



MAIN IDEA

We need community if we want to experience the hope of Jesus.

STARTER

- What is the best TV series you have watched recently and what did you like about it?

READ

Compare and contrast [Ecclesiastes 4:8](#) with [Acts 2:42-48](#)

- What do these passages show you about the need for community in our life?
- What are the positive effects when we have community versus when we are alone and isolated?
- How has this season of COVID impacted your mental and relational health?

In Luke 19, Jesus sees someone who is isolated and pursues a personal relationship with Him that changes his life. Read [Luke 19:1-10](#) and discuss:

- What does this story show you about the way Jesus loves and pursues people?
- Who is your Zacchaeus? (Someone in your life that might be isolated that you could encourage to grow in relationship with Jesus)

APPLY

If we are going to build closer relationships during COVID, we need to be creative to encourage each other to grow.

- To that end, we want to encourage you to sign up for the Growth Challenge.
- Discuss the options on the next page for how you can use the challenge best in your group.
- Don't forget about the Zacchaeus' out there that you could invite to join you.

Spend time sharing prayer requests and praying for your mental and relational health.

THE GROWTH CHALLENGE FOR SMALL GROUPS

What is the Growth Challenge?

A 30-day challenge to help you connect intentionally with 1-2 friends and encourage each other to grow in mind, body, and spirit during this time of isolation.

Why start the challenge in your group?

COVID has been hard on our mental, physical, and relational health, and created challenges for how groups meet together. Many groups are not able to meet in person and zoom fatigue is real! We need to be creative in how we build community during this time and think “smaller” within our small groups to encourage each other to grow.

The growth challenge is chance to connect more intentionally with 1-2 friends and pursue greater mental, physical, and emotional health together. Think of it like a buddy system for the church to help us come out the other side of COVID stronger together.

How to use the Challenge to strengthen your small group?

Here are a few options to discuss what is best for your group:

1. Use part of your group time to meet in smaller groups of 2-3.

- This is a great option to stay connected as a larger group and provide more personal care in groups of 2-3.

2. Meet as growth partners outside of your small group time via zoom or in person.

- This is a great option if you already have a good rhythm with your group.

3. Have everyone in your group invite a friend to do the challenge.

- This is a great option if your group wants to reach out to others who might need encouragement.

4. Be creative and think outside the box!

How to sign up for the Growth Challenge?

1. Sign up individually for the Growth Challenge [here](#).

2. Share the link to invite 1-2 friends to join you.

3. When you sign up, **you will receive a Growth Challenge Guide** for the 30 days....and **be entered to win a free dinner out with your Growth Partners at the end of February!**

4. **Plan a time to make a plan with the Growth Challenge Guide to get started.** Once you meet to make your plan, your 30 day challenge begins!