

Small Group Study Week 1: "Embracing More Through Spiritual Growth"

Introduction:

- **Theme:** Understanding and pursuing the "more" in our spiritual lives as intended by God.
- **Objective:** To explore practical steps towards spiritual growth and closeness with God.

Opening Prayer:

- Pray for openness to God's guidance and for the Holy Spirit to illuminate the Word.

Scripture Reading:

- **John 10:10** - "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."
 - Discuss what "life to the full" means in the context of our daily lives.

Key Points from the Sermon:

1. Made for More Than Sin and Suffering:

- **Scripture:** Genesis 3:17-19 (The fall and its consequences)
- **Discussion:** How does this passage reflect our current world? What does Jesus offer as a contrast?

2. The Pursuit of "More":

- **Scripture:** Psalm 46:10 - "Be still, and know that I am God."
- **Activity:** Spend a few minutes in silence, reflecting on knowing God. What does stillness bring to our spiritual growth?

3. Steps to Spiritual Growth:

- **Stillness:**
 - **Scripture:** Luke 22:39 - Jesus's practice of prayer in solitude.
 - **Question:** How can we incorporate stillness into our busy lives?
- **Surrender:**
 - **Scripture:** Luke 22:42 - Jesus's prayer in Gethsemane.
 - **Discussion:** What does surrender look like in your life? What are we often unwilling to surrender?
- **Sacrifice:**
 - **Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 9:4-6, 12, 15 - Paul's willingness to forego rights for the Gospel.

- **Prompt:** What personal "coulds" might you need to sacrifice for spiritual growth?
- **Sanctification:**
 - **Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 3:12-13 - The testing of our works.
 - **Reflection:** How can we actively pursue holiness in our daily lives?
- **Relying on the Holy Spirit:**
 - **Scripture:** 2 Peter 1:3 - Divine power for living a godly life.
 - **Activity:** Share experiences where reliance on the Holy Spirit made a difference in your life.

Interactive Discussion:

- **Group Sharing:** Each person shares one practical step they will take this week to embrace "more" in their spiritual life.
- **Challenges:** Discuss any challenges or fears about committing to these steps.

Application:

- **Personal Action Plan:** Participants write down one action from each category (Stillness, Surrender, Sacrifice, Sanctification, Spirit's Power) they will implement this week.
- **Accountability:** Pair up for mutual encouragement and accountability.

Closing:

- **Prayer for Empowerment:** Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance and strength to pursue these steps.
- **Encouragement:** Close with a reminder that this pursuit of "more" is a journey, not a destination, and every step toward God is valuable.

Homework:

- Read and meditate on Galatians 5:22-23, focusing on how the fruit of the Spirit can manifest in daily life as a sign of spiritual growth.

This Bible study encourages participants to actively engage with the sermon's message, applying scriptural truths to their personal spiritual journey.