Against the Tide
GROWING Countercultural families

GRACESPING GROWTH GUIDE
4-WEEK SERMON SERIES
FEBRUARY 2020
AGAINST THE TIDE
Growing Countercultural Families

So many of the belief systems, behavior, and values of our culture collide with what God says leads to life. The young generation, while seeking to find life in causes, is being caught in a worldview that is taking them out to sea. Meanwhile, churches, in trying to be relevant, find themselves drifting into the same current and losing their distinction as messengers of hope.

For this series, we will be digging into the book of 1st Peter to help us fight the tide as we dig into truth, love, and grace. This series will remind us how the Church has been called by God to be set apart and distinct, pointing people to a living hope that empowers us to stand strong against the tide of our culture and move into God’s provision of new life.

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HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE
We’ve developed this guide to be a tool and asset for you in diving into scripture and setting aside time for prayer and devotion with God. Each week you’ll find a Personal Growth Guide with opportunities to dig into the scriptures and themes that will be taught during the next Sunday’s message. Each week there is a specific study method to help you open up the scripture and develop a relationship with God’s word. You will find space for prayer journaling for each week of the personal study. You will also find a Community Growth Guide each week. This guide will highlight important questions for you to discuss in your own community group or Bible Study. These are meant to be used after Sunday’s message in the context of group conversation.
RESOURCES FOR THIS GROWTH GUIDE

As we dive into God’s word and discover how to pray, we want to provide you with some extra resources to guide you through this journey. Take advantage of Right Now Media, apps, websites, and books as we Against the Tide.

RIGHT NOW MEDIA:
The Book of 1st Peter by Kyle Idleman
Parenting by David Tripp
Culture Shock by Chip Ingram
Take Heart by Matt Chandler
Intentional Parenting by Doug Fields

Below is a direct link to view all RightNow Media Resources:
www.gracespringchurch.org/against-the-tide-resources
Don’t have a RightNow Media account? Email us at connect@gracespringchurch.org

BOOKS:
Parenting by Paul David Tripp
Family Worship by Donald S. Whitney
Take Heart by Matt Chandler
Growing With by Kara Powell and Steve Argue
Disappearing Church by Mark Sayers
Renovation of the Heart by Dallas Willard

Link to all books via Amazon:
www.gracespringchurch.org/against-the-tide-books

APPS AND WEBSITES:
YouVersion Bible App
www.bible.com
Center for Parent/Youth Understanding
www.cpyu.org
GROWING OUR FAMILIES THROUGH PRACTICES:

Through this series and this guide there is a massive challenge: To embrace a family lifestyle of being counter-cultural. Below are two simple practices that might help your family to embrace the rhythms of Jesus’ countercultural plan for your family.

MEALS AS DISCIPLESHIP:

In the Gospels, Jesus often spent time instructing people and caring for people while breaking bread. Meals provide an incredible opportunity to sustain your physical body AND your soul. Below is a template for a weekly meal time discipleship exercise adapted from Gospel Fluency by Jeff Vanderstelt. Use this template or create your own to infused family discipleship into the best part of the night - dinner!

Mission Monday - Around the dinner table, take time to remember that it’s your family’s mission to glorify God and fulfill His purposes. Take time to discuss how your week should look in light of the mission that He has called you to. This might look like challenging your kids to be intentional during the school day to make new friendships, or suggesting practical ways that you might live out God’s mission during the week. Each Monday, ask how each person’s goals went and give an update.

Teaching Tuesday - Take turns turning your family meal time into an opportunity to teach each other portions of scripture. As a parent, take this time to ask questions that will help your kids articulate their faith and draw the portion of scripture back to the Gospel. Challenge each of your kids to teach a passage of scripture each week - including observation, interpretation, and application.

With-Family Wednesday - Make this night (or another) an intentional time where the meal is centered around family and the importance of family. Share memories, reminisce on how God has blessed your family, and remind your kids and each other of the family values that you hold dear.

Thanksgiving Thursday - Take time to give thanks as a family for all that God has done in your lives. Jeff Vanderstelt suggests creating “hot seat” where one person sits and everyone else expresses how they are thankful to them and for them. Tell them how God has blessed them and how they see God working in their lives.

Fun Friday - Go out to eat, go to a movie, go to skyzone, or eat at home in a different way than you normally would. How can you infuse joy and celebration into your Friday night meal? Maybe this means having a specific tradition where you eat while sitting on the ground or in a blanket fort. Maybe there’s a special dessert that only comes out on Fridays. Try to play a game or put together a puzzle after dinner as a fun way to embrace family time. Talk about how the Gospel is meant to be a cause of joy and celebration in our lives! Fun Friday reminds us that Jesus gives us every good and perfect gift and God delights in us!

