

Study Guide 1-11-26 All In The Family - Growth

Overview

This sermon, titled "All In The Family: Growth," uses the Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:3-8) and the analogy of a seed to illustrate spiritual growth in God's family. Salvation plants the seed (God's purpose and the Gospel), but being "all in" God's family requires intentional growth through discipleship. Jesus refuses to leave believers unchanged—He desires maturity, fruitfulness, and involvement in helping others grow. Growth often occurs in difficult seasons (like Joseph's 13 years of hardship), and the church provides the "good soil" environment for development.

Reflection Questions

1. What type of "soil" best describes your heart right now in receiving God's Word? Why?
2. Have you experienced significant spiritual growth since accepting Jesus? If not, which factor (environment, discipline, or vision) might be holding you back?
3. Looking at Joseph's story, how have past difficulties in your life contributed to your spiritual development?
4. Do you have a clear vision of who God wants you to become? How does Jeremiah 29:11-13 encourage you in this?
5. Who in your life are you actively helping to grow in faith?

Main Points

1. **Being in the family means you need to grow.**
 - Salvation is the starting point, but Jesus commands us to make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20)—learners who progressively mature.
 - Growth requires dying to self, breaking through hardship, and drawing nutrients from good soil (community, Word, prayer).
 - Barriers to growth: poor environment, lack of discipline, or absence of vision (e.g., Joseph's dreams sustained him).
 - God wants you whole and complete (James 1:3-4).
2. **Being in the family means you help others grow.**
 - Once adopted, believers join God's "family business" of restoration and discipleship.
 - Old Testament Israel was called to be a light to the nations; New Testament believers continue this by sharing hope and discipling others (1 Peter 3:15).
 - Family loves enough to help one another succeed.

Application

- **Personal Growth Steps:**
 - Seek God wholeheartedly (Jeremiah 29:12-13) through prayer, Bible reading, and obedience.
 - Join practical opportunities: Alpha, DGroups, Freedom Class, serving on a team.
 - If stagnant, address your environment, discipline, or vision—change what you can and trust God in the rest.
- **Helping Others:**
 - Be ready to share your hope in Jesus when asked (1 Peter 3:15).
 - Invest in discipling new believers—invite someone to church, join a DGroup together, or pray with them.

- **Immediate Action:**
 - Take a step today: attend Open House, sign up for Alpha/Freedom, serve, get baptized, or respond at the altar.

Group Discussion Prompts

1. Share a time when you experienced spiritual growth during a difficult season. How did God use it to shape you?
2. Which part of the seed analogy resonates most with you—dying to self, breaking through the surface, or bearing fruit? Why?
3. What does "good soil" look like in our church community? How can we contribute to making it richer?
4. If someone asked about your hope as a believer today, how would you explain it (1 Peter 3:15)?
5. Who is one person God might be calling you to help grow in faith this year? How could you start?
6. Pray together for vision, discipline, and opportunities to both grow and help others grow.