**Life Group Study Guide: Loved what you heard on Sunday? Want to go deeper? The life group study guide will help you unpack what you heard on Sunday, while diving deeper into God's word.**

* When did you hit your “growth spurt?” Were you an early developer or a late bloomer? How did this affect your teenage years?

* Have you ever tried to grow anything? How did it go? What was difficult about the process?

**The gospel affirms our value not through our works and actions, but through the works and actions of Jesus Christ. When we live faithfully and obediently to Jesus and His gospel growth is inevitable. While our salvation is not dependent on our actions, our actions can aid or hinder our spiritual growth.  Like a tree planted by a river, spiritual growth is inevitable, but we must ask ourselves are we in the right conditions for growth?**

# **Start Digging Read: Matthew 13:1-9(ESV)**

### The Parable of the Sower

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. **2**And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. **3**And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. **4**And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. **5**Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, **6**but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. **7**Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. **8**Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. **9**He who has ears let him hear.”

* What thoughts, questions, or insights do you have after reading this passage?

* What does this passage say about growth? What is needed in order for growth to take place?

* What are modern day weeds, thorns, and birds that rob us of the growth God desires for us to have?

* On Sunday Pastor Steven revealed the keys to growth are to crucify the desires of the flesh and abide in Jesus. In relation to this parable of the sower, what does crucifying or putting to death look like? What does abiding look like?

* What areas of your life are rocky soil where God’s truth has yet to take root? What steps do you need to take to surrender this soil to God?

**Digging Deeper**

* How can the believer draw upon the resources of the Holy Spirit for guidance and victory over the flesh, as well as a loving, fruitful life in both the short term and over the long haul?

* What is one intentional step that you will commit to taking this week as a result of what you have learned from this study?

Gospel Growth

Wave Church SD | July 23, 2017

True freedom on this earth is only found through living faithfully and obediently to Jesus Christ.

**Galatians 5:16-25 (ESV)*16****But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.* ***17****For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.* ***18****But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.* ***19****Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality,* ***20****idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions,* ***21****envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.* ***22****But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,* ***23****gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.* ***24****And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.****25****If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit*.

* **Paul is contrasting the spirit (pneuma) and the flesh (sarx).**
* **When living in the flesh our best efforts are fruitless.**

# **Romans 7:15-20 (ESV) *15****For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.****16****Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good.****17****So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.****18****For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.****19****For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.****20****Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.*

The fruit of the spirit are markers of the faith filled life.

GOSPEL GROWTH IS…

* **Slow**

**James 2:2-4 (ESV)*2****Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,* ***3****for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.* ***4****And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*

* **Certain**

**Mark 4:26-29 (ESV)*26****And he said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground.* ***27****He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how.* ***28****The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear.* ***29****But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”*

* **Internal** 
  + **Mechanical vs Organic Growth**
* **Interconnected** 
  + **It is the fruit of the spirit not the fruits**

**HOW TO GROW**

* **Crucify**

**Galatians 5:24-25 (ESV)*24****And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.****25****If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit*.

* **Abide**

**John 15:4-5 (ESV*) 4****Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.* ***5****I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.*