

**Growth Group Discussion Questions**  
**Series: “Refocusing On Your Family”- Part 2”**  
**“Re-Opened For Business”**  
**Week of April 18, 2021**

**Message Summary: Re-Opened for Business!** There’s certainly a lot of evidence that marriage and individuals have been harmed by the isolation, disappointment, pain and loss that has occurred thru the pandemic. And, it’s not over yet! So, what do we do as we emerge from the pandemic and live our lives for Jesus? Great question! Because we looked at a passage in Isaiah 58 (on Sunday) where the people were not in immanent danger yet they had really lost their love for God and traded it for dead ritual and meaningless religious experiences. I think that is where we start w/ our re-opening efforts, both personally and as married couples!

**We need to get back to what got us here... our faith and love and trust in Jesus!! As individual Christians our identity, as individuals and married couples, is found in Jesus! It’s not found in anything else, for sure not in politics! Jesus IS the only One... who is the way, the truth and the life!**

**The election season along with COVID fears did a lot to keep us locked down! But now it’s time for new beginnings! For all of us, it’s time to reinvest in Jesus! For married people, it’s time to renew our commitment and love for one another. The pandemic made us survival oriented. We need to change that! As we close the Spring 2021 Growth Group season, let’s get ready for more adventures in loving and following Jesus this summer!!**

### **ICEBREAKER**

1. Talk about the highs and lows of this past Growth Group Semester for you?

### **GOING DEEPER**

1. Everybody has a desire to re-open their lives, to some degree, for having friends over, BBQing, family gatherings, church events, etc. Discuss what you see are the barriers to overcome in your heart, before that will happen for you.

a. What is your personal philosophy on mask-wearing going forward? Why?

b. Did the New Testament writers leave us any guidance when it comes to how we live together w/ other people in mind? (Hint: look at Phil 2:3-4) How might that passage inform our thinking on mask wearing?

2. What are some of the habits that you developed during the Pandemic that you need to put behind you going forward?

3. Many couples “set aside” the habit of spending quality time together as a married couple during the pandemic for what we thought seemed like good reasons. If you did that, how do you feel today about forgoing time together this last year? Would you do it differently if you could? What does that say to you about how you would act in a similar crisis in the future?

4. “Growth Groups” is our **group discipleship effort** designed to help you grow in grace and knowledge of Jesus and in how to love one another and the lost people around us! With that, we aimed to equip you in these sessions, using the sermons on Sunday, to be better Jesus’ representatives to your family, in your marriage, on the job and with your neighbors. That was Jesus’ program for His 12 disciples and for us as well. As we close out our Growth Group Season, I’d like you all to discuss what you gained this semester in the areas below and what needs you have for added equipping you need in these areas as well. Please have someone capture your group comments and get them back to Pastor Ben for future planning. Great to have had you guys on board this semester!!

1. Growing in grace and knowledge and obedience to Jesus
2. Growing in love & grace for other people- Christians and non-believers.
3. Growing in being Jesus’ representatives in your neighborhood & workplace.
4. Growing in seeing yourself as His servant & taking up serving opportunities.
5. Growing in your ability to make sense of the world you live in (race, politics, etc.) from a Jesus-followers perspective.
6. Growing in your personal devotional time with the Lord (time in the word, prayer, listening to messages, reading faith books, etc.)