

GROWTHguide

"Truth in Numbers"

May 21, 2017



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

1 Corinthians 1:18-20, 2:1-16, 3:1-3;
Acts 18:24-26

DAY 1

In his book about the Apostle Paul's ministry, Pastor Henry Blackaby points out how Paul spent most of his time in ministry in the company of trusted friends and companions. Some offered him a place to reside. Others provided resources he needed. Others, like Timothy and Titus were his protégés. It's hard to imagine how Paul could have affected the faith lives of so many new believers if he had been a loner.

- **Has God ever sent someone into your life who seemed to convey Godly guidance when you needed it most?**
- **Have you ever accomplished something and then realized that you couldn't have completed the task without companions to share the load and celebrate the joys of your successes?**
- **What does Paul's ministry teach us about "Doing Life Together"?**

DAY 2

Read [1 Corinthians 3:1-3](#)

When we think of a toddler who matures in stages as he or she enters elementary school, becomes a teen, and finally goes to college, it is easy to see how maturity develops. We grow in stages as we are influenced by others like our parents, peers, teachers, and coaches. Paul likened those

in the Corinth church to infants who had to be fed milk because they were not ready for solid food. They lacked spiritual maturity. In 1 Corinthians 2:6, Paul stated that he spoke "a message of wisdom among the mature." This implies that maturity matters.

- **How could you be more intentional about developing spiritual maturity? When and where do you find spiritual nourishment through your interactions with other Christ Followers?**
- **Reflect on how our spiritual growth requires nourishment just as physical growth requires food and nutrients.**
- **Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you to a deeper, more mature faith.**

DAY 3

Read [1 Corinthians 1: 18-20](#), where Paul contrasts worldly wisdom and God's Wisdom. Reflect on this passage in a time of prayer.

Ask yourself these questions:

- **What is God's Wisdom? For help, read [1 Corinthians 2:6-16](#).**
- **How is God's Wisdom different from the wisdom relied on by those who do not know the Lord?**
- **Do you rely on God's Wisdom or worldly wisdom**
- **How might mature Christian companions help you seek God's Wisdom when the world tempts you with its foolishness?**

DAY 4

[Read Acts 18:24-26](#)

Apollos was a learned man and a good teacher, yet there were things about our Lord and baptism he did not understand. Aquila and Pricilla were able to share their

more mature understanding of baptism with Apollos to make him a better, more effective teacher. One of the beautiful things about being part of the Body of Christ is that we are a community where people in different stages of their faith journey come together to share their strengths and weaknesses. Small groups give each of us opportunities to learn from more mature or experienced believers and to share what we learn with less mature believers.

- **Reflect on a time when a Christian friend guided you to a deeper understanding of some aspect of the faith we share.**
- **Have you ever been a mentor or teacher to a less experienced brother or sister?**
- **How can you be more intentional about seeking opportunities to teach or to learn? Growing in God's Wisdom depends on it!**

DAY 5

As a church family, we celebrate joyous occasions like weddings and baptisms. We share the Lord's Supper in community - not alone. We offer solace and support to those who are sick and who grieve. With whom do you share the good news of life's most joyful moments? Who do you call at 4:45 a.m., when you get that dreaded call from a hospital, or when a policeman knocks at your door with terrible news? This message series is not about some ministry fad or gimmick. God has placed this series in our hearts and on our lips so that all of us can grow in faith together. Our Christian life is meant to be lived out in the close company of small groups of Christian companions with whom we can share our doubts and fears. These are groups where we can study God's Word and delve into the mysteries of our faith, where we can pray and laugh and cry and heal.

- **Who are your companions?**
- **Who surrounds you during a crisis, a tragedy, or a loss?**

- **Do they encourage or discourage your growth in maturity and Godly wisdom?**

DAY 6

To conclude this week and our teaching about our Source Group Ministry, pray about your own participation in a Small Group, your readiness to serve as a group leader, or who you could invite to join one of our groups so that he or she can learn about the joy and encouragement that comes from "Doing Life Together."

DAY 7

Today is your sabbath. Take the time to reflect on your readings for this week and begin to formulate your next steps to Glorify God, Grow in Faith and Give in Love.

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St. Paul United Methodist Church
1199 Highland Ave. | Largo, FL 33770
727-584-8165 | church@stpaulumc.org

www.stpaulumc.org



St. Paul United Methodist Church, 1199 Highland Avenue, Largo, FL 33770

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