



MESSAGE GROUPS - GROWN UP FAITH - WEEK 1 - FEBRUARY 10

LEADERSHIP THOUGHT:

Part of growing up means answering the difficult questions of life. Questions like: "Is life an accident of am I here on purpose?" and "Why do bad things happen to good people?" are asked at some point in everyone's lives. Leaning on God for the big answers to these larger-than-life questions allows us to "grow up" in our faith and begin experiencing life the way that God designed it.

ICEBREAKER:

As a kid, what was something you wanted or expected to have when you "grew up"?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read aloud **Ephesians 4: 14-16**

- **Q:** *When we are immature in our faith, we act in ways that do not reflect God's truth. Think of a time when your thoughts/actions were influenced by a lie of our culture instead of rooted in God's truth. When you encounter that lie now, how do you think about it differently?*

Genesis 1:27 says, "So God created man in His own image; he created him in the image of God."

- **Q:** *How does knowing you are made in His image change how you approach challenges in your life? Does this change how you think about your "purpose" in life?*

In **Genesis 3**, the serpent tells Eve she will not certainly die if she eats from the tree of knowledge but will become more like God. Through this deception, sin and pain are brought into the world for the first time.

- **Q:** *When something bad happens to us, our first instinct is to defend and blame. How do you react when something bad happens to you?*
- **Q:** *We've all felt the burden of sin and pain, but what are ways you can choose to seek God during the process? How does knowing that God is with you change how you think about bad things in life?*

CLOSE

Just as a snake's venom steals the life from its prey, sin prevents us from growing in our relationship with God. Often there are areas in our life where we feel trapped in our sin - areas we've grown comfortable and casual about the "venom" inside of us. However, to truly experience God's best for us we must surrender our sin and run toward the love of God. Give your group space to reflect on this question:

- **Q:** *What sin in your life do you need to get "un-comfortable" with and stop viewing as harmless? How can you practically surrender this to God?*

Encourage your group to keep up with the Grown-Up Faith Series and read the book "Grown-Up Faith"!

