



**Reference:** 2 Timothy 2:1-2

**Study Guide #4**

**October 2, 2016**

***"This Is Who We Are: We Will Grow in Groups"***

## **ICE BREAKER**

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What can you do today, that you were unable to do in the past? What is an area of your life where you have seen significant growth (i.e., a sport, hobby, job skill, musical instrument etc.)? What did you do in order to grow in that area?

## **QUESTIONS**

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- 1) Do you remember Salem's Purpose and Mission and which verses are associated with them? See how much you can quote from memory and share how you have begun to apply these verses recently.
  - a. Purpose:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Mission
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. Application
  
- 2) Today's focus is on "Growing in Groups," the second step in discipleship. What kinds of Small Groups have you observed or participated in that were new to you and helped you grow in your relationship with the Lord?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) In a recent church survey it was found that almost 2/3 of those who responded were either stagnant or slipping backwards. How do these verses contrast that experience with what the Scriptures tell us?
  - a. 2 Peter 3:18a
  - b. Ephesians 4:15b
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4) There are three environments where growth happens. What is the positive aspect of each environment? Which environment is the most helpful for growth as a disciple after he or she has begun to connect with God and why?



- a. Worship in Rows
  - b. Classes behind Desks
  - c. Groups in Circles
  - d. Most helpful environment
- 5) Growing in our faith and trust in Christ is more important than just knowing more about Him. Read 2 Timothy 2:1 -2. When Paul writes, “be strengthened” it means, “keep being strengthened.”
- a. Name the source of the strength to grow. (Vs 1)
  - b. How does this strengthening and growing in the faith take place? (Vs. 2)
- 6) If you have been part of a Small Group for a while, share about a time when you had a positive experience as a result of supporting others or being supported by those in the group.
- 7) Small Groups are “Less about me and more about we.” Read the following Scriptures to discover the consequences of being in a Small Group.
- a. Hebrews 10:24
  - b. Galatians 6:2
  - c. John 13:35
- 8) Rick Warren writes that there are four essential ingredients to a Small Group. How do you think these ingredients play an important role in growing as a disciple?
- a. A Better Understanding of the Bible
  - b. A Spiritual Family Environment
  - c. A Greater Intimacy with God
  - d. An Opportunity to Love Others
- 9) Though we don’t know what the future holds, we know who holds the future: Jesus Christ. Christians around the world face major challenges and those challenges may come to us some day. How does being a part of a Small Group help us make disciples that will continue to be strengthened if Christians are marginalized or persecuted in the future?