

GROW Lesson 6: With All Your Heart



Q: How is everyone doing with the class assignment? Have you gotten connected to a ministry where God is using your spiritual gifts to benefit His Church? God offers to give our lives purpose as we die to ourselves and live for Him (Col. 3:1-14). It's not just what we can do for God and others, but also for what it does for our own spirit. Please, please, please encourage all of your group members to get connected to serving God.

Q: Anyone want to share the memory verse? 1 Peter 4:10 - *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."* Be sure to set the example. Encourage others to continue developing this as a habit. Psalm 119:11 says, *"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."* It is a practical exercise for daily Christian living!

Q: What are your greatest goals in life right now? What are your highest priorities? Look again at **Colossians 3:23**. What are you working at with all your heart? Is it something that you will be proud of at the end of your life or when you stand before God? Our time here on this earth is limited and it is precious. We have been given a mission and it has a deadline - literally!

Q: How do we decide which goals are worth our time, which ones are most important? Consider **Proverbs 16:3** and **verse 9**. God's plans for our lives are better than our plans. If we start with God at the center of our lives and our will, He will show to us what His plans are. It takes humility, sacrifice, and trust, but it is a life of joy and great reward! What we do for ourselves may last for a lifetime, but what we do for God will last for eternity.

Q: Can you think of a time when you waited on making a decision with the hopes that it would benefit you farther down the road? How did you feel about delaying your gratification? Read the following verses: **Matthew 6:33, 16:24-26;** and **1 Corinthians 2:9**. Delayed gratification promises a greater reward later for sacrifices and discipline exercised now. It's not easy, and the reward isn't a guarantee, either. We are placing our trust and hope in something that could be well worth the effort. When we make sacrifices for God, He views it as "a fragrant offering."

Q: What is the hardest thing that you've ever accomplished? How did you feel about it after you achieved your goal? Doing things that are difficult can stretch us to achieve goals that we never thought we could. As we reach our goals, we can set new goals to do even greater things! More importantly, we can trust God to do much greater things than we could ever do on our own - if we are doing them for the glory of God. Read the verse after our memory verse: **1 Peter 4:11**. We give our very best to God so that He might be glorified through our lives.

Q: How does working for the Lord look different than working for men? Does this apply to our job at work or something else? (Refer to Col. 3:23) It applies to any situation where we seek to do something where someone is in authority over us. God is our highest authority. This doesn't mean that we disrespect our supervisor - it means we work even harder for them. When we show them our commitment to them it is a reflection of how committed God is to them. A stellar work ethic can open a door for us to share just how much we are amazed by God, blessed by God, and passionate about Him.

This applies at work, in our family, and when we serve any human authority. Paul even applies this principle to those living in slavery (see Ephesians 6:5-6)!

Q: If you could choose to do anything you wanted with your life, what would you do? Each person may have a different answer and there isn't a right answer that we are looking for, but it is the motive behind the desire that reveals what we are really living for. Read **1 Corinthians 10:23-33**. God gives us passions and abilities to enjoy, but also with the purpose to channel them in a direction to bear fruit for His glory and kingdom (and the benefit of those who need to be saved). If Jesus is Lord of our life, then He will be a part of the equation of what we plan to do with our lives.

Q: In what ways have we allowed our hearts to become desensitized to our sin? The culture around us can steer our hearts through media (posters, images, commercials, commonly accepted behavior, catch phrases, mainstream TV, etc.). It can happen without us even knowing. It happens over years, slowly, so that we don't notice the subtle changes. Abortion is normalized; euthanasia is an option; divorce is commonplace; racism is still a problem; the government becomes an enemy; law enforcement is seen as the problem; support becomes entitlement and a right. On a personal level, we compare our sin to those around us to make ourselves feel better. It's not about how we stack up to the rest of the world, but how we stack up to the example of Christ. Only He is perfect. Only He is holy. Everyone else is destined to perish. **Ephesians 6:11** points out that Satan is scheming against you. If you aren't paying attention, then you may stumble and fall!

Q: Is there anything or anyone holding you back from giving God your whole heart? What would it take to remove all of the obstacles that prevent you from giving your best to God? Fear, doubt, trust, comfort, and apathy can all hinder us or distract us from living a fully-devoted life for God. We may need to do some pruning in our life to get rid of habits or people that hold us back. Let's be ruthless about keeping our focus on God and not letting anything get in the way! Consider the words of Paul in **1 Corinthians 9:24-27**.

Q: If you sense that your heart isn't fully committed to God right now, why not change that today? Take time to pray that God would help you to fully devote your heart and your life to Him right now! It would be great if everyone would pray this together. If someone is really moved by this prayer, be sure to listen and follow up what the Spirit is doing in their life. We want to be a church that serves God with the right people in the right places for the right reasons, and with all our hearts.

Wrap-up on the Class Assignment: If you haven't gotten connected to a ministry to serve in yet, please share any plans that you have with your group. Help one another to connect to a ministry if help is needed! Together we grow into the image of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-13).

Memory Verse Final Review:

1 Peter 4:10 - *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."*

PRAYER REQUESTS: