

## HOW TO MAXIMIZE YOUR GROW GROUP

1. Grow Groups should meet once a week for approximately one hour
2. Grow Groups should consist of two or three people of the same gender
3. Grow Groups that add a fourth person should multiply into two groups of two within a month
4. Grow Groups should have no curriculum other than the Bible
5. Grow Groups should have no set "leader" (relationships within the group are mutual)
6. Grow Groups should devote themselves entirely to just three tasks:
  - A. Praying for lost souls
  - B. Confessing sin to one another
  - C. Reading the Bible consistently and in context

### **A note on reading the Bible:**

A group is encouraged to read 25-30 chapters of scripture per week in a book of its choosing. If a book is longer than 25 chapters, it may be sub-divided and read in parts or, if shorter than 25 chapters, may be read multiple times in a given week. For example, if the book is a shorter one, such as Ephesians or Jonah, it is read 5-7 times in a week. If the book is a moderate size, such as 1 Corinthians or Romans, it is read twice in a week. If the book is a longer one, such as Acts or Revelation, it is read once a week. Books that are even longer, such as Genesis, Psalms or Isaiah may be broken up. For example, Genesis can be broken into three sections: chapters 1-12, 13-35 and 36-50. Each section can be read twice in a week. Another example is to break Genesis into two groups of 25 chapters and read each section once in a week. There is no set pattern, only a goal of reading 25-30 chapters of scripture per week.

When the Grow Group meets the following week, it asks if the entire reading was completed in time (number 9 of the character conversation questions). If anyone in the group was unable to complete the reading portion, then the same reading assignment is to be read again. The Grow Group will continue reading the same portion of scripture until the group finishes it together in the same week. Once all group members finish the reading in the same week, then a new book is agreed upon for the next week.

### **For those in a group with non-believers or new believers:**

It is recommended that the group read through the Gospel of John, three chapters at a time. The same three chapters should be read each day for seven days, meaning a total of 21 chapters will be read each week. Such a reading plan would go like this:

Week 1: John 1-3

Week 2: John 4-6

Week 3: John 7-9

Week 4: John 10-12

Week 5: John 13-15

Week 6: John 16-18

Week 7: John 19-21

Reading John repetitively and in context will help group members explore the nature and identity of Jesus, what one must do to be saved and the life to which Jesus calls His followers.

