



## Sermon-Based Discussion Guide

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# Connecting the Dots: Why Grow?

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## SCRIPTURE

### Hebrews 5:11-6:20 (NIV)

#### Warning Against Falling Away

<sup>11</sup> We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. <sup>12</sup> In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! <sup>13</sup> Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. <sup>14</sup> But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

#### Hebrews 6

<sup>1</sup> Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death,<sup>[a]</sup> and of faith in God, <sup>2</sup> instruction about cleansing rites,<sup>[b]</sup> the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. <sup>3</sup> And God permitting, we will do so.

<sup>4</sup> It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, <sup>5</sup> who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age <sup>6</sup> and who have fallen<sup>[c]</sup> away, to be brought back to repentance. To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace. <sup>7</sup> Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God. <sup>8</sup> But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned.

<sup>9</sup> Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are convinced of better things in your case—the things that have to do with salvation. <sup>10</sup> God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. <sup>11</sup> We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized. <sup>12</sup> We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

#### The Certainty of God's Promise

<sup>13</sup> When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, <sup>14</sup> saying, "I will surely bless you and give you many descendants."<sup>[d]</sup> <sup>15</sup> And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised.

<sup>16</sup> People swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument. <sup>17</sup> Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was

promised, he confirmed it with an oath. <sup>18</sup> God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged. <sup>19</sup> We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, <sup>20</sup> where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.

## ENGAGE

What does it really mean to follow Christ? Where do most people miss it?

## DISCUSS

1. Read verses 5:11-14. This describes immature believers. What do we learn from the passage? Do you know people like this? What can we do to help people like this or to climb out of it if we are the ones this describes.
2. Your attitude toward the Bible goes a long way in your growth. What is your attitude about the Bible? Are you on fire for the teachings Word of God or are you indifferent? Has your fire continued to burn or have you cooled off a bit? What may have caused your cool down?
3. Spending time daily in God's word is so important to growth. What type plan do some of you use to stay in God's word daily? What is something you got from God's word this week?
4. God has uniquely qualified each of us to reach the people in our circles. God can use our mistakes, but he can't use our silence.

How do you feel about sharing your faith? Does it make you feel anxious or inadequate about your knowledge of the Bible and your faith? What do you feel you need to do to so that if someone asks you about your faith you can share with them?

5. How does it make you feel to hear that God really expects us to grow?
6. Have you ever had difficulty in figuring out what is right and wrong when it comes to your walk and what is acceptable based on the teaching of the Bible. If you ever question your actions and their acceptability how do you find the truth? Do you have a trusted Christian friend that you can ask and have for accountability?
7. One way to grow is to start with the basics. We already talked about Bible reading. What other basics of growth are there in the Christian life? How are we doing at these areas?

## YOUR NEXT STEP

What will you do this week to either continue to grow or to get back on track with your Christian growth?

## CHILDREN'S TIME

1. In what ways are you growing? (physically, mentally, educationally, spiritually, emotionally)  
What does it mean to grow as a Christian?
2. Do any of you read your Bible and pray regularly? Does it make a difference in your life? How?
3. Do you think God wants us to grow in our relationship with Him?
4. God wants us to grow to the point of leading other people to Jesus. Who is in your life that needs a relationship with Jesus? What can you do to tell them?

## OTHER PASSAGES SITED

2 Cor. 5:15	new creatures in Christ
Acts 21:21	many early Christians
Acts 2:1	drift away
Hebrews 3:12	evil, unbelieving heart
1 Timothy 4:7	