

DISCUSSION GUIDE

HOW TO GROW MORE LIKE JESUS
WEEK 1

ICEBREAKER: What is the meaning of life?

OVERVIEW: The Bible commands us to pursue spiritual growth. But what is the goal of spiritual growth? The goal is to become more like Jesus, loving God and others more and more. But what is Jesus like? That's the focus of this three-week sermon series. We're taking an in-depth look at nine Christlike virtues in 1 Peter 3:8-12 so that we can understand and imitate Christ in every area of our lives.

1. Read 1 Peter 3:8-12. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. The Bible commands us to pursue spiritual growth. 2 Peter 3:18 (CSB) says, "but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." Over the past six months, have you been committed to pursuing spiritual growth? Explain.
3. What is the most important lesson(s) about spiritual growth that you have learned since you got saved?
4. What advice would you give to a Christian who has no desire or interest in spiritual growth?
5. A) What is the goal of spiritual growth? B) What are some of the traits and habits of a mature Christian?

6. The first way to grow like Christ is to be a person of unity ("be like-minded," 1 Pt 3:8), making every effort to get along and work together with church family. What are the biggest threats to church unity? What are some ways that a believer can make every effort to protect the unity of the church?
7. The second way to grow more like Jesus is sympathy ("sympathetic," 1 Pt 3:8), which is to rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. A) Why does God want us to be sympathetic? B) Are you a very sympathetic person, or is sympathy hard for you? Explain.
8. The third way to grow more like Jesus is love for church family ("love one another," 1 Pt 3:8) — use your gifts and resources to help meet the needs of your church and church family (see Galatians 6:10). A) What are some examples of how you can show love to your church and church family? B) Is there a good deed that God has placed on your heart to do for your church or church family that you haven't yet acted on? Explain.
9. The fourth way to grow more like Jesus is compassion ("compassionate," 1 Pt 3:8) — feel sorrow and concern for the sufferings and misfortunes of others. A) How did the sermon describe the difference between compassion and sympathy? B) What are some ways that you can be compassionate as you go about your day?
10. The fifth way to grow more like Jesus is humility ("humble," 1 Pt 3:8) — seeing yourself the way God sees you. A) What is the difference between humility and pride? B) How does God see you? C) How has God grown you in humility over the years?

The Last Word: "There is nothing that is more dangerous to your own salvation, more unworthy of God and more harmful to your own happiness, than that you should be content to remain as you are." Francois Fenelon