

## Growing individuals through Life Groups

The purpose of Coro Life Groups

Focused on Jesus and building each other up by:

- Loving, welcoming and knowing each other
- Encouraging one another from the Bible
- Praying together
- Practically caring for each other
- Looking outwards in justice-seeking and proclaiming the good news

2 Peter 1:1-12

Context

Observation

Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours:

<sup>2</sup>Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

<sup>3</sup>His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. <sup>4</sup>Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

<sup>5</sup>For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; <sup>6</sup>and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; <sup>7</sup>and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. <sup>8</sup>For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.

<sup>10</sup>Therefore, my brothers and sisters,<sup>[a]</sup> make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, <sup>11</sup>and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

### Meaning

- What resources do we have for seeking to live and grow faithfully, from this passage?
- What is the value and outcome of growing in Christ, from this passage?
- What is the relationship between knowledge and godliness here?
- How much emphasis or priority should we put on individual growth?

### Encouraging personal growth in group members

#### As leaders

- Be deliberate about praying for it and discussing with your co-leader
- Model it
- Expect the Word to be useful and grow people (2 Tim 3:16-17)

#### Practical tools/structures

- **Choose content** wisely and deliberately: choose books/series that speak to particular areas of potential growth
- Make sure Bible discussions **don't avoid application** – leave significant time for people to consider how it applies
- **Individual reflection time**
- Use **prayer time** intentional or allocate separate prayer time
  - Deliberately ask for prayer points about growth areas
  - Follow up on previous growth prayer points
- **Intentional growth goals:** Set aside time at the beginning of the year/semester/term to ask people to identify 1-2 growth areas for the group to pray and follow up with
- **Inventory** like this one
- **Highlight resources** such as books, podcasts, articles that people could use to encourage growth in particular areas

### Applying to your group

## Personal growth inventory

### 2 Peter 1

Very great and precious promises  
Intimacy with God (awareness of  
participating in the divine nature)  
Escaping evil desires  
Faith  
Goodness  
Knowledge  
Self-control  
Perseverance  
Godliness  
Mutual affection  
Love  
Anticipation of the eternal kingdom

### Spiritual disciplines and patterns

Prayer  
Cultivating knowledge of God  
Rest  
Regular repentance and growth in  
character/fruits of Spirit  
Worship in song and whole life  
Belonging to God's people  
Stewardship of material resources

### Prayer

Thankfulness  
Trust  
Lament  
Confession  
Intercession for others  
For our church  
For justice and mission partners  
For labourers for the harvest

### Cultivating knowledge

Knowing the storyline of the Bible  
Individual Biblical books and themes  
Biblical worldview (theology =  
"thinking God's thoughts after him")  
Church history (how the Spirit has  
moved in and through past  
believers)  
Biblical engagement with current  
cultural issues

### Rest

What to do when resting  
Patterns of rest: daily, weekly, annually  
Contemplation of rest in the new  
creation

### Character (cf Galatians 5:22-23)

Love  
Joy  
Peace  
Forbearance  
Kindness  
Goodness  
Faithfulness  
Gentleness  
Self-control

### Worship

Continued awareness of God's glory  
Offering every part of ourselves

- Bodies
- Money
- Time
- Energy
- Emotions

Integrating faith and work  
Seeking wholeness

### Church

Awareness of communal identity  
Building each other up  
Encouraging others  
Using gifts  
Meeting regularly

### Justice

Everyday consumption/impact on  
others  
Disciplines to undergird justice-seeking  
Choosing one or more issues to be  
more deeply committed to

### Evangelism

Individually  
Communally