

# GROWING STRONGER TOGETHER

## GROUP GUIDE

This guide is designed to help you experience deeper intimacy with Jesus and build meaningful, lasting relationships with others. Get together with friends or find a group by visiting [brookwoodchurch.org/groups](http://brookwoodchurch.org/groups). Let's grow stronger together!

Based on the Message:

### ***Blessing Others***

September 7, 2025

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### Check In

- Which of the following words resonate with you most right now?  
Sad, Angry, Scared, Happy, Excited, Tender, Stuck  
*Why?*
- What stood out to you from the devotional or the Bible this week?

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### Open

- What makes a team successful?
- Who do you know that changes the environment in a positive way when they walk into a room?

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### Pray

Spend a few minutes releasing your cares and worries to God. Draw your attention to the One who knows you and cares about you far beyond what you can think or imagine.

A simple centering prayer: God, You are the source of all that is good and beautiful and right. We pray You'd fill us with more of Your life. Help us grow deeper in Your love. Restore our union with You. We pray You'd give us strength to endure, wisdom to choose what's right, and a hope that anchors our souls. Protect us from the evil one who seeks to steal, kill and destroy. Move us beyond only looking at our own needs, and fill us with a deep love for each other. May Brookwood become a community that's continually growing stronger together. Amen.

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## Study, Reflect and Discuss

### Philippians 1:27-29 (NIV)

<sup>27</sup> Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel <sup>28</sup> without being

frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. <sup>29</sup> For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for Him.

1. According to this passage, what does it look like to live a life *in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ*?
2. *Standing firm* is a military metaphor, like a soldier holding the line.
  - a. When have you chosen to fight for unity?
  - b. When have you felt like giving up?
3. *Striving together* is like a sports team working in harmony.
  - a. How have you contributed to the unity of a team, organization or your family?
  - b. When has God used someone else to help you grow (calling the best out in you)?
4. Share a story when someone loved you during a time you were difficult to love. What impact did that have on you?
5. What opposition do we face as we strive for unity in the church? Share some examples.
6. What does it look like to suffer for Christ?  
For further insight, read these passages and jot down some notes:
  - a. Romans 8:17-18
  - b. Matthew 5:10
  - c. John 15:18
  - d. 2 Timothy 3:12
7. Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-7. How can suffering develop unity? Describe a time you've seen or experienced this.

*Every now and then, a person with no agenda, no ulterior motive and no self-interest will take pleasure in helping you succeed, grow and live your purpose. This person will operate in love, will seek no praise and will want nothing in return. This person is a gift.*

Craig Harper

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## Closing Prayer and Personal Reflection

Choose either or both of these as you seek to live in unity with the people closest to you.

1. This one is for personal reflection: Is there someone you're struggling to love right now? Pause in prayer and ask God to remind you of His love for you. Then ask Him to help you love that person the way He has loved you.
2. Ask the people in your group to think of someone they care about. Have each person pray a simple prayer for that person.

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## Scripture Memory

Memorizing Scripture enables you to carry the life-shaping words of God in you at all times and in all places. Here's a verse to store in your heart and mind based on this week's theme:

*Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel...*

**Philippians 1:27 (NIV)**

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## Recommended Reading

(on the Topic of Growing Stronger Together)

- *Community: The Structure of Belonging*, Peter Block
- *SoulTalk: The Language God Longs for Us to Speak*, Larry Crabb
- *Life Together in Christ: Experiencing Transformation in Community*, Ruth Haley Barton