

SESSION 2: Keep Growing in Christ

Welcome & Review Last Week's Homework/LIFE Starters: 15 minutes

Session #2 Teaching: Growing in Christ: 10 minutes

When I think of different “spiritual categories” most men fall into, I think of the following 4. The first being a **Secular man**. A man with little or no spiritual interest. They come when they have to—for holidays, weddings and funerals—or because they are keeping the peace with their wife. The second is **Cultural Christians**. These are men with one foot inside and one foot outside the church. Perhaps they grew up in the church and so now just go through the motions. Or church is a social gathering or gives them a place to ensure their kids get some moral instruction. They are present, but not engaged or interested in spiritual growth. Third is **Biblical Christians**. These men are disciples or want to be disciples. They are interested in spiritual growth and want to lead their families well. These men are the ones who join small groups and classes, and often serve throughout the church. These are the easiest men to reach because they want to grow in their faith. The fourth and target for us is truly being **servant leaders**. These men are actively engaged in helping others grow in their faith. They are a subset of your Biblical Christians, more advanced in their faith and looking for opportunities to serve, teach, mentor and lead. Today, I’m going to ask you to discuss where you fit and where you want to grow and why.

We have SO many opportunities to grow spiritually and being a dad drives those opportunities into overdrive! **Spiritual growth** should be a top priority. When we make it a point to grow in the Spirit, we also make it a point to grow in every aspect. That’s because our spiritual status affects every other area of our life - whether it be physiological, mental, emotional, economical or relational. The Bible makes it clear how truly important it is that we make it a point to grow in the spirit. **Colossians 1:9-10** tells us, “And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.”

Spiritual growth brings about God’s fruit to all who seek it. As men who are called to pursue the good work we were created in Christ to do (**Ephesians 2:10**), here are five things we must start doing some more. First, **embrace God-given roles**. The Bible is filled with descriptive instructions of how God wants us men to act, think and live. They aren’t stereotypes but rather guidelines that help us pursue God’s will more and more by first growing in character, faith and knowledge. Second, **take the lead**. There seems to be a strong correlation between leadership and growth. Every time God called someone in the Bible to step up in leadership, they experienced immense spiritual advancements as well. Take David, Moses, Joshua, Gideon, Abraham, Peter, Paul and all the other Godly men who grew more as God called them into leadership roles. The same principle applies for us men today. Third, **seek to step out in faith**. Faith is the greatest evidence of spiritual strength. When we live lives of faith, we live lives that honor and please God (**Hebrews 11:6**) primarily because when we grow in faith, we grow in Spirit. As we approach God more, He dispels all doubts and gives us faith. So as we walk with God, we start walking in faith more and grow more in our spiritual journey.

Fourth, **consume the Bible**. The most effective way to grow spiritually is to consume the word of God. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 tells us, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work." Lastly (BUT NOT LEAST) disciple other men. The world wants you to believe that to gain, we must get. But the Bible reminds us that gain comes by giving. When we live to give other men wisdom, by discipling them, we start growing faster too. Proverbs 11:25 says it this way: "Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered."

Small Group Discussion: 20 minutes

Review these four categories to think about which category YOU fit into and discuss:

1. Secular men
2. Cultural Christian
3. Biblical Christian
4. Servant leaders

Review these four challenges below and talk about where you need the biggest improvement:

1. Embrace God-given role
2. Take the lead
3. Seek to step out in faith
4. Consume the Bible
5. Disciple other men

Relook at last week's LIFE Starter Journaling as a group and talk about your commitment to spend 30-minutes each day in the Bible. This commitment will be the first step toward spiritual growth that will make you a better dad from the inside out!

Small Group Wrap-Up: 10 minutes

What were the biggest take-aways and personal commitment from your small group time?

Discuss This Week's Homework: 5 minutes

Focus on the LIFE Journaling Method and it will give you more insight to embracing spiritual growth!

•Pray about how to become the servant leader in your family and grow spiritually!

SESSION #2

WK. 2 DEVO 1

Read Deuteronomy 6

Dads spend time with their children, and it's not empty time! Journal about your spiritual growth and how that can help your children grow also.

L=Listen in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

I = Investigate the context around today's Scripture reading. To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#).

F=Focus to the text to make it applicable for your own life. What is God saying to you personally through this passage? How can you apply what you've read?

E = Engage God. This can either be a short prayer or an action that you can take that day after reading the text. Is there a command to follow in the text? How are you different because of what you've learned?

SESSION #2

WK. 2 DEVO 2

Read Colossians 1:1-14

The Bible makes it clear how truly important it is that we make it a point to grow in the spirit.

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I = Investigate the context around today's Scripture reading. To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#).

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SESSION #2

WK. 2 DEVO 3

Read Ephesians 2:1-10

Spiritual growth brings about God's fruit to all who seek it. As men, we are called to pursue the good work we were created in Christ to do!

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I = Investigate the context around today's Scripture reading. To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#).

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SESSION #2

WK. 2 DEVO 4

Read 2 Timothy 3

The most effective way to grow spiritually is to consume the word of God.

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I = Investigate the context around today's Scripture reading. To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#).

F=Focus to the text to make it applicable for your own life. What is God saying to you personally through this passage? How can you apply what you've read?

E = Engage God. This can either be a short prayer or an action that you can take that day after reading the text. Is there a command to follow in the text? How are you different because of what you've learned?

Relook at page 12 (Session #2) and be ready to talk to your group about the areas of growth you are committing to!