Serving Saturday - Try to infuse some sort of opportunity for your family to serve others. This might mean cleaning out parts of your house for donations and then discussing how it made you feel. It might mean cooking a meal for someone else and sharing the Gospel with them. Get outside of the box and spend time serving as a family.
EMBRACING THE RHYTHMS OF SABBATH:

Sabbath might be a word that seems archaic or challenging. The concept of Sabbath has often been met with pharisaical adherence and has caused a lot of Christians to put this practice to the side. Quite simply put, your family needs a Sabbath. Sabbathing well presents an opportunity for every single person in your family to pause and remember that God is enough. When we take a look at the 10 Commandments, we realize that Sabbath is so serious to God that he spends 4 verses talking about it!

So how do we Sabbath? Here are a few simple guidelines to get you started in embracing this wonderful practice (and commandment!):

• **Set aside a set amount of time each week.**
  Typically the Sabbath would start at sundown on Friday night and end at sundown on Saturday night. If this rhythm doesn’t work for you, that’s ok! Find a time that you and your family can commit to a certain amount of pre-planned time to slow down and Sabbath together. Ideally this would be a 24 hour period, but if you need to start smaller, that’s ok!

• **Invite Community.**
  Sabbath was always communal, so it is a really good time to spend with the people around you that you love. Invite your community group to share in a meal or activity as you celebrate God and rest together.

• **Share a really good meal together.**
  Traditional Sabbath started each week around the dinner meal and ended around the dinner meal. At this meal, the head of the house would light candles, bless the food and drink, and bless the children in the house. So cook your favorite meal, pull out the best drinks, and get ready to walk into a time of blessing together.

• **Eliminate distractions.**
  Take time to put your cell phone and tv away. Maybe put on a vacation message and turn that bad boy off. Undistracted time with your family and with God are your ultimate goal.

• **Do things with your family and alone that Honor God and Restore Your Soul.**
  What are the things that you know God has been calling you to do but you just haven’t found time for? Don’t get legalistic - if it’s an activity that truly draws you closer to God and restores your soul, do it AND thank Him for it! Put together a puzzle, play a board game with your family, read together, go for a hike, the possibilities are endless! Continue to point your soul towards Him.

• **Don’t get legalistic!**
  The point of the Sabbath is to set aside time, stop working, and remember God. For some people, working in the yard isn’t work. For others, that sounds exhausting. Don’t be the Sabbath police, but be intentional about honoring Him. Remember that Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. It might take some getting used to, but let it wash over you and recharge you.

For further reading on the Sabbath, check out this guide: [www.practicingtheway.org/practices/sabbath](http://www.practicingtheway.org/practices/sabbath)
Let’s be honest for a minute. No one really likes trials and tests. When they set upon us, its very rarely our response to say, “Awesome! I’m going to deal with all of the difficulties that are going to pop up and it’s going to be peachy!” In fact, our honest response might be to turn tail and run. 1st Peter 1 gives us some perspective on the tests that come our way. Our trials, although painful and frustrating, are tools that mold us, shape us, and strengthen us.

Think about going to the gym. The job of a good trainer is to challenge us to develop the very best results we can achieve. We might not enjoy it in the moment or look forward to it the night before but when we trust the trainer, we know that we can truly achieve our goals. So often we blame the trials in life on ourselves, someone else, or on the devil when we need to stop and realize that trials in life are opportunities to be sharpened, grounded, and to help us produce the type of a lifestyle that God has set before us.

The truth is that there are people around you who will watch you walk through the trials of life. These people might be children, spouses, or close friends. Sometimes God uses the trials in your life to show others how to stand strong or how to grow through life’s difficulties. When you come out the other side, chances are, there will be people who need your strength and example as they walk through trials of their own. Let’s embrace what God is teaching us and our families as we embrace all of the facets of life together.

you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.”

Lord, when we can barely stand, we trust You to outfit us with everything we need. Help us close our eyes, lift our hands, and believe the battle belongs to You.

