

'Admit your faults to one another and pray for each other so that you may be healed.' James 5:15-16 LB

'We refuse to wear masks and play games. We don't manoeuvre and manipulate behind the scenes. And we don't twist God's word to suit ourselves. Rather, we keep everything we do and say out in the open, the whole truth on display, so that those who want to can see and judge for themselves in the presence of God.'

2 Corinthians 4:2 MSG

4. People sin. I decide to _____.

'When people sin you should forgive and comfort them, so they won't give up in despair.' 2 Corinthians 2:7 CEV

'You must make allowance for each other's faults and forgive the person who offends you. Remember the Lord forgave you so you must forgive others.' Colossians 3:13 NLT

5. People are selfish.

I decide to encourage other peoples' _____.

'My friends, we beg you to warn anyone who isn't living right. Encourage anyone who feels left out, help all who are weak, and be patient with everyone.' 1 Thessalonians 5:14 CEV

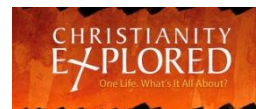
'We must also consider how to encourage each other to show love and to do good things.' Hebrews 10:24 GW

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SMALL GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION

1. Do you agree or disagree with Pastor Phill's statement: *'Spiritual growth, getting closer to God, is not a solo act. Growth is a group project.'* Discuss your answers.
2. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:11. In what ways can we **'build each other up'**?
3. Pastor Phill talked about 5 different kinds of people. **People are different.** Read Romans 12:10 and then Romans 14:1. In what ways can you appreciate other people's differences and grow together?
4. **People change.** Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. Share how God has changed you over the years since you became a Christian. In order to grow together we have to keep changing together by doing something new. How might that look in your marriage, friendships, workplace, Life Group etc?
5. **People hide.** Read James 5:15-16. How could we do this verse? Read 2 Corinthians 4:2. How can we be more authentic with each other to help us grow together?
6. **People sin.** Read Colossians 3:13. Why is this a hard verse to actually obey? How does not forgiving someone affect our spiritual growth?
7. **People are selfish.** Read 1 Thessalonians 5:14. Discuss practical ways we can do the 4 ways (words underlined in the verse) we can help others.
8. Read Hebrews 10:24. Share a time someone encouraged you in your spiritual growth. How did you feel? How could you encourage someone in their walk with Christ?



In your group, share one way the group can pray for your spiritual growth. Then pray for each other.

Watch and listen to the message again, or an archived message by going to www.youtube.com/cowplainchurch.