

**Baycities Lomita Winter/Spring 2019 Growth Groups**  
**Series: “Community That Works”- Matt.4:18-20 Part 3**  
**Theme: “Why Growth Groups Work” Week Of January 20, 2019**  
**Follow-Up Bible Study and Discussion Questions**

**Message Summary:** Jesus is our Lord, Savior, Role Model, Teacher and more! He is the inventor of the small group experience for Christians! He prepared His 12 guys in a small group, and we intend to follow His lead! As we look at His model for Christian growth and community with His disciples we found the elements that we want to incorporate into our Growth Group ministry! Jesus called the first two disciples as He walked along the shore of the Sea of Galilee in Matt.4:18-20...He met two fishermen...and He called them to follow Him... He used their life experiences to connect them to who He wanted them to be... He became their role model and teacher, and the result was... they became like Him and did what He did! And as they followed Him, and the Holy Spirit was added to their lives upon Jesus return to heaven, these fishermen changed the world by what they did in Jesus Name! Here we see Jesus’ plan to transform His future followers (us) through a shared small group experience! He wants us to grow together... to learn in the presence of and by the interactions with one another. Your Growth Group experience at Baycities Lomita is designed following Jesus model. In your group are people of diverse backgrounds and experiences. Your Growth Group experience is about connecting with the people God has brought together in your group for interaction around Jesus message and your life experiences. Each session involves food and a time to relax and converse with those in your group. Openness grows as you get to know and trust one another over the months you meet. The experience is more than Bible Study and... by the way... bible study is good... but Bible Study’s end goal is information with some application. Our Growth Groups experience is all about transformation...we focus on application of the Sunday message in the short time we have to be together each week. Your host or host couple will provide a comfortable place for the group to meet and the food and fellowship experience. Your group leader will facilitate the prayer, discussion of the Sunday message and the interaction that follows. Your participation is so important to what you get out of the time in your group. This is not a lecture or preaching time. This is a discussion and interaction time with people who love Jesus and want to be more like Him. You’ll learn to pray for and with each other. You’ll conclude on time, and be free to head home. Growth Groups work because the Holy Spirit is there in each believer, and learning the art of living by grace happens over time together! And...we’re not in a hurry! May you enjoy your Growth Group experience this session!

1. What was the most memorable part for you about the message you heard on Sunday about why Growth Groups Work?
  
2. Discuss with the group what your hopes are for your Growth Group experience this next 13 weeks?

3. Jesus brought together **grace and truth** (John 1:17) as new insight from God on how God wants His followers to live here on planet earth. Jesus never watered down any of the truth (John 17:17... your word is truth) He pointed out. But he did something special by **connecting grace with truth!** Read the following passages and discuss how grace (a second chance, unearned or deserved forgiveness, restoring hurt people, loving your enemies, etc.) can happen in each situation:

**Eph. 2:8-9 God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. 9 Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. (NLT)**

- a. In Eph. 2:8-9, what role do you see grace playing in your salvation experience? Whose grace was it that allowed salvation to happen? How does experiencing God's grace make you feel?

**2 Cor.3:18 So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image. 4:1 Therefore, since God in his mercy has given us this new way, we never give up.**

- b. From the passage above, who is it that makes us more and more Like Jesus? What is our part in the changing or transforming process from this passage? Is there a timetable for that transformation hinted at in this passage? Discuss some things Jesus Followers might be doing as God is transforming them into the image of His Son?

4. Do you have any questions or issues that were raised by the message on Sunday that you would like answered?