Prayer:
Each day pray this prayer as you enter into your devotional time:

Thank you Lord for your Word that says you give us the power to come out of our trials “as gold.” Thank you that this storm will not last forever, but we’re only passing through. You are with me and I thank you that nothing has taken you by surprise. You know our journey better than we know it ourselves, and you will use this time of testing for good. Amen
**Reading Plan:**
Follow the steps below as we work our way through 1st Peter Chapter 1 this week:

**Observation:**
For the first two days of this week, we are focusing on simply observing what the scriptures are pointing out. Think through the 5 W’s - Who, What, When, Where, Why. Are there any words that are repeated multiple times? Any themes that seem to be drawn through the entirety of the passage? Are there words that contrast each other or point to cause and effect? Take time to journal specific observations that you make about the passage. Avoid the temptation to draw out a meaning - we’ll be doing that soon! Simply focus on observing the words, rhythms, and setting of the scripture as you read it.

Monday - 1 Peter 1:1-12

Tuesday - 1 Peter 1:13-25

**Interpretation:**
For the next two days we will be reading the same passages again but with an attempt to try to interpret what the scripture is telling us. What is the author trying to communicate? What is the context that the author is writing in (make use of Bible study tools). What else do we know about the book, author, and recipient? What other passages might help us to interpret what we are reading? Have we made any assumptions that are right or wrong? Don’t try to twist the message to mean something that it doesn’t. Try to find the simplest and clearest interpretation of the scripture. Use other scripture to look at parallel or contrasting word meanings. Make sure to view this scripture through the lens of the Gospel. What is this passage saying?

Wednesday - 1 Peter 1:1-12

Thursday - 1 Peter 1:13-25

**Application:**
We have taken the time to observe and interpret these passages over the last several days. Now it’s time to figure out what it means for us now! We don’t simply read scripture to gain more knowledge, but to learn how we should live our lives in light of the things that God has illuminated to us. Take time to think back through the 5 W’s that we looked at earlier and now ask them in light of how you should apply this passage to your life. This might take asking some honest questions and really wrestling with the truth of scripture. What do you need to do in order to receive this text correctly?

Friday - 1 Peter 1:1-12

Saturday - 1 Peter 1:13-25

Sunday - Come to church!
COMMUNITY GROWTH GUIDE
WEEK 1 | FEBRUARY 2, 2020

BIG IDEA: Our faith is not in what we see, but in who God is.

BELONG
1. Watch, listen and worship with Phil Wickam’s song video Living Hope. The video can be found here: www.philwickham.com/media. The lyrics (and chord chart for key of E) can be found here: shorturl.at/hwOW5

2. What do these lyrics mean to you? How do they relate to our current sermon series Against the Tide – Countercultural Families? In what ways do these lyrics go ‘against the tide’? How are these lyrics countercultural?

GROW
1. Look at 1 Peter 1:6-9 and John 16:33. Who is immune to suffering and trials? Are you? Why or why not? As believers, what far outweighs the burden of suffering? How long will our trials last? How have you experienced this truth?

2. According to 1 Peter 1:6-9, how will the trials that you experience be of benefit to you? Have you learned anything through trial? If so, what did you learn? How did this trial benefit you?

3. According to 1 Peter 1:6-7, how will trials result in God being glorified? Can you think of examples in your life when this has occurred?

4. Considering John 16:33, as a believer, where does your peace come from? Can you experience that peace even in times of difficulty? How? When have you experienced this peace during a trial?

5. According to 1 Peter 1:8-9, what is the goal of your faith? What is this worth? With what can this fill you?

REACH
Read 1 Peter 1:6 together. Do you agree with the common saying, “Seeing is believing?” Why or why not? As believers, can we put our faith in what we see? As believers where are we to put our faith? Where have you placed your faith? How can you use your testimony to help individuals who do not have this faith be saved?

Going Deeper:
Read 1 Peter 6-9. What is the relationship between suffering, trials, and joy? Why can joy occur even during times of suffering? How can you experience this joy even in the middle of difficult times? Have you ever experienced this? If so, what were the circumstances? How did you remain joyful?
BIG IDEA: God did not call you to fit in, but to stand out.

The definition of holiness in the Bible isn't always concerned with the things that we give up. A large portion of scripture points to holiness as what we choose to pursue instead. It’s so interesting that in our culture, Christians are often epitomized by the things that they stand against. While taking a stand against sin and immorality is important, we are called to be people who show people that there’s a better way.

If we are truly supposed to be people who are in the world and not of the world, our stand needs to be made by the way that we exhibit the fruit of the spirit and the way that our fruit is actually good news to the world around us. In a culture that constantly tries to put Jesus and Christians in a box, we are called to be people who stand outside of the box and show the world that love is at the center of everything we do. That love IS Jesus Christ. That is the Gospel - the good news - for a lost and dying world.

