

ENJOYING GOD

STEP THREE—The 3rd Step of the Growth Track

Enjoying God is all about helping us see who God really is. He's not mostly sad and mostly mad. He is the best! If we know who He really is, then we enjoy Him. He is the most enjoyable person to be with! Unfortunately, that isn't what most people think. Let's see Him for who He really is.

NOTES:

1. We enjoy God _____ and _____.
2. Performance leads to two things: _____ and _____.
3. Key Truth: Don't try harder, _____.
4. Our purpose is to glorify God by _____. The more we know God, the more we enjoy Him.
5. Enjoying God _____ you.
6. When you _____ God you become _____ Him.

How God Changes Us

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 ESV:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,

who comforts us in all our affliction,

so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

7. We cultivate a relationship with God daily, through prayer, studying His word, worship and applying His truth to our lives.
8. We are passionate to help others know and _____ God.

GROUP DISCUSSION

What's your story? Tell us a little about yourself.

How did you start coming to Grace?

When did you become a follower of Christ?

How does enjoying God affect your life?

THIS WEEK

The Enjoying God Challenge: Complete Chapters 1 - 5 in your book "Build Your Life." Do one chapter per day, reading/annotating the Bible verses and completing the Life Builders.

Pray for the members of your group this week.

The members in my small group are:

NAME(S)

CONTACT INFO (IF GIVEN)

GRACE

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Understanding the grace that God gives us, helps us to understand the depth of His love. Because of the grace we have received we can extend that same grace to others, which is also sets us free from bitterness and unforgiveness.

NOTES:

Key Truth: We get grace and we give grace.

People _____ in an environment of _____.

1. We receive and walk in God's lavish _____, not performance.

Ephesians 2:4-5 (NIV)

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

2. Because of the grace we have received, _____.

A. We _____, because we have been _____.

Ephesians 4:32 (NIV)

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

B. We have fun. We get _____. We _____ each other.

C. We invite people to _____ before they believe.

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What are your experiences with being in environments that are full of grace?
2. How have you shown grace to others recently?
3. Are there any areas of your life or relationships where it is challenging to be full of grace?
4. What would it look like for you to help create an environment of grace in your home, work, school, etc.?

THIS WEEK

The Grace Challenge: Complete Chapters 6 - 10 in your book “Build Your Life.” Do one chapter per day, reading/annotating the Bible verses and completing the Life Builders.

Pray for the members of your group this week.

Prayer Requests:

HEALTH

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Health is a vital core value because we want to be good stewards of what God has entrusted to us. Our spiritual, relational, physical, financial, and professional health are all areas of our lives that we want to use to honor God.

NOTES:

KEY TRUTH: At Grace Church, we focus on _____, not growth.

We want those _____ to respect us the most.

Set a _____ for each area of health.

5 Key Areas of Health:

1. _____ Health: We make sure our relationship with God is healthy and growing.

The foundation of our spiritual health is _____.

2. _____ Health: We prioritize key relationships in our lives.

3. _____ Health: Our bodies are God's property so we take care of them.

We take care of what we _____.

Getting adequate _____ is a matter of trusting God that your awake hours are sufficient to do all that He wants you to do.

Honoring the _____, taking a _____

- these are other vital forms of rest that allow our bodies to unwind, reflect, renew.

4. _____ Health: We are good stewards of God's resources, and we want to put God first.

We delight to be generous at Grace Church, because it reflects this truth that all we have is _____ God and _____ God.

5. _____ Health: We see our work as worship.

Health is not _____. It's the pursuit of being healthy, whole and sound.

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. HOMEWORK: Any thoughts from reflecting on Spiritual family?

FILL OUT HEALTH ASSESSMENT

For each area of health, what did you rate yourself and why? What is one thing or maybe two that you can do to strengthen yourself in this area over the next 3 months?

What one area would you like to make your main focus over the next 3 months? Where do you want to see God move the most? Why did you choose this area?

THIS WEEK

Chapters 11 - 15 of "Build Your Life" is the homework.

Pray for the members of your group this week.

SPIRITUAL FAMILY

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In spiritual family, we care for one another, do life together, and pursue God together.

NOTES:

Key Truth: We love our spiritual family!

1. We believe the church is a _____.

Ephesians 2:4-5 (NIV)

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

2. Spiritual family is _____.
3. Every person _____ spiritual family.
4. We _____ together.
5. We have a _____, not just ministry.
We reach people and build lives together.
6. We value _____.

A. We are most _____ when we are in a spiritual family and under spiritual authority.
7. We fill our relationship grid: we pursue _____,
_____, and _____.

8. We believe that your destiny is tied _____.

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. HOMEWORK LAST WEEK: What takeaways did you have from Health, chapters 11-15, in "Build Your Life"?
2. What has been your view of church in the past? Have you ever thought of the church as spiritual family before?
3. Do you feel that you are "planted" and "invested" in Grace's spiritual family?
4. Is there something specific (fear, past hurt, still new, too busy, etc.) that is keeping you from being more "planted" and "invested" at Grace? How can this obstacle to enjoying spiritual family be removed?
5. What is one thing (or more) that you feel God is calling you to do to help you become more "planted" and "invested" at Grace? What is a clear step for you?
6. Why do you think God wants us to honor and value spiritual authority? What does that look like?
7. Have you ever fallen into the thinking of "what can I get from the church" instead of "what can I give to my church family"?
8. Fill out your grid of relationships right now. What relationship gaps can we pray about together?

