

DISCUSSION GUIDE

HOW TO GROW MORE LIKE JESUS
WEEK 3

ICEBREAKER: What are the best and worst sounds in the world?

OVERVIEW: The Bible commands us to pursue spiritual growth — to grow more and more like Jesus. But that does not mean that we are supposed to imitate everything about Jesus. Jesus claimed to be God, walked on water, lived in Israel, exorcised demons, healed the sick, and read people’s minds. Obviously we’re not commanded to do all those things. Rather, we are commanded to imitate Christ in our character, conduct, and convictions. In this discussion we will go deeper with the final two ways to grow more like Jesus in 1 Peter 3:8-12.

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. One of the best compliments you can receive is this: “You’ve changed. You’re different.” That’s a compliment because we should be constantly changing and growing more like Jesus. A) How has God grown you since you became a Christian? B) How has God been teaching you and growing you lately?
3. The sermon discussed four warnings about spiritual growth. The first is that Christianity is a relationship with Jesus, not a bunch of rules and rituals. Why is that important to remember, and how does that warning help you to grow more like Jesus?
4. The second warning about spiritual growth is that it is only possible through the power of the Holy Spirit. How can we tap into the Spirit’s power for spiritual growth?

5. The third warning about spiritual growth is that it can be a slow process. Why is this an important truth to keep in mind, and how does it help you to grow more like Jesus?
6. The fourth warning about spiritual growth is that we pursue spiritual growth because God has saved us, not to convince God to save us. Why is this truth important to remember, and how does it help you to grow?
7. The sermon discussed the final two ways to grow more like Jesus in 1 Peter 3:8-12. The eighth is holiness (v. 11): Be morally blameless. One reason that Christians struggle to grow in holiness is that they keep some parts of their life from God, rather than giving it all to Him. What are the hardest parts of your life to surrender to God, and what have you learned about surrendering that part of your life to God?
8. Another reason Christians struggle to grow in holiness is that they categorize sins into major and minor sins, and then they avoid the major and tolerate the minor. A) What are some common “minor” sins? B) Does God really want us to avoid even minor sins? Explain. C) Are there any minor sins in your life that you need to stop tolerating? Explain.
9. A third reason that some Christians don’t grow in holiness is that they compare themselves to others rather than to Christ. How can you make sure that you don’t make this mistake?
10. The ninth way to grow more like Jesus is to be peaceable (v. 11): Work hard to get along with others. A) Do you have a hard time getting along with others? Explain. B) How do you need to grow to become more peaceable?

The Last Word: To be peaceable doesn’t mean you have to be friends with everyone; it doesn’t mean you have to like everyone, or that everyone has to like you; it means that you need to work hard to get along.