

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. Let's grow stronger together!

Based on the Message:

God's Call to Maturity

September 21, 2025

Connect

- Name 5-10 activities you can do right now that will be 10x more valuable than scrolling.
- If you were to help someone understand spiritual maturity, what story would you tell?

*Come as you are, but
let's not stay the same.*

Phil Strout

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.

Study, Reflect and Discuss

1 John 2:12-17 (NIV)

¹² I am writing to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of His name.	I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the Word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.
¹³ I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who is from the beginning.	
I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one.	¹⁵ Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. ¹⁶ For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷ The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.
¹⁴ I write to you, dear children, because you know the Father.	
I write to you, fathers, because you know Him who is from the beginning.	

1. Why do you think the writer, the apostle John, separates children, young men and fathers? In other words, why didn't he simply group them together? What do you see in the text that makes you think that?
2. Do you think children-young men-fathers has to do more with age or level of spiritual maturity? Why?
3. If this passage is about growing in maturity, from children to young men to fathers, how would you describe the progression?
4. How can children, young men and fathers help each other grow?
5. How does this passage apply to women? If there are women in your group, make sure to have them respond first!
6. What questions have you been asking that are helping you grow?
7. How have you helped others grow spiritually?
8. When has your desire for spiritual growth fallen apart or become cold?
9. Do you see spiritual maturity more as a journey or a destination? How does this help or hinder your intimacy with God?

10. John names several characteristics of what it looks like to be spiritually mature. Which one or two stand out to you as areas in which you'd like to grow, and what are a couple steps you can take to move in the right direction?
11. Read vs. 15-17 and finish this sentence: Spiritually mature people are those who...
12. What do you learn about spiritual maturity from these passages? It might be helpful to give the group a few minutes for silent/personal reflection, then regroup and discuss together.
 - a. 1 Chronicles 12:23-32
 - b. Proverbs 15:31-33
 - c. 1 Corinthians 13:11-12
 - d. Acts 17:11-12
 - e. Colossians 2:6-8

Close in Prayer

God carefully and caringly weaves the details of our lives to make us new. Pause and ask God what He wants you to focus on from this week's lesson. Thank Him for ways He's changed you and for His commitment to never let you go.

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:

I am writing to you who are God's children because your sins have been forgiven through Jesus.

1 John 2:12 (NLT)

Recommended Reading

- *Knowing God*, J.I. Packer
- *Gentle and Lowly*, Dane Ortlund
- *The Pursuit of Holiness*, Jerry Bridges
- *The Hole in our Holiness*, Kevin DeYoung
- *The Critical Journey: Stages in the Life of Faith*, Janet Hagberg and Robert A Guelich