HOMEWORK FOR THE WEEK

1. Spend some time this week reflecting on what spiritual family means to you. Remember to complete Chapters 16-20 of "Build Your Life".
2. Read the Grace Church Membership Statement (ask your leader for a membership application). Have you become a member of Grace? If not, are you ready to make that commitment to join this spiritual family?

GENEROSITY

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NOTES:

Key Truth: We are blessed to be a blessing.

1. God is an _____ giver.
2. God calls us to a _____ of generosity.
3. God calls us to be generous with our _____, _____, and _____.
4. We are generous with our time and talents by prioritizing _____, _____, and _____.
5. We are generous with our treasure by investing in _____.
6. Our heart: We don't want something _____, we want something _____.
7. "Tithe" means "_____". Tithing is giving the first 10% of all of your income back to God as an act of worship.
8. An _____ is anything given over and above the tithe.

7 Reasons Why We Tithe

1. We tithe to _____ God.
2. We tithe to _____ God.
3. Tithing brings my heart _____.
God doesn't need your _____, he wants your _____.
Whenever you _____ and invest in his kingdom, your heart grows closer to him.

4. Tithing strengthens my _____.
5. Tithing reminds me that everything I have _____.
I'm a _____ of God's resources, not an owner.
6. Tithing gives God an _____ my finances.
7. Tithing is an investment in _____.
Earthly treasure is eventually destroyed, but _____ last forever.

Give with the right attitudes:

We joyfully give the first of all of our increase back to God.

1. Give _____ and _____.
2. Give _____.
3. Give _____.

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. HOMEWORK: What stood out to you from Spiritual Family in "Build Your Life"?
2. Is there an area of your life where you feel like God is calling you to greater generosity? What is it? What is a practical step you can take this week to be more generous in that area?
3. Tell the group about a time when you gave sacrificially. This include your time, talent, or treasure. How did this act of sacrificial giving affect you?
4. Have you made a decision in your life to honor God financially by tithing? If not, are you open to praying about this and asking God to speak to you in this area?
5. Was there anything that stood out to you during the teaching tonight? If so, can you share with the group?

HOMEWORK FOR THE WEEK

1. Please take the spiritual gifts assessment: giftstest.com and bring your results next week. Or bring your results from Step Two.
2. Spend some time this week reflecting on how God has been generous to you. Complete Chapters 21-25 in "Build Your Life."
3. Pray for the members of your group this week.

DEVELOPMENT

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NOTES:

Developing Ourselves

1. God wants to continue to grow you and develop you _____

2. We intentionally develop _____ and _____.
3. We seek _____ to develop daily.
4. We have _____.
5. We are easily _____ and _____. We are life-long learners.
6. We love to ask 'What would you do if _____?'
7. We _____ who we are.

Developing Others

8. We _____ more for others than they _____ for themselves.
9. We do for others what was done for _____.
10. We _____ people and _____ them into their calling.
11. We have our heads up _____ for people who wants us to develop.
12. Final thought: _____ to fill out your own grid
of relationships for the rest of your life.

Paul

Barnabas

Timothy

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. HOMEWORK: SPIRITUAL GIFT ASSESSMENT: <https://giftstest.com/> or Step Two. What are your gifts?
2. HOMEWORK: What spoke to you in Chapters 21-25 in “Build Your Life”?
3. How do you seek God to develop you daily? What does your devotional life look like? Do you think our devotional life affects how we can disciple and mentor other?
4. Who are some Paul’s (mentors) in your life? Can you identify one or two people who are pouring into your life right now? Explain a bit about your relationship with them and how they have impacted your life.
5. If you don’t have a Paul-type mentor in your life, why not? How can you get one? What practical step do you need to take?
6. Is it intimidating to think of developing or pouring yourself into someone else? Why or why not? What strategy do you use to develop yourself and others? If you don’t have a strategy, what guidance, if any, can the Grace Church Leadership Development Process offer your personal process?
7. Take a few minutes and complete your “Grid of Relationships” again.
8. What are the next steps God is calling you to take in this area of development How can you build and initiate and grow these relationships over the next few months? How can you use your Spiritual Gifts?
9. After spending six weeks together do you feel that God has grown you from when you first started this series?

PRAY TOGETHER

Share prayer requests you have with your group. Take time to pray for each other. Pray that God would provide Pauls, Barnabases, and Timothys for everyone. Pray that God would help each person pour themselves into someone else, and as they do, that they would encounter God at a deeper level.

HOMEWORK FOR THE WEEK

1. Pray about your next step at Grace Church. Is God calling you to lead a small group or join the Dream Team.
2. Finish chapters 26-30 in “Build Your Life.”
3. Reach out to your small group leader in the next week or two to talk with them about your next steps at Grace and what you feel God is calling you to.