

MPC GROWTH GROUP REMINDERS

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.

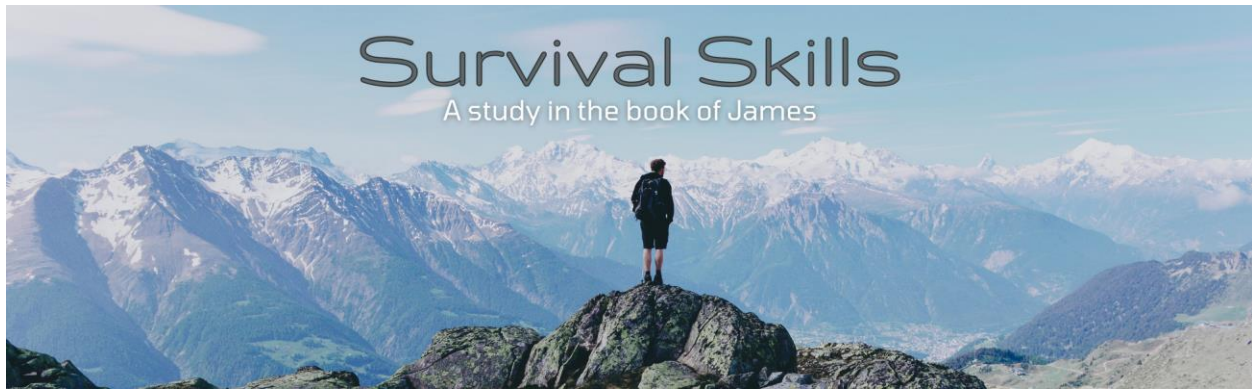
CONFIDENTIALITY: What is said in the group stays in the group. Talk about this and make sure everyone is on the same page with this value and what it means.

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 growth 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.



SURVIVAL SKILLS
"WEEK #1 – THROUGH THE MUCK AND MIRE"

Preached: September 10, 2023
Preacher: Keenan Barber
Series: "Survival Skills" – Fall 2023
Scripture: James 1:1-8

SECTION 1 – SMALL GROUPS QUESTIONS

1. The title of this series is "Survival Skills." Do you think you are well equipped to live out a life following Jesus in today's culture? Why or why not?
2. If you could ask the brother of Jesus (James) one question, what would it be?
3. What do you think James is trying to communicate when he says "Consider it pure joy" when you go through tough things? Does this phrase carry more or less meaning to a person who follows Jesus? Why?
4. Can you recall a time that you went through a tough season, and as you look back at it, did it create more perseverance in you? More maturity in you?
5. As you read the last 3 words in verse 4 – "not lacking anything" – what do you think that means?

6. What does James want to communicate about prayer to his readers?
7. What does it look like to be double-minded? How do you think we overcome being double-minded?

SECTION 2 – PRAYER

Take some time to share some prayer requests with one another and then spend some time praying for each other. Specifically, are things happening that are hard in your life?