



WEEK 8 Growth

ICEBREAKER

Time for a little silliness - and YES - you have to play along :)
If you could be a fruit or vegetable, what would you be and you must share why as well :)

SCRIPTURE READING

Read: Luke 15

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

• THREE PARABLES

The Lost Sheep / The Lost Coin / The Lost Son

Jesus wants us to know two basic elements about the business of God: **He seeks the lost and when the lost are found, both He and heaven rejoice big time.**

If this matters to God, it should be what matters to us because this is God's Church and we are His people. Church consists of lost people who were found.

Read: Isaiah 53:6

The Church consists of sinners saved by grace. All of us have been in need of being rescued. We must go and seek others who need to be rescued by God. When Jesus Christ is living in us and through us, we share His heart for the lost. When the Church shares in God's rescue work and people are saved by His grace, His Church will grow as a result. This happened in Acts and has continued to happen through until present day.

Of the three parables, which do you most closely relate to in your own life? Share about why you feel you can relate to your selected parable.

• CHURCH GROWTH

Read: Acts 2:41
Acts 6:7
Acts 9:31
Acts 11:19-21
Acts 11:24
Acts 16:4-5

Church growth is not about us trying to bring glory to ourselves. It is us being devoted and obedient to what God is wanting to do in this world to bring glory to Him.

A quick summary of church growth in the Book of Acts would be something like this: Growth is the result of sharing the truth, of being devoted to the ways of Jesus, being obedient to the church leaders, having a healthy fear and respect of the Lord, and being filled with God's Holy Spirit and strong in faith.

Reflect on the past weeks and of the messages - which one in particular impacted you the most and why? (The Apostles' Teachings / Fellowship / Hospitality / Generosity / Prayer / Worship / Growth)

Has there been any specific thing during this message series that the Holy Spirit has prompted you to do - to bring change in your life - that you followed through with and did? What has been the outcome?

Have you personally grown during this series? Have you observed growth in others?

• THREE PHRASES

In the book "Vanishing Grace: What Ever Happened to the Good News?" by Philip Yancey, he refers to a nationwide poll where people were asked, "What phrase or words do you like most to hear?" The top answer was, "I love you." The second top answer was, "I forgive you." The third top answer was, "Supper's ready."

Discuss your thoughts on these top three responses and why would people respond this way.

What would you say would be a fourth response? Share why you think that about your response.

PERSONAL REFLECTION / CHALLENGE

As we conclude the DEVOTED message series take time and thank the Lord for His amazing grace. As Spring is upon us consider 1 Corinthians 3:6-7 and give thanks to the Lord that He is at work in your life and in His Church.

PRAISE REPORTS / PRAYER REQUESTS