take my responsibilities ...within the church? ...within the community?

To what extent do I understand and pursue the church's vision?

What am I doing to train and develop in my role as part of the church?

Would others say I am using people or the church for *my* purposes or serving them and the church for *God's* purposes?

How often am I praying for others – fellow believers, church, community, world?

What am I avoiding or procrastinating over?

Are those to whom I am accountable challenging me sufficiently? Am I honest with them?

Extras for leaders:

Am I building a team to complement me?

What am I doing to identify and develop other leaders?

Growing Stronger

Following Jesus more closely

Searching questions
to help us
grow together



Christ Church Alsager

This Version: October 2014

Note: This guide has been developed for our context from similar material published by New Wine and others

How to use Growing Stronger

The aim of Growing Stronger is to help one another live healthy and fruitful lives as Christian disciples, continually growing up into Christ (Eph 4:15), being transformed by the renewing of our minds (Rom 12:2).

Growing Stronger is designed to be used by groups of 2-5 people of the same gender. Agree how often and for how long you will meet (monthly for 1-1½ hours works well). What you share should be kept confidential and non-judgemental. Honesty, positive encouragement and loving challenge are all important.

To get started:

- **Discuss** any outcomes from the last time you met.
- **Choose** one of the 4 sections to use as a basis for each session (you can do them in rotation)
- **Read** the questions. Each individually ask God to show you two questions. One which you feel encouraged by in your life at the moment, and the other which you feel is a challenge for you.

For each person in turn...

- **Share** which questions you've picked and your answers to them, whilst the others listen. Try to identify problem areas and underlying issues.
- **Discuss** thoughts, common experience, biblical understanding and the Holy Spirit's prompting.
- **Identify** practical steps to address areas that require a change of heart, attitude or behaviour.
- **All pray** for this person for the things shared. Now repeat for each member of the group.

Finally...

- **Agree** how to be accountable to each other for areas requiring change. Maybe write them down. Be willing to start by talking about this next time.

ROOTS: Closer to God

Jesus said: 'Come, follow me' Mk1:17

How close am I feeling to God?

How much space am I giving myself for daily prayer?

When did I last spend a significant time alone with God? (Mk 1:35)

When and how has God spoken to me recently?

Am I listening and talking to God in daily life situations?

What am I doing/could I do to allow myself to receive more fully from God?

Have I been obedient to God's prompting recently?

When have I encountered God in gathered worship?

Am I expressing thanks for what God is doing?

What positive or negative factors and feelings are affecting my faith in God?

Am I aware of God's grace or carrying unresolved guilt or shame?

How well am I following a regular pattern of reading the Bible for personal use?

What have I enjoyed reading recently?

How am I growing my understanding of God?

How am I developing my understanding of God's call on my life?

Is there an area of my life for which I am trusting God to act in a supernatural way?

Am I aware of the next changes I need to make to grow closer to Jesus?

BRANCHES: Shaped like God

Jesus said: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength' Mk12:30

In which areas of my life is/isn't God the first priority?

In what ways am I living/not living like Jesus?

Considering the fruit of the Spirit (Eph 5:22-23), which do I feel I'm showing more/less of recently?

Am I being generous with my time and money?

Am I mindful of what God thinks of me, or controlled by the fear of what others are thinking of me?

Is the way I spend my time sustainable?

How am I giving my closest relationships the right priority and would they agree?

To whom or what do I turn for comfort, and what am I doing to relax?

How am I experiencing pleasure and fun?

Am I taking myself too seriously or am I still able to laugh at myself?

How aware am I of my gifts (spiritual/practical) and strengths?

Am I aware of areas of weakness and alert to temptation?

How am I engaging in the worship life of the church?

How well am I using my time and gifts to fulfil the current priorities God has given me?

Am I taking risks for God and with God?

Am I making wise decisions?