Prayer:
Pray this prayer each day this week as you delve into your time in the Word:

O Lord Jesus, how I thank and praise YOU for the everlasting life that You have given to me by Your wonderful grace and love. May I grow day by day to be more like You, full of compassion and kindness. Saturate my heart with Your love so that I may love You more with every passing breath - my Jesus.

Thank you, for Your Holy Spirit Who is making to be more like YOU Lord Jesus. I want to reflect Your grace and Your beauty in thought, word and deed. I ask that I may devote my time and heart to reflect on all You are and all You have done for me –so that You are magnified more and more in my life – so that the beauty of my Lord Jesus may be seen and reflect in me.

Amen

Prayer from Knowing Jesus
**Reading Plan:**
Follow the steps below as we work our way through 1st Peter Chapter 2 this week:

**Observation:**
For the first two days of this week, we are focusing on simply observing what the scriptures are pointing out. Think through the 5 W’s - Who, What, When, Where, Why. Are there any words that are repeated multiple times? Any themes that seem to be drawn through the entirety of the passage? Are there words that contrast each other or point to cause and effect? Take time to journal specific observations that you make about the passage. Avoid the temptation to draw out a meaning - we’ll be doing that soon! Simply focus on observing the words, rhythms, and setting of the scripture as you read it.

Monday - 1 Peter 2:1-12

Tuesday - 1 Peter 2:13-25

**Interpretation:**
For the next two days we will be reading the same passages again but with an attempt to try to interpret what the scripture is telling us. What is the author trying to communicate? What is the context that the author is writing in (make use of Bible study tools). What else do we know about the book, author, and recipient? What other passages might help us to interpret what we are reading? Have we made any assumptions that are right or wrong? Don't try to twist the message to mean something that it doesn't. Try to find the simplest and clearest interpretation of the scripture. Use other scripture to look at parallel or contrasting word meanings. Make sure to view this scripture through the lens of the Gospel. What is this passage saying?

Wednesday - 1 Peter 2:1-12

Thursday - 1 Peter 2:13-25

**Application:**
We have taken the time to observe and interpret these passages over the last several days. Now it's time to figure out what it means for us now! We don't simply read scripture to gain more knowledge, but to learn how we should live our lives in light of the things that God has illuminated to us. Take time to think back through the 5 W’s that we looked at earlier and now ask them in light of how you should apply this passage to your life. This might take asking some honest questions and really wrestling with the truth of scripture. What do you need to do in order to receive this text correctly?

Friday - 1 Peter 2:1-12

Saturday - 1 Peter 2:13-25

Sunday - Come to church!
Background
These verses are part of a section of the book where Peter is describing the new life believers have in Christ. 1 Peter 2:4-8 describes how Christ was set rejected by men but set apart by God. Verses 9-12 then talk about how believers are similar to Christ in this way.

BELONG
1. What affiliations or groups define you the most (church, political, work, alumni, etc.)?
2. What are your most defining characteristics?

GROW
1. 1 Peter 2:9 calls followers of Christ “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession”. What is the significance of each of these titles? For what purpose are we called to these roles?
2. 1 Peter 2:10 references verses out of the book of Hosea (Hosea 1:10, 2:23). Hosea talks about how Israel would be rejected by God because of unfaithfulness but would also be restored to Him because of His covenant with them. How does this context impact your understanding of this passage?
3. 1 Peter 2:11-12 talks about what God wants to accomplish to those set apart to Him. What are some specific ways you can live as aliens, abstain from fleshly lusts and keep your behavior excellent among non-believers?
4. How does this glorify God?

REACH
1. In what ways is God calling you to be set apart to Him?
2. How can you “live as aliens” while you interact with others and share the love of Christ with them?
GET IN THE ZONE
WEEK 3 | FEBRUARY 16, 2020

BIG IDEA: It is more important to make a difference than to make a point.

The balance of grace and truth has always been a tension that the church has needed to manage. God is the God who is 100% full of truth and also 100% full of grace. This is a concept that our earthly minds might not be able to comprehend. In addition to our limits of human comprehension, we often exhibit a limit in our ability to fully express this balance in our words, thoughts, and actions.

The challenge that we are presented is that we can desire to speak the truth in love, but even if it is the truth and we are claiming to be speaking in love, we can often inject our own humanness into the equation. When we become less concerned about making a point and become more concerned with showing the love of God to those around us, we tap into the heart of the Gospel. We never need to hesitate to call sin, sin. We also should never hesitate to show love where people need love. One of the continual prayers that believers should pray is that God will continue to give us equal measure of both and that we would be able to express both in view of the immense grace that He has given to us.

