



"Home Group Reflection"

The Year in Review

May 20th-24th, 2018

Prayer:

Spend a few minutes thanking the Lord for both the “Side By Side” and the “Growing Together” studies we worked through in our home groups this year. Also take some time to thank the Lord for the body of Christ and for how He has used His people to help encourage your spiritual growth. Pray that He would continue to grow you in your love for His church and ask that He would give you an even greater desire to walk alongside others in the faith. Ask the Lord to use the time you and your group members have spent in each of these studies this year to bear much fruit and to have a long-lasting impact in the body of Christ both here at Living Grace and around the world.

Key Scripture:

Ephesians 4:1–16 – (English Standard Version)

1 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. 7 But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift. 8 Therefore it says,

*“When he ascended on high he led a host of captives,
and he gave gifts to men.”*

9 (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? 10 He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) 11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Summary:

1. Take a few moments to summarize the main ideas or themes that we discussed over the last five weeks in the “Growing Together” DVD series. What, if anything, from these sessions has added to, or deepened, your understanding of the “Side By Side” material?

Application:

1. What are a couple of important truths that have stood out to you from the “Growing Together” DVD study? What kind of difference have these truths made in your life?
2. What have been some specific challenges from the “Growing Together” study that the Holy Spirit has used to convict you of areas of sinfulness in your life? Describe how the Lord is using that conviction to bring about change in the way you are doing things.
3. In what ways has our current study led you to think differently about who Jesus Christ is and what your relationship with Him is like? How has it challenged you to think differently about your relationship with others in the body of Christ?
4. What will have to look different in your life if you are going to commit to applying the biblical concepts and ideas that each of the men put forward in the “Growing Together” sessions? What sort of impact might there be on the church body if we all committed to applying these truths?
5. Describe the ways you have been encouraged and had your faith strengthened by the “Side By Side” and “Growing Together” studies this year. Be specific about who or what you were encouraged by, how you were encouraged, and why it was such an encouragement.

6. How is your spiritual life different now from when the home group year began? In what ways have you seen God leading you to greater *worship*, deeper *growth*, and more sacrificial *service*?

7. What has your home group meant to you personally this year? How have you been challenged and/or stretched as a result of your home group involvement? Consider sharing this with your group.

8. Think about some of the specific things that your home group prayed for this year. In what ways have you seen God answer those prayers? Take time to thank God for listening and responding to these prayers from your group. Spend a few minutes as a group reflecting upon how you have seen God work through prayer this year.

Summer Reading Challenge

As we have done over the summer in years past, we've selected three great books for you to read over the break. In the spirit of walking side by side other followers of Christ, we strongly encourage you to read these books along with other members of your group (or other folks in the church) and then take the time to discuss them with one another. Our hope and prayer is that these books will encourage you, deepen your knowledge and understanding of Jesus Christ, and grow your love for Him and for His Word. You can either order them yourself (Click on each of the book titles to buy it from Amazon) or purchase them at the book table before or after the service on Sundays.

June: [Mere Christianity](#) by C.S. Lewis

July: [The Cross of Christ](#) by John Stott

August: [The Cost of Discipleship](#) by Dietrich Bonhoeffer