



Session 1: Growing in Christlikeness

Discussion opener (5 mins)

- How do you know if you are growing as a Christian?

Becoming More like Christ (20 mins)

Watch video: <https://youtu.be/We0MiholfbM> (Up to 5:55)

- Which comments most spoke to you? Why?
- Read the following verses. What do they say about becoming more like Christ?
 - Romans 8:28-9
 - 2 Corinthians 3:18
 - 1 John 3:2
- Why do you think it is important that we seek to become more like Christ?

“Why is it that our evangelistic efforts are often fraught with failure? One reason is that we don’t look like the Christ we proclaim.” (John Stott)

- How true do you think this quote is – for others? for you?
- How do you feel about this?

How do we become more like Christ? (20 mins)

Watch video: <https://youtu.be/We0MiholfbM> (5:55 - 10:26)

- In the video it talked about the need to cultivate good soil if a tree is to grow well. How can we do this so that the fruit of the Spirit can grow well in us? What is our part? What is God’s part?
- Dave in his sermon talked about 4 things we can do to ‘cultivate the right soil’ for God to pour his transforming Spirit into us.
 - Soak ourselves in **Scripture** (Colossians 3:16 ‘Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly)
 - Develop **Daily Rhythms** of being with to God (Mark 1:35 ‘Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up...and went off to a solitary place to pray)
 - Spur one another on, and be vulnerable together in **community** (Hebrews 10:24 ‘Let us consider how we may spur one another on to love and good deeds’)
 - Making active choices to **imitate Jesus** and think **WWJD** – What would Jesus do? (1 Corinthians 11:1 ‘Be imitators of me [Paul] as I am also of Christ’)
- Discuss the above 4 things. Which do you find easy? Hard? How could you as a life group encourage each other to be more vulnerable with each other and ‘spur one another on’ more and more in these things?

Read Galatians 5:22-23

- Look at the list of fruit of the Spirit that we’re going to look at one by one next week.
 - Which ones do you think are growing well in you at the moment?
 - Which ones do you need to ask God, by his grace, to grow in you more?

Response (15 mins)

Take time to be still before God and ask Him to show you which fruit he particularly wants to grow in you in this season. You might like to share that with others in your group so that they can pray for you in the coming weeks.

Commit to praying that God would grow this particular fruit in you more, each day over the next few weeks.

Finish by saying the prayer of John Stott together – and then commit to saying it every day this week:

Heavenly Father, I pray that this day I may live in your presence and please you more and more.

Lord Jesus, I prayer that this day I may take up my cross and follow you

Holy Spirit, I pray that this day you will fill me with yourself and cause your fruit to ripen in my life: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Amen.

EXTRA:

Dave in his sermon talked about 2 questions he was posed in his ‘coaching’ earlier this year.

You might like to take time to reflect on these on your own... and maybe even find someone to share your reflections with and pray it through with you.

1) In 10/20/30 years’ time... what is the story you want people to tell of Your relationship with

- God?
- Your spouse?
- Your children?
- Your wider family and friends?

What do you want them to say about you? And therefore, what do you need to do differently now, in order for that story to be told in the future?

2) What are your top 3 ‘life values’?

Prayerfully consider which values God wants you to most hold onto, and pray each day that he will enable you to live those out.