



GROWING DEEP IN JESUS

And he said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? The sower sows the word.

*And these are the ones **along the path**, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them.*

*And these are the ones sown on **rocky ground**: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy.*

And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away.

*And others are the ones sown **among thorns**. They are those who hear the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.*

*But those that were sown on the **good soil** are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold."*

MARK 4:13-20

I. If you want to grow deeper with the Lord, you need to have a _____ heart to the truth.

A. The receptiveness of your heart determines the potential for growth.

THE _____ HEART is unable to accept truth from God.

THE _____ HEART has good intentions but never follows through.

THE _____ HEART is preoccupied with the things of the world.

THE _____ HEART hears and responds to the truth.

B. If you have a heart receptive to the truth, you will continue to grow and bear fruit for Him.

II. If you want to grow deeper with the Lord, you need to put into _____ the truth you have received.

A. If you hear the Word and allow it to take root in your life, you will bear much fruit.

B. Practice is essential for growing deeper in maturity.

HOW TO CULTIVATE GROWTH IN YOUR LIFE

Do you truly desire to grow deeper in the Lord?

Are you truly willing to take the next step in growing deeper with the Lord?

Take the initiative to get involved in Bible study.



HOME GROUP STUDY

1. Would you say that you *truly desire* to grow deeper in your walk with the Lord Jesus? With which type of heart on the sermon notes do you identify most right now, and why?

2. Read John 7:37-39. To what have you been looking for fulfillment other than Jesus? What “stones” and “weeds” slow down your spiritual growth? How has that been connected to any lack of spiritual growth for you?

3. What things fuel spiritual growth for you? How can you add more of them to your life?

4. We grow at different rates and in different ways, but growth is evidence of life. There are Christians who have been saved many years but are spiritually still babies because they cannot understand the truths of God’s Word. Read carefully Hebrews 5:12-13 and 2 Peter 1:3-9. What character qualities need to be persued in order for maturity to happen?

5. Read and reflect for a time on the following Scriptures. What do these passages say to you about God’s role in our spiritual growth versus our own role? What things does God provide to help us?

John 15:1-8

2 Peter 1:3-9

Galatians 5:16-26

6. Read James 1:22-25. What is the connection between obedience to God’s Word and spiritual growth? Relying on the Holy Spirit’s help, what step of obedience do you need to take in response?

SPIRITUAL GROWTH TEMPLATE

Mature Christians show these characteristics:

- Makes godly, biblical choices
- Able to share the basic gospel
- Emotionally and spiritually healthy
- Adequate knowledge of theologically sound biblical principles
- Self-feeds from the Word personally on a regular basis
- A person of high integrity and morality
- Financially wise
- Worships God privately and corporately
- Prays often
- Avoids following spiritual ‘fads’
- Can deal biblically with conflict
- Is a giver
- Faithfully committed to a local body
- Seeks godly fellowship and personal accountability
- Has a healthy self-concept and understands how God views them
- Able to minister and able to lead in some capacity
- Is hospitable
- Guards what they allow into their mind and heart

“The closer our walk with God, the more we will feel like ‘strangers and pilgrims’ here on earth (1 Pet 2:11, KJV). Our appetites begin to change; we evaluate our entertainment choices, our friendships, our habits, and our thought lives, asking, ‘Does this lift my heart up in praise to God or pull me down into worldliness?’ In growing as a new believer, we saturate our lives with worship, praise, prayer, Scripture, godly relationships, purity, and wholesome entertainment (see Phil 4:8).”

FROM GOTQUESTIONS.ORG

COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here’s a glimpse at what you need to know for this week. Like to plan ahead a little more? Pick up a copy of *The Source* at a stand around campus or near the exits, or visit www.ccbcfamily.org/events. They’re your source for everything going on at Christ Chapel.

TAKE YOUR NEXT STEP AND GROW. If you’re interested in ways to grow in your spiritual walk this year, text “CCBCGrow” to 555-888. We’ll send you a list of upcoming classes and opportunities.



CHECK OUT THE NEW CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH! If you’ve ever wished there was one place where you could find all the classes, seminars and leadership development opportunities Christ Chapel offers, we’ve got great news! The Center for Christian Growth (CCG) is Christ Chapel’s new home for all our educational and leadership development opportunities. We want to encourage and motivate you in your spiritual journey by making it as easy as possible to take the next step, so scan the QR code with your phone’s camera (or go to www.ccbcfamily.org/ccg) to visit the Center for Christian Growth now.

HOME GROUP “GROUP LINK” IS TODAY. Home groups of all shapes, sizes and ages gather across the city on almost every night of the week for community and Bible study. Sign up at www.ccbcfamily.org/homegroups, or come to Group Link at 4 p.m. in the Oak Room and be placed in a group today. You can RSVP at www.ccbcfamily.org/events.

REGISTER FOR “THE STORY OF SCRIPTURE” —IT STARTS THIS THURSDAY, JAN. 30. This week Dallas Theological Seminary is offering a new learning experience, “The Story of Scripture,” here at Christ Chapel! The mini-conference will teach you to see the threads that run throughout the Bible, Genesis to Revelation, and help you start to understand what God is doing and saying throughout the Old and New Testaments. Learn more and register at www.ccbcfamily.org/events.

ARTISTS, THIS THURSDAY, JAN. 30 IS THE FINAL DAY TO SUBMIT YOUR CREATIONS. Next month’s Art Reach gallery and weekend celebration won’t be complete without your work! If you are an artist of any age, submit something this week at www.ccbcfamily.org/artreach.

SIGN UP FOR CONNECTING POINT—IT STARTS NEXT SUNDAY, FEB. 2 AT 11 A.M. Are you new to the Christ Chapel community? At Connecting Point you’ll get to know others who are putting down roots at CCBC while learning all about our church and how we’re here to help strengthen your faith. Sign up at www.ccbcfamily.org/events.

“HABITS OF GRACE” CLASS STARTS NEXT SUNDAY, FEB. 2. Looking for a way to deepen your relationship with God? Starting next Sunday, Dr. Doug Cecil will be sharing what he’s learned in his own 47 years of knowing God. Growing and maintaining a relationship with God boils down to a few key concepts that he’ll teach you to add into your own life and relationship with God. The class will meet at 11 a.m. in Link Classroom South. For more information, visit www.ccbcfamily.org/events.