

# GROWTHguide

## "A is for Accountability"

May 14, 2017



## THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Hebrews 10:24-25, Proverbs 27:17,  
2 Samuel 12:1-10, Galatians 6:1-2, John 21:1-17

### DAY 1

Think about a situation when you were going through a hard time. What helped you the most to get through it? Who was it that you remember being a lifeline in that situation? What did they do for you? Sometimes the best thing to do for someone who is hurting, is not to try to find the right words or offer advice, but just to share their pain and show that you are there for them - in whatever way they need you.

Ask yourself:

- Am I willing to **not** run away from another's pain?
- Will I be there when there is a need, even if I'm busy?
- Am I willing to stand in the middle of the turmoil, hurt and pain that someone else is experiencing?

**Pray and thank God for the people you can rely on in difficult times. Ask him to help you to share in the pain of others and be there for them.**

### DAY 2

#### Hebrews 10:24-25

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, instructed us to come together weekly as a body of Christ to hear the Scriptures taught, celebrate the sacraments and to reach

the world in the name of Jesus. We do this in our Sunday worship. He also said in order to truly gain the deepened meaning of "loving neighbor as one's self" we should come together during the week as a smaller group. Through that experience of really knowing one another, a sense of growth, holy conferencing and accountability can happen. Within this smaller group gathering we would have the courage to look one another in the eye and ask the question, **"How well is your soul?"** In that intimate gathering, real transformation would happen.

- When was the last time you shared the true state of your soul with someone?

**Pray and tell God what you are struggling with today. Share this struggle with someone you trust. If there is no one you trust to help you carry your burdens, ask God to help connect you with someone who can fill this role in your life.**

### **DAY 3**

#### **Proverbs 27:17**

"Accountability" means to come into the presence of God alongside one another and to establish a rooted relationship of holding one another to a code of holiness. Holding each other accountable is not about judging each other or "calling each other out." It's about trusting each other enough to share our pain and mistakes, and loving each other enough to help guide those who are faltering back to the Lord.

- Is there someone in your life that holds you accountable and helps you keep to the path? Are you that person for someone else?

### **DAY 4**

#### **2 Samuel 12:1-12 (MSG)**

Accountability to one another opens the heart to confessing our sins and to finding ourselves back on the path of restoration with God and one another. In 2 Samuel 11 and 12 we see the story of Nathan, who was sent by God to confront King David and hold him accountable for his sinful actions. Think about how much courage it must have taken for Nathan to risk confronting the King! If David chose not to hear him or not to be accountable, he could have had Nathan killed! Nathan cared about David so much he was willing to risk his own life to help draw David back to the Lord.

- Have you ever had to hold someone you love accountable for something or confront them? What was their reaction?
- Have you ever been convicted by someone you loved and trusted holding you accountable? What was your reaction?

**Pray and ask God to help you to see when you've made mistakes, and be strong enough to correct them. Ask him to help you guide those you care about when they are in need of direction or correction.**

## **DAY 5**

### **Galatians 6:1-2**

Think about all the faces you see every day...almost every person can identify a time in their life where they felt alone, afraid and unsure. Just like you have, they have felt isolated and paralyzed that if anyone knew what was really happening in their life they might become an outcast. Like Jesus met the Samaritan woman at the well, a Small Group is a way to meet people where they are, to listen to them, and to offer restoration to our brokenness.

- Have you ever felt like you would be judged or cast out if you told the truth about what was going on in your life?

- What would it mean to have a group of people you felt safe enough with to confess your sins or mistakes?
- Do you think a Small Group could offer that to you?

**If you feel that God is leading you toward being part of a Small Group, stop by the table in the courtyard next Sunday or contact the church office at 727-584-8165 during the week.**

## **DAY 6**

In his book, The Connecting Church, Randy Frazee writes, ***"The experience of authentic community is one of the purposes God intends to be fulfilled by the church. The writings of Scripture lead one to conclude that God intends the church, not to be one more bolt on the wheel of activity in our lives, but the very hub at the center of one's life."***

- What is at the center or the "hub" of your life?
- Where do you find community?

**Pray and ask God to help you place him and his church at the center of your life.**

## **DAY 7**

### **John 21:1-17**

After the crucifixion, and after denying his Lord, Peter lost hope, purpose, and a sense of direction for his life. When he needed direction, assurance, comfort and love, Peter huddled with a few of the other disciples, his support system or Small Group. Being with his covenantal brothers put him on the road to reconnecting his life and rekindling his fire. Within the presence of their group, and with Jesus, they experienced an overflow of hope, help to bear up under and escape temptation, inner strength, endurance and patience. In essence, they were provided everything they needed for life.

- Did you light a candle this Sunday, as a way to demonstrate your desire to relight your fire?
- What are you doing to help rekindle your fire?

**Pray and ask God to light a fire in you and lead you to the people who will help you keep that flame burning.**

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