

ALL IN

WEEK 2
CONNECT
DANNY ANDERSON

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For Group Discussion

Answer these questions prior to your Small Group meeting this week.

Introduction

Age doesn't guarantee maturity. We all know an adult who still acts like a child. The same principle is true regarding our spiritual life. It is possible to trust Christ and not make progress. Just because someone has gone to church for a long period of time doesn't mean they've grown in their faith. In order to grow spiritually, one must connect to the source of spiritual growth. Spiritual growth requires action.

Discussion Questions

1. Describe an area of your life where you feel you have grown because you've worked hard at getting better in this area? Share an area in your life in which you wish you would've been more focused on growth?

2. Read Hebrews 5:12. The writer of Hebrews knew that "growth in years doesn't equal growth in spiritual maturity." From your perspective, are you pleased with your spiritual growth in the time that has passed since becoming a follower of Christ? Why or why not?

Read 2 Peter 1:5-8. If you were to watch someone grow spiritually, what do you believe you should see happening in their life over the course of time? Take a moment to evaluate your spiritual growth. As you look back, does your spiritual growth reflect the process you just discussed?

3. Read John 15:5. In order to attain the abundant life, we must connect consistently to Jesus Christ. There are three ways to do this - attend weekend services (Read Acts 2:42 & Romans 10:17), be involved in a small group (Read Hebrews 10:25), and engage in spiritual practices (Read 1 Timothy 4:7-8 & Joshua 1:8). Describe how each of these areas help you connect with Jesus and experience abundant life.

Of these three areas, which would you say has been the weakest or most inconsistent connection point? What could you do to raise the bar in connecting with Christ in this area? If you were to get serious in this area, how do you see yourself growing spiritually over the next 5 years?

4. Billy Sunday said, "Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car." This coming week, what is one thing you need to start doing to be "all in" in regards to connecting with Jesus in order to grow spiritually?

OUTREACH: GROUPS IN ACTION

Can you cook a meal for The Refuge to feed their clients during pantry? Any breakfast casserole or dinner items would be appreciated. For more details, email Kerry Carmichael at kcarmichael@eclife.org.

As a group, would you be able to help CareNet with their yard work? You can plan a Saturday or evening to go and help spruce up their property. Email Kerry Carmichael for more details or to pick your Saturday at kcarmichael@eclife.org.

Action Step

Fill in the blanks below for this upcoming week.

My action steps are _____

I'm accountable for _____, and their action steps are _____

My memory verse is _____

This coming week, I'm praying for: _____

Age does not guarantee maturity.

"For most parents, their biggest fear as they watch their children go through 'emerging adulthood' is that it will never end, or at least go on far too long." Elizabeth Fishel & Jeffrey Arnett

You have been believers **so long now** that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God's word. You are like babies who need **milk** and cannot eat **solid food**. *Hebrews 5:12*

All growth takes action.

"Grace is not opposed to effort, but to earning." Dallas Willard

We attain an abundant life as we connect to Christ.

"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who **remain** in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing." *John 15:5*

1. Connect with the weekend service.

They **devoted** themselves to the apostles' **teaching**... *Acts 2:42*

So **faith** comes from **hearing**, and hearing through the word of Christ. *Romans 10:17*

2. Connect to a group.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to **fellowship**, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. *Acts 2:42*

And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but **encourage** one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. *Hebrews 10:25*

3. Connect with God through spiritual practices.

Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather **train** yourself for godliness... *1 Timothy 4:7*

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by **prayer** and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the **peace** of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. *Philippians 4:6-7*