

Grow Together

Who We Are: Week 1 — “Listen and Share”

I. Check-In

Under 2 mins per person

A check-in helps the group build connection, honesty, and relational awareness.

- A personal life update
- Current spiritual condition
- Challenges or victories
- Reflect on your emotions with emotional language
- Finish by stating: “I’m in!”

II. Weekly Sermon Discussion

20–30 minutes

Engage with one another by reflecting and sharing what our Church is learning together. Read the Scripture and discuss what stood out to you. Example insights and questions are provided to help generate discussion if needed.

You Were Designed for Groups

Read: *Genesis 2:18, Romans 7:15–19*

From the very beginning, God said it is not good for us to be alone — and He made us for relationship. Some of us avoid groups because we isolate ourselves, some because we’re intimidated, and some because we simply think we don’t need one. But the truth doesn’t change based on how we feel about it: we were designed for groups, and groups were designed for us. Paul’s honest wrestling in Romans 7 shows us the ongoing struggle of trying to do the right thing on our own — a struggle groups can help us navigate together.

- God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone” (Genesis 2:18). Why do you think isolation is something God specifically calls “not good”?
- Which excuse do you relate to most: feeling intimidated, feeling like you have nothing to offer, feeling like it’s not worth your time, or feeling like you don’t need it?
- Read Romans 7:15–19. Where do you see this same tension — wanting to do good but struggling to follow through — in your own life?
- Who do you currently have around you? Who is your “no” person — someone who offers you a perspective you don’t naturally see?
- Does your current circle have what it takes to help you grow as a Christian? Why or why not?

A Space to Listen

Read: *Matthew 16:21–23, Acts 2:14*

Peter’s small group — which included Jesus Himself — gave him a space to listen. In Matthew 16, Peter was confident he was right, but what he needed was an outside perspective that could correct him. Oftentimes, what offends us most is exactly what offers us the best opportunity to grow. Peter also received years of

encouragement from Jesus that prepared him to stand up boldly in Acts 2. A healthy group gives us both correction and encouragement — the kind of listening that shapes us over time.

Matthew 16:23 (NLT) *"You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God's."*

- Why do you think Peter was so confident he was right, even when he was wrong?
- Can you think of a time someone in your life told you something you didn't want to hear, but you needed to hear it? How did you respond?
- "Oftentimes, what offends you the most is what offers you the best opportunity to grow." Do you agree? Why is that so hard to sit with?
- Peter's confidence in Acts 2 was built on years of Jesus' encouragement. Who has spoken encouragement over you that helped you grow in confidence?
- Where in your life right now do you need to be listening more than speaking?

A Space to Speak

Read: 1 Timothy 4:14–16

Timothy felt inadequate — like he couldn't walk in the call God had given him. Paul reminded him not to neglect the gift he had, but to use it. Many of us hold back in groups because we don't think we know enough, we don't want to be a bother, or we're too worried about what others think. But we all have something worth sharing — whether that's asking honest questions, offering our perspective, or simply testifying to what God has done in our lives.

1 Timothy 4:14 (ESV) *"Do not neglect the gift you have..."*

- What holds you back from speaking up in a group — feeling unqualified, not wanting to be a bother, or worrying about others' opinions?
- Paul told Timothy not to neglect his gift. What has God given you that you've been hesitant to use?
- What would it look like to "trust others" by admitting you don't have it all figured out?
- If you trusted God enough to change your life, can you trust Him enough to speak up when He gives you a chance to testify about it?
- What is one story of what God has done in your life that this group needs to hear?

III. Share & Prayer

20–30 minutes

Time to "take off the mask!" Jesus doesn't want us to be hypocrites who wear masks.

- What's really going on in your life? How are you doing? How can your group pray for you?
- Where are you tempted to isolate yourself instead of letting a group listen to and speak into your life?
- Is there an application from today's discussion — listening better, or speaking up more — that you need prayer and accountability to follow through on?
- How can your group support you this week?
- Have someone, or everyone, close your time out in prayer for one another.

Remember: *You were designed for groups, and groups were designed for you.*