



## SG | Small Groups

All followers of Jesus should be growing in their faith.

He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully **mature** in Christ. *Colossians 1:28*

Students are not greater than their teacher. But the student who is **fully trained** will become **like** the teacher. *Luke 6:40*

*1 Corinthians 3:1-3*

*“Nondiscipleship costs abiding peace, a life penetrated throughout by love, faith that sees everything in light of God’s overriding governance for good, hopefulness that stands firm in the most discouraging circumstances, power to do what is right and withstand the forces of evil. In short, nondiscipleship costs you exactly that abundance of life Jesus said he came to bring.” — Dallas Willard*

“I came that they may have **life** and have it **abundantly**.”  
*John 10:10*

How do we know if we are growing?

Your desires are changing.

*Colossians 3:1-3*

So we fix our eyes not on what is **seen**, but on what is **unseen**, since what is seen is **temporary**, but what is unseen is **eternal**.  
*2 Corinthians 4:18*

1. You desire God to be honored through your life.

“He must become **greater**; I must become **less**.” *John 3:30*

2. You desire less of the world.

May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the **world** has been **crucified** to me, and I to the world. *Galatians 6:14*

*“Wear the world as a loose garment, which touches us in a few places and there lightly.” — St. Francis of Assisi*

3. You desire God’s will above your own will.

*Matthew 6:9-10*

“For I have come down from heaven to do the **will of God** who sent me, not to do my own will.” *John 6:38*

When you desire different things, you **take hold** of different things.

Are your desires changing?

### Group Prep

In preparation for small group, read Colossians 3:1-17, then answer the following discussion questions.

### Introduction

What constitutes a good Christian? Maybe a good Christian attends church regularly, curbs the curse-word usage, and doesn’t commit any of the “big” sins. Or, maybe there’s more to it. Maybe a good Christian prioritizes maturing in their faith by striving to become more and more like Christ as they age. Maybe a good Christian intentionally positions themselves to experience more of the joy, peace, strength and wisdom God has planned for them. Maybe a good Christian learns to focus more on the eternal not the temporal. Are you a good Christian?

### Discussion Questions

1. As a group, make a list of what constitutes a “good Christian.” Rate yourself 1-10. Why did you rate yourself that way? A good Christian prioritizes growing spiritually. What is spiritual growth? How do we know we are growing as a follower of Christ?

2. In Colossians 3:1-3, Paul talks about setting our minds on things above, not on earthly things. Three desires were shared in the sermon that should be changing if we are growing spiritually. Which one do you resonate with the most? Why?

- You desire God to be honored through your life. Read John 3:30. What is one way you have honored God with your life by making Him greater and you becoming less?

- You desire less of the world. Read 1 John 2:16. What are some earthly desires you currently have that don’t align with God’s will for your life?

- You desire God’s will above your own will. Read Matthew 6:9-10 and John 6:38. How have you put God’s will above your own recently?

3. As you look back over your faith journey, how are your desires changing? What are the benefits in aligning your life with God? What do we miss out on when we don’t make spiritual growth a priority?

### Action Step

4. Identify how your desires are changing. What will you do this week to align your desires with the Lord’s will in your life to move your rating higher?

My action step is \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

I will encourage and pray for \_\_\_\_\_ to follow through, and their action step is \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

My memory verse is \_\_\_\_\_.

This coming week, I’m praying for \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

### Outreach: Groups in Action

Collect new and/or gently used children’s books for the Rosa Park Kindergarten Academy library. Rosa Park’s does not currently have a library at their school. Drop off books at Emmanuel anytime between now and September 23.

Come help stock the Greenwood auditorium with connection cards for the weekend services on a Wednesday evening. Contact Kerry Carmichael at [kcarmichael@eclife.org](mailto:kcarmichael@eclife.org) to schedule a time between 6:00–9:00pm.