

WE GROW TOGETHER

Introduction: Growth is not a _____.

I Thessalonians 5:11 (LB) "So encourage each other to build each other up, just as you are already doing."

- Biblical growth means: We build _____.
- Biblical growth happens with _____ people.

THREE TRUTHS TO HELP US GROW TOGETHER

1. PEOPLE ARE _____: _____ THE DIFFERENCES.

Romans 12:10 (TEV) "Love one another warmly as Christian brothers and be eager to show respect for one another."

- God delights in _____.
- We must _____ to love each other.

Romans 14:1 (The Message) "Welcome with open arms fellow believers who don't see things the way you do. And don't jump all over them every time they do or say something you don't agree with - - even when it seems that they are strong on opinions but weak in the faith department. Remember, they have their own history to deal with. Treat them gently."

- Five typical personalities
 1. _____ Sally
 2. _____ Lana
 3. _____ Sam
 4. _____ Aaron
 5. _____ Pam
- **Two action steps**
 1. _____ exercise
 2. Tell your _____ time

2. PEOPLE _____: DO SOMETHING _____.

II Corinthians 5:17 (LB) "When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same anymore. A new life has begun!"

- God is _____ your character.
- If you try to live in the past, you become a _____.
- _____ in the past but don't _____ the past.
- **Two action steps:**
 1. In your own small group change _____.
 2. Dissatisfied small group: _____.

3. PEOPLE _____: TAKE A _____

James 5:16 (LB) "Admit your faults to one another and pray for each other so that you may be healed."

- Hard? _____ already knows!
- To whom? To those who will _____ for you.

II Corinthians 4:2 (The Message) "We refuse to wear masks and play games. We don't maneuver and manipulate behind the scenes. And we don't twist God's Word to suit ourselves. Rather, we keep everything we do and say out in the open, the whole truth on display, so that those who want to - can see and judge for themselves in the presence of God."

- Strength to do those "don'ts": God _____ me!
- **Three action steps:**
 1. No _____ talk in your small group.
 2. Don't _____ each other in your small group.
 3. What is _____, _____ in your small group.

CONCLUSION PEOPLE _____:

Colossians 3:13 (NLT) "You must make allowance for each other's faults and forgive the person who offends you. Remember the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others."

- Forgiveness happens because of the _____.
- Sometimes you _____; sometimes you _____.
- **One action step:** Pray: "God, I forgive them. Thank You for forgiving me."