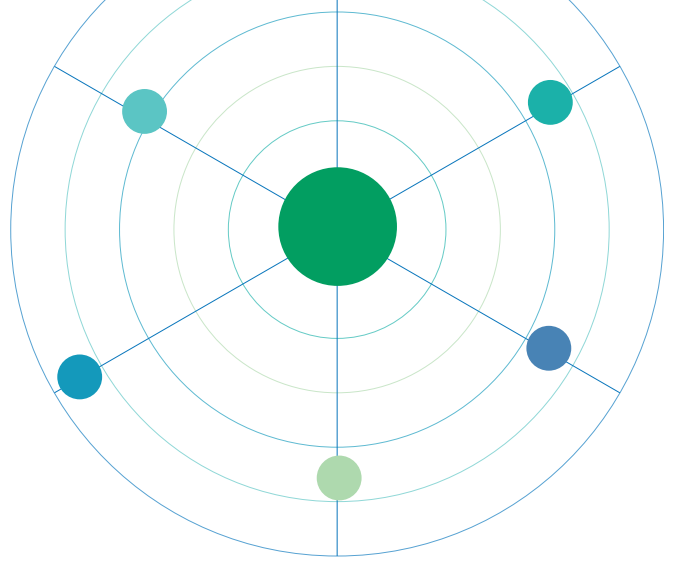


Spiritual Growth

LIFE GROUP GUIDES

Week 2: The Path of Spiritual Growth



I. Review:

Last week: How did last week's reflection on the "gospel doctrines" and your personal faith story encourage you as we continue "learning to follow Jesus together"? Did you have an opportunity to share your story with anyone?

This week: Timothy had known the sacred writings since he was a baby (v. 15). Paul tells him those same Scriptures (because they are God-breathed) can carry him the rest of the way, all the way to maturity: "complete, equipped for every good work" (v. 17). Verse 16 names four specific ways the Word does this work in us.

Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17

II. Dig a Bit Deeper

A. Teaching: The Word shows us who God is. Before Scripture tells us anything about ourselves, it tells us who God is - His character, His authority, His view of reality. Everything else builds on this.

Q1 – What's one thing about God that stood out to you from Sunday's message, or your own time in the Word?

Q2 – How does knowing who God is change the way you look at your circumstances day to day?

B. Correction: The Word corrects our wrongs. Exposing a problem isn't the same as fixing it. Scripture also sets things right (like a doctor setting a broken bone straight again).

Q1 – What's the difference between simply feeling convicted about something and actually being corrected by it?

Q2 – Is there an area now where you sense God inviting you to let His Word set something straight in your life?

C. Reproof: The Word exposes who we are. Once we know who God is, Scripture holds up a mirror - showing us where our thinking or our living doesn't match up with the truth.

Q1 – Can you think of a time the Word exposed something in you that you hadn't noticed on your own?

Q2 – Why do we tend to resist this part of Scripture's work more than the "teaching" part?

D. Training in Righteousness: The Word continues to show us how to live. This is ongoing training, more like raising a child over years than a single lesson - the slow, patient process of being formed to walk rightly.

Q1 – What's a spiritual habit or discipline that has trained and shaped you over years, not overnight?

Q2 – Who in your life is currently being "trained" just by watching how you live? What are they learning from you?

III. Apply

The goal of all four is a person who is complete, fully equipped for every good work (v. 17). That's not an overnight result - it's what these four things produce in us over time, the way faithful parenting raises a child to maturity.

Closing question: Of these four (teaching, reproof, correction, training in righteousness), which one do you think you naturally ignore the most? And why? How will you change that in the next week or two?

Since God uses His Word to shape us spiritually, what goals can you set for reading God's Word this week?