

## INTRODUCTION TO THE MPC SMALL GROUP

Over the next 9 weeks together, there will be small group materials provided to each small group leader and will also be available to download from our website.

### GUIDELINES FOR MEETING TOGETHER

As we begin to meet, it is good to be reminded about some of the basics of what it means to be a part of a group. Here are five topics you might consider as part of that initial discussion.

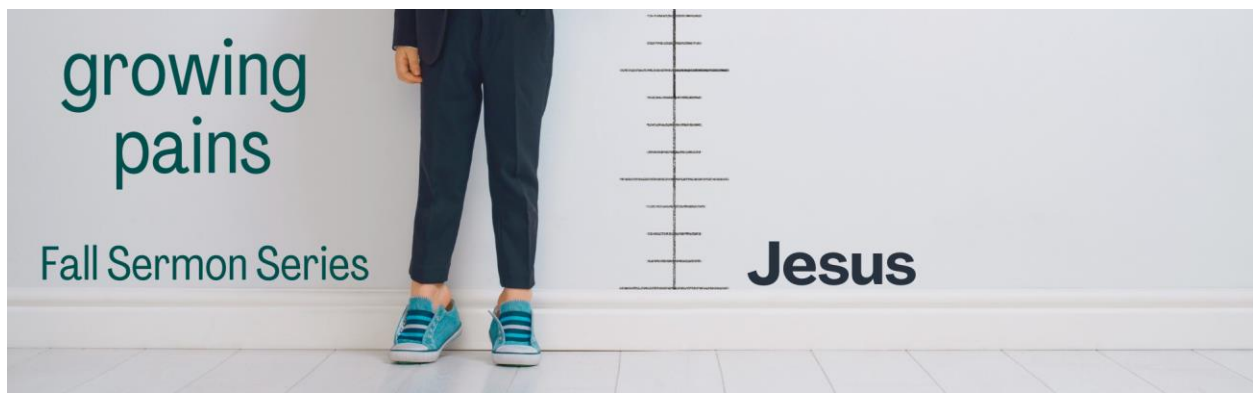
**CONFIDENTIALITY:** What is said in the group stays in the group. Talk about this and make sure everyone is on the same page with this value and what it means.

**LISTEN:** Value one another during the discussions by really listening to what is being shared. Try to avoid thinking about how you are going to respond or fixing someone's problem.

**SHARING:** Be sensitive about the amount of time you share. Try and hear somewhat equally from all members of the group.

**SENSITIVITY:** There is a lot happening in the world. On top of all the stuff that we can see, there are things that people are going through that are unseen. Be sensitive to the fact that there may be people who are really hurting or very anxious, or stressed, or scared, or angry.

**FORMATION OVER INFORMATION:** My hope is that being a part of a small group would shape you into a more faithful follower of Jesus – and not just more information about Jesus. What are your thoughts on this? How does this inform how you spend your time together.



## **"WEEK #1 - Jesus"**

Preached: September 11, 2022

Preacher: Keenan Barber

Series: "Growing Pains"

Scripture: Acts 1:1-9

### SECTION 1 – SMALL GROUPS QUESTIONS

1. **Check in question** – How was your summer? Did you get away? Are you feeling refreshed? Stressed? Excited? Overwhelmed?
2. Share a time in your life when you experienced "growing pains." A time when Jesus was stretching you or having you go through something challenging, but now as you look back, you have a sense that God was with you and grew you through that experience.
3. What do you think it means to be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit? Is this something you have experienced before?
4. Talk about a time when you had to wait for something? Are you a good "waiter?" What does it mean / what does it look like for us as Christ followers to embrace God in the waiting?

5. What does it look like for us to be witnesses for Jesus “to the ends of the earth?” What excites you about this? Is this overwhelming? What keeps us from doing this?
6. Share an experience of Moorpark Presbyterian Church that has been a meaningful part of shaping you as a follower of Christ.

## SECTION 2 – PRAYER

Take some time to share some prayer requests with one another and then spend some time praying for each other.

## SECTION 3 – FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY

1. When was the last time you read one of the Gospels in one sitting? To have a better grasp on what we are going to be looking at in the book of Acts, I would urge you to consider reading through the book of Luke. I think this will enrich your study of Acts.
2. Read the remainder of the first chapter of Acts. What strikes you? What do you find interesting?
3. What is the point of Peter sharing the information about Judas?
4. How do you think Matthias felt being chosen as a disciple by a game of chance?