Prayer:
Pray this prayer each day as you begin to open your time in the word.

Father,

Thank you for your good news. That while I was a sinner and in opposition to you, you saw it fit to send your son, Jesus Christ, to pay the penalty for my sin and give me new life. Thank you that I have seen this truth and received your love. I pray now that you will give me the strength to present this love to those around me. I pray that your Holy Spirit will give me discernment for the times that I should speak up and the times that I should listen. I pray that I would listen with your ears, speak with your words, and respond with your heart. Help me to see the person and not just the sin and to remind them of the great truth of your gospel. Amen.
Reading Plan:
Follow the steps below as we work our way through 1st Peter Chapter 3 this week:

Observation:
For the first two days of this week, we are focusing on simply observing what the scriptures are pointing out. Think through the 5 W’s - Who, What, When, Where, Why. Are there any words that are repeated multiple times? Any themes that seem to be drawn through the entirety of the passage? Are there words that contrast each other or point to cause and effect? Take time to journal specific observations that you make about the passage. Avoid the temptation to draw out a meaning - we’ll be doing that soon! Simply focus on observing the words, rhythms, and setting of the scripture as you read it.

Monday - 1 Peter 3:1-12

Tuesday - 1 Peter 3:13-22

Interpretation:
For the next two days we will be reading the same passages again but with an attempt to try to interpret what the scripture is telling us. What is the author trying to communicate? What is the context that the author is writing in (make use of Bible study tools). What else do we know about the book, author, and recipient? What other passages might help us to interpret what we are reading? Have we made any assumptions that are right or wrong? Don’t try to twist the message to mean something that it doesn’t. Try to find the simplest and clearest interpretation of the scripture. Use other scripture to look at parallel or contrasting word meanings. Make sure to view this scripture through the lens of the Gospel. What is this passage saying?

Wednesday - 1 Peter 3:1-12

Thursday - 1 Peter 3:13-22

Application:
We have taken the time to observe and interpret these passages over the last several days. Now it’s time to figure out what it means for us now! We don’t simply read scripture to gain more knowledge, but to learn how we should live our lives in light of the things that God has illuminated to us. Take time to think back through the 5 W’s that we looked at earlier and now ask them in light of how you should apply this passage to your life. This might take asking some honest questions and really wrestling with the truth of scripture. What do you need to do in order to receive this text correctly?

Friday - 1 Peter 3:1-12

Saturday - 1 Peter 3:13-22

Sunday - Come to church!
COMMUNITY GROWTH GUIDE
WEEK 3 | FEBRUARY 16, 2020

BIG IDEA: It is more important to make a difference than to make a point.

BELONG
1. Why do you think it is so satisfying to watch movies and hear stories where the villain “gets what they deserve”? Is this a Christ-like reaction or a worldly reaction?

2. When was the last time that you felt slighted, looked down upon, or taken advantage of? How did you react? How did you want to react?

GROW
1. In 1 Peter 3:8-17, we are challenged in several areas to handle ourselves counter-culturally. Have your group open their Bibles to 1 Peter 3 and discuss the “wisdom of the world” compared to the following instructions from the Apostle Peter:
   “Always look out for #1”
   “Have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind:”
   Are these 5 characteristics related to one another? Why did Peter link these 5 things in one phrase?
   “But he hit me first!” / “Don’t get mad, get even”
   “Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.”
   Do you enjoy offering a blessing to someone who acts with evil toward you?
   “Do what feels good” / “Just do it”
   “Whoever desires to...see good days...let him turn away from evil and do good...”
   “Keep your religious beliefs to yourself” / “All truth is relative” (postmodernism)
   “Always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you...”
   Are you ready to defend your faith today? Do you feel comfortable speaking out about your faith at work or around your family/friends?

2. In 1 Peter 3:16, we read about the immediate benefits that result from living counter-culturally, and using Peter’s wisdom rather than the world’s wisdom. How important is it to you to have a good, clear conscience?

3. Why is so difficult at times to resist the world’s wisdom? Why do you think we are not promised a life free of suffering if we live in righteousness?

REACH
Do you ever find it difficult to follow Peter’s wisdom? In what areas? What are the risks to following worldly wisdom?
Who really likes waiting? In our culture it’s common to fill the times of waiting with distractions through our phones, televisions, and all sorts of other outlets. What if we started to see the times of waiting as times of active learning? Instead of waiting becoming a passive or boring opportunity, what would happen if we embraced the lessons that God has for us in the midst of the stillness?

