

# GROWING STRONGER TOGETHER

## GROUP GUIDE

This guide is designed to help you experience deeper intimacy with Jesus and build meaningful, lasting relationships with others. Get together with friends or find a group by visiting [brookwoodchurch.org/groups](http://brookwoodchurch.org/groups). Let's grow stronger together!

Based on the Message:

### ***The Foundation of Community***

August 17, 2025

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## Check In

1. Which of the following words resonate with you most right now?  
Sad, Angry, Scared, Happy, Excited, Tender, Stuck  
*Why?*
2. What stood out to you from the devotional or the Bible this week?

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## Open

In the book *Generations*, Gene Twenge identifies the following generations:

- Silents: 1925-1945 (78+)
- Baby Boomers: 1946-1964 (59-77)
- Gen X: 1965-1979 (44-58)
- Millennials: 1980-1994 (29-43)
- Gen Z: 1995-2012 (11-28)
- Polars: 2013-2029 (under age 10)

1. What are the differences between these generations in terms of technology?
2. How did / do each of these generations experience community?
3. What's a good definition for *community*?

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## Pray

Spend a few minutes laying aside the cares of the day. Release them to God. Draw your attention to the One who knows you and cares about you far beyond what you can think or imagine.

A simple centering prayer: God, You are the source of all that is good and beautiful and right. We pray You'd fill us with more of Your life. Help us grow deeper in Your love. Restore our union with You. We pray You'd give us strength to endure, wisdom to choose what's right, and a hope that anchors our souls. Protect us from the evil one who seeks to steal, kill and destroy. Move us beyond only looking at our own needs, and fill us with a deep love for each other. May Brookwood become a community that's continually growing stronger together. Amen.

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## Study, Reflect and Discuss

### *Grow in God's Love*

#### **Ephesians 2:1-5 (NIV)**

<sup>2</sup> As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup> All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. <sup>4</sup> But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup> made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

1. What stands out to you in these passages?
2. What does it mean to be *dead in your transgressions and sins*?
3. How does Christ make us alive?

#### **Ephesians 3:14-19 (NIV)**

<sup>14</sup> For this reason I kneel before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. <sup>16</sup> I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

4. When are times you've felt truly loved by God?
5. How has God's love changed you?
6. What are practical ways to grow in experiencing God's love?

## ***Grow in God's Love for Others***

### **Ephesians 4:1-6 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup>As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. <sup>2</sup>Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. <sup>3</sup>Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup>There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; <sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup>one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

7. What does it mean to *live a life worthy of the calling which you have received*?
8. God's love (Ephesians 1-3) changes the way we relate with each other (Ephesians 4-6). According to this passage, what are characteristics of people who live in God's love?
9. Which one stands out to you? Why?
10. We all fall short in each of these areas. How can God's forgiveness change our community?

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## **Scripture Memory**

Memorizing Scripture enables you to carry the life-shaping words of God in you at all times and in all places. Here's a verse to store in your heart and mind based on this week's theme:

*eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

**Ephesians 4:3 (ESV)**

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## **Recommended Reading**

(on the Topic of Growing Stronger Together)

- *Community: The Structure of Belonging*, Peter Block
- *SoulTalk: The Language God Longs for Us to Speak*, Larry Crabb
- *Life Together in Christ: Experiencing Transformation in Community*, Ruth Haley Barton