

Community Series

How We Help Each Other Grow

For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

Romans 8:29 (NLT)

So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NLT)

By Affirming each other's Worth.

- **With Acceptance.**

Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory.

Romans 15:7 (NLT)

- **With Attention.**

Right now, therefore, every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all, starting with the people closest to us in the community of faith.

Galatian 6:10 (MSG)

- **With Affection.**

Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.

Romans 12:10 (NLT)

By Praying for each other's Growth.

Epaphras, a member of your own fellowship and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends you his greetings. He always prays earnestly for you, asking God to make you strong and perfect, fully confident that you are following the whole will of God.

Colossians 4:12 (NLT)

And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully.

Ephesians 3:18-19a (NLT)

I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him.

Romans 15:13a (NLT)

...asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God.

Ephesians 1:17 (NLT)

May the Lord lead your hearts into a full understanding and expression of the love of God and the patient endurance that comes from Christ.

2 Thessalonians 3:5 (NLT)

I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit.

Ephesians 3:16 (NLT)

May our dependably steady and warmly personal God develop maturity in you so that you get along with each other as well as Jesus gets along with us all.

Romans 15:5 (MSG)

By admitting our own mistakes.

So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body.

Ephesians 4:25 (NLT)

Benefits of Honesty:

- **Emotional Healing**

Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

James 5:16a (NLT)

• **A Fresh Start**

*You can't whitewash your sins and get by with it;
you find mercy by admitting and leaving them.*

Proverbs 28:13 (MSG)

• **Deeper Fellowship**

But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.

1 John 1:7 (NLT)

By **encouraging** each other's **commitment**.

Do not waste time arguing over godless ideas and old wives' tales. Instead, train yourself to be godly.

1 Timothy 4:7 (NLT)

When we get together, I want to encourage you in your faith, but I also want to be encouraged by yours.

Romans 1:12 (NLT)

So What?

1. Commit to **love** Jesus Christ.
2. Commit to **love** other believers.
3. Commit to **grow** in God's Word.
4. Commit to **servin**g in ministry.
5. Commit to **sharing** the Good News.

Growth Group Questions

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. What is the most significant group of people, outside of family, that you have been a part of? (neighborhood kids, high school friends, a sports team, college roommates, etc?)

Why were these relationships so important to you?

2. When were you an outsider? You felt you didn't belong in a group of others. What did you do about the situation?

3. Was it easy or hard to make the decision to join a growth group? What helped you decided to commit?

4. Whose Spiritual growth are you praying for right now?

Which verse specifically from the verses listed on the other side of the outline notes? Why?

5. Re-read Romans 1:12. How has your faith been encouraged by other believers? Name someone who has helped your faith grow?

Who is someone you are helping to grow in their faith?

6. Re-read Ephesians 4:25. Do you struggle with authenticity? Why or Why not? How can you be more authentic here?

7. Which of the SO WHAT? 5 commitments do you struggle with the most? Which comes easiest for you? How do you want to improve in your walk with God and others at Oak Tree?