



GROWING – Not Limited by Lockdown 19th April 2020 Mark Wiltshire

This Study Guide provides a summarised study with additional discussion questions based on the scriptures mentioned in the sermon.

Connect:

“The most powerful life is the most simple life. The most powerful life is the life that knows where it’s going, that knows where the source of strength is, and the life that is free of clutter...”

Max Lucado

1. Why is growing important?
2. Do you know where you are going? Which path you’re on?
3. What has been causing clutter in your life?

Engage:

➤ Growing – Kingdom Principle: **Seed Grows**

4. What did Jesus say about ‘growing’?

“Jesus also said, “The Kingdom of God is like a farmer who scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, while he’s asleep or awake, **the seed sprouts and grows, but he does not understand how it happens.”**

Mark 4: 26-27

5. **“Our Future Starts Today”:**

- All seeds have 1 mission in life - To grow into a plant!
 - Every seed that is planted wants to grow.
6. What are you currently investing your time in?
 7. What seeds have you been planting in your life?
 8. What seeds are growing in your life right now?

“We may be in lockdown, but we are NOT in meltdown.”

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➤ Growing – Kingdom Principle: **Soil Matters**

9. Read and discuss Mark 4: 14 & 20
10. Not every seed is in good soil - What improves our soil?
 - Growing leads to “harvest” - needs good Soil.
11. Something is wanting to grow in your life! Ask yourself, “What is God germinating in me?” Write your response below:

12. Germination requires the right amount of time. The wrong timing will equal weak results

Framework:

“Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.”

Ephesians 1: 4-5

➤ **Growing – God has a Plan**

- God has chosen you
 - God has adopted you (through Christ)
 - God delights in you...
13. Read and discuss Ephesians 1:11
- God has a plan – revealed in Christ (death & resurrection)
 - You are in His plan – united, chosen, guided?
 - Nothing can stop His plan! – He makes it work out.
14. Have you asked God what His plan is for you?

“Covid-19 Virus can’t stop Gods Plan – God’s plan has been prepared from the beginning of TIME... you have been chosen in advance, with PURPOSE!”

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➤ **Growing – Knowing God’s Methods**

15. Read Ephesians 1: 16-17
16. What can you thank God for in your life?
17. What could you be praying about more?
18. Growth comes from spiritual wisdom & insight. Not human wisdom – What is the difference?
19. What is insight?

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.”

Isaiah 55:8

20. Do we need to grow in our Understanding of God’s plan – The answer is, YES!
- We need to think the way God thinks - trustworthy judgement.

➤ **Growing – Knowing God’s Provision**

21. Read and discuss Ephesians 1:18-20

- Understand Confident Hope

22. What is your hope based on right now?

23. Does your hope depend on God?

- God’s plan is that you have His purpose. Ask yourself, “What is God’s Purpose for me?”

24. Understand God’s Great Power

25. Are you trusting in God?

26. Are you growing towards God in these difficult circumstances?

➤ ***Do not wait until lockdown is over. Growing starts today.***

➤ *As we move forward in this series – we will explore aspects of what this means. God will speak to each of us personally! Please be ready to listen and receive.*

Extra Engagement:

How Can You Make the Most of Church On-line?

Arrive in Good time (pray before / expect to hear from God)

Be fully Involved (focus on the meeting, what’s God saying to me...)

Connect with Someone else (share / encourage them)