



RIDGEPOINT CHURCH • GROW GROUPS GUIDE

Up In Out

WEEK 2

Created to Be Face to Face

2 CORINTHIANS 3:17–18

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LEADER PREPARATION

Thank you for being willing to lead your Grow Group. A couple of reminders:

- Make sure to encourage everyone to share.
- Remind about kid care.
- See about taking off for Thanksgiving week.

Opening (10 min)**OPENING QUESTION**

Think of a moment when you felt truly “seen” by someone — fully present, face to face. What made that moment stick with you?

OPENING PICTURE — OVERVIEW

Last week we looked at UP — our relationship with God. This week Pastor Andy focused on IN: we were created to be face to face, both with God and with each other. He opened with a picture of a smiling baby to show that we are wired from birth for face-to-face connection — our facial muscles and “mirror neurons” activate through interaction with the people who look at us. Walking through 2 John 1:12, Numbers 6:24–26, Psalm 16:11, 1 Corinthians 13:12, and 2 Corinthians 3:17–18, he showed that we were created to be face to face with each other, face to face with God, and face to face with God together with each other. That conviction is exactly why Ridgepoint is launching Grow Groups: “Church can’t just happen in rows — we need circles.”



UP • 20 MIN

A Daily Relationship with God

Face to Face with God

BIG IDEA

We were created to know God face to face. The Hebrew word *panim* (“face”) speaks of God’s presence and attention, not a literal, visible face. Though we cannot fully see God this side of heaven, He turns His face toward us and invites us into an ongoing, transforming relationship — one where we are increasingly changed as we behold Him.

SCRIPTURE AT THE CENTER**Numbers 6:24–26**

“The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.”

This priestly blessing pictures God actively turning His attention and favor toward His people. He is not distant — He is present, and His face is turned toward us.

Psalm 16:11

“You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”

The Hebrew word translated “presence” here is *panim* — the same word for “face.” Full joy is found in God’s manifest presence, not merely in knowing He exists somewhere far off.

1 Corinthians 13:12

"For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face."

This side of heaven, our view of God is real but partial — like a dim reflection. One day that glimpse will become complete, unveiled sight.

2 Corinthians 3:17–18

"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another."

Because of Jesus, the veil that separated us from God's presence has been removed. As we behold Him — together, not alone — the Spirit transforms us to look more and more like Him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ◆ Pastor Andy said, *"joy is a relational emotion ... you can be happy all by yourself, but joy needs another person."* How does that distinction land with you when it comes to your relationship with God?
- ◆ Which of this week's scriptures — Numbers 6, Psalm 16, 1 Corinthians 13, or 2 Corinthians 3 — most describes where you currently are with God? Why?
- ◆ What practices help you actually slow down and sense God's presence, rather than just checking a spiritual box?
- ◆ Where do you find it hardest to believe that God's face is truly turned toward you with grace rather than judgment?



IN • 15 MIN

A Shared Life Together

Why This Matters to Our Community

WHY THIS MATTERS

God wired us from birth for face-to-face connection — our facial muscles and "mirror neurons" activate through interaction almost before anything else does. Scripture affirms it: John says his joy is only complete when he is face to face with fellow believers (2 John 1:12), not just exchanging letters. Yet reported loneliness has doubled in the last 50 years, and time spent with friends has dropped 20 hours a month over the last two decades.

Technology — texting, social media, even AI — can be a helpful tool, but it was never meant to replace face-to-face community. As Pastor Andy put it, *"AI is a fantastic tool but a terrible companion."*

GROWING TOGETHER

Our Grow Group exists to be one of the places where ordinary, face-to-face life happens — the "sitting at home and walking along the road" moments of everyday faith. That means actually looking at each other, not just occupying the same room; making space to hear and be heard; and treating this group as a real source of support, not just a weekly meeting. As Pastor Andy said, *"We believe church can't just happen in rows — we need circles."*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ◆ Has technology made it easier or harder for you to build real, face-to-face community lately? What's one specific example?
- ◆ Pastor Andy noted that loneliness has doubled in the last 50 years and nearly half of parents describe their stress as "completely overwhelming." Where do you see that reality in your own life, family, or neighborhood?
- ◆ What would it look like for this group to become a place where you are truly known face to face — not just present, but seen?
- ◆ Is there someone in your life right now who needs an invitation into face-to-face community rather than another text or DM?



OUT • 10 MIN

An Outward-Focused Faith*Living It Out — Application*

APPLICATION

This week, choose one concrete way to practice face-to-face presence: put your phone away during a meal, have a real conversation instead of texting, or invite someone who has been isolated to sit down with you.

Also take a next step with Grow Groups. If you are not yet plugged into one — or you know someone who is lonely or overwhelmed — invite them to join a circle rather than just occupying a row.

TIME TO FOCUS ON GROUP PROJECT — LIVING IT OUT

Community formed only for itself eventually turns inward. As your group continues building trust and life together, now is a good time to begin looking outward together as well.

Before your next meeting, spend a few minutes individually browsing Ridgepoint's vetted list of local ministries and service opportunities at ridgepointwichita.com/out. Come to Week 5 with one or two options that caught your attention and a brief sense of why.

You don't need to make a decision yet — just start paying attention to what rises to the surface for you personally. Next week, you'll discern and decide together.

CLOSING PRAYER

Close your time together by inviting the group to share prayer requests. Then lead the group in prayer, drawing from these prompts from today's sermon:

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Pray that our group would grow into a place where people are truly known face to face — not just present, but seen.
- Pray for those in our group — or in our lives — who feel lonely, stuck, or overwhelmed, that they would experience real, face-to-face care from God's people.
- Pray that we would spend more time beholding Jesus together — and less time settling for distant versions of faith and relationship.
- Pray the blessing of Numbers 6 over one another: *"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace."*



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