

MPC GROWTH GROUP REMINDERS – FALL 2025

Over the next 11 weeks, there will be growth group materials emailed to each growth group leader and will also be available to download from our website for individual or group use.

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 growth 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 fix someone's problem. See listening as a gift you are giving to someone.

SHARING: Be sensitive about the amount of time you share. Try and hear relatively 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 an MPC Growth Group shapes you into a more faithful follower of Jesus – and not just an accumulation of more information about Jesus. What are your thoughts on this? How does this inform how you spend your time together?



"Salt and Light"
Week 1 in an 11-week Series

Preached: September 14, 2025
Scripture: Matthew 5:13-16
Series: "Sermon on the Mount" – Week 1 of 11

SECTION 1 – CONVERSATION ABOUT GROWTH GROUP GUIDELINES

SECTION 2 – GROWTH GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Are you afraid of the dark? Do you remember a time when you were afraid of the dark? Describe it and what brought you out of the fear?
2. Have you heard of these "Beatitudes" before? As you read or hear them for the first time OR as you hear them again – what is your initial response? Does a particular phrase stick out to you?
3. Take a moment and have someone in your group read the Beatitudes – (Matthew 5:1-12) out loud and then see if someone else in the group has them in a different translation and read those aloud. What do you hear? What differences are there between the translations?
4. As best as you can understand it, what does it mean to be "THE salt of the earth" and "THE light of the world?" What does that look like in a person who follows Jesus today?
5. What do you think Jesus means when he talks about these, "good deeds?" How can we do these "good deeds" and make sure that God gets the credit for them as opposed to we/ourselves getting credit for them?

6. This is the first time in Scripture that Jesus uses the term, “your father.” Why might that be important to the original listener and to you today as you read this statement?

SECTION 3 – PRAYER

Where in your life do you feel as though you are living your life as the salt of the earth and the light of the world? Where in your life is this more challenging? Bring all of this to Jesus in prayer and be grateful for the moments when you shine and bring strength in your moments of struggle.

SECTION 4 – SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

The basis for the sermon on the Mount begins with the Beatitudes – the passage of Scripture that includes Matthew 5:1-12. Before you dive into each of the week’s study of the Sermon on the Mount, you might want to begin that study by first reading the Beatitudes – maybe even out loud. Place it somewhere in your home that you will see it every day. Look at it. Read it. Contemplate the different parts of it. See what Jesus might be wanting to say to you in the Sermon on the Mount by seeing it through the lens of Matthew 5:1-12. My prayer is that you will draw closer to Jesus as you read and reflect on these powerful words of the Sermon on the Mount.

SECTION 5 – THINKING ABOUT MISSION

Good deeds. As you go out into the world each day, what are the “good deeds” that you are a part of that allow others to get a glimpse of Jesus? Keep an eye out this Fall for Mission opportunities that might allow you to exercise your missional muscles – opportunities to do “good deeds.”

SECTION 6 – ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

In 2024, the Bible Project spent the entire year focused on the Sermon on the Mount. During our study and reflection, I will identify specific resources from them that can expand your perspective on the ins and outs of the words of Jesus. The following gives a good overview of Matthew 5:13-16.

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/bibleproject>