Actively waiting is reminiscent of the concept of abiding. While it doesn’t seem like it takes actual effort to wait, working our wait provides us with opportunities to see God in the midst of times that God might seem distant, quiet, or inaccessible. Instead of getting bored and taking matters into our own hands, we have an opportunity to put our trust to the test. Even in the waiting season, God asks us to abide in His word and in His presence. So let’s turn off the distractions and tune into the lesson that He wants to teach us in the midst of the wait.

Prayer:
Each day pray this prayer as you dig into your time with God.

Father, can I be honest? I am tired of waiting. Waiting is hard, painful, exhausting. But I know that learning to wait well is a beautiful, sanctifying, hope-giving thing. So help me wait well. Help me cling to you as I wait. Please Lord, let your peace rule in my heart. Help me live by your grace each day of this waiting. And help me bring you glory as I wait expectantly. In Jesus’ Name, Amen!

Prayer by Marlo Schalesky
**Reading Plan:**
Follow the steps below as we work our way through 1st Peter Chapter 4 and 5 this week:

**Observation:**
For the first two days of this week, we are focusing on simply observing what the scriptures are pointing out. Think through the 5 W’s - Who, What, When, Where, Why. Are there any words that are repeated multiple times? Any themes that seem to be drawn through the entirety of the passage? Are there words that contrast each other or point to cause and effect? Take time to journal specific observations that you make about the passage. Avoid the temptation to draw out a meaning - we’ll be doing that soon! Simply focus on observing the words, rhythms, and setting of the scripture as you read it.

Monday - 1 Peter 4:1-19
Tuesday - 1 Peter 5:1-14

**Interpretation:**
For the next two days we will be reading the same passages again but with an attempt to try to interpret what the scripture is telling us. What is the author trying to communicate? What is the context that the author is writing in (make use of Bible study tools). What else do we know about the book, author, and recipient? What other passages might help us to interpret what we are reading? Have we made any assumptions that are right or wrong? Don't try to twist the message to mean something that it doesn't. Try to find the simplest and clearest interpretation of the scripture. Use other scripture to look at parallel or contrasting word meanings. Make sure to view this scripture through the lens of the Gospel. What is this passage saying?

Wednesday - 1 Peter 4:1-19
Thursday - 1 Peter 5:1-14

**Application:**
We have taken the time to observe and interpret these passages over the last several days. Now it’s time to figure out what it means for us now! We don’t simply read scripture to gain more knowledge, but to learn how we should live our lives in light of the things that God has illuminated to us. Take time to think back through the 5 W’s that we looked at earlier and now ask them in light of how you should apply this passage to your life. This might take asking some honest questions and really wrestling with the truth of scripture. What do you need to do in order to receive this text correctly?

Friday - 1 Peter 4:1-19
Saturday - 1 Peter 5:1-14
Sunday - Come to church!
COMMUNITY GROWTH GUIDE
WEEK 4 | FEBRUARY 23, 2020

BIG IDEA: Do what is right and trust God with the results.

BELONG
What is the most annoying time to have to wait for something? What is your pet peeve when it comes to waiting? Why do you think that is? What is your normal reaction when you have to wait for something?

GROW
1. Have someone in your group read 1 Peter 4:7-11. What are some of the commands that require actual energy to complete? Is there one of the commands in these verses that you feel you do well? Poorly? Take time to explain each.

2. Take time to write down which command you feel like you grow in the most. Make a list of 3 steps for how you might grow in that area? Discuss why this specific command might have been listed in this passage. Take time to share your list with your group. Ask someone to hold you accountable during the time until your next meeting.

3. Have someone read 1 Peter 4:12-17. If you had to describe the theme of this passage, what would it be?

4. Have you shared the trials that are going on in your life with the group? If you're comfortable, take time to dig into the trials that might be going on. Stop and spend time having different members of the group pray for each person who mentions a trial.

5. How does prayer help us in our trials? Are there other ways to abide with God during times that we might feel like He's distant?

REACH
Ask everyone in the group to take time in silence and prayer to think of a friend, family member, or coworker who might be walking through a time of waiting or trial. Have each member write down the names of these people on a piece of paper. Have them begin to list ways that they might encourage this person over the next few weeks. Take time to pray in you group for each person that was listed. Take time to check in next week to see how encouraging has gone.
FAMILY CLASSES / EVENTS

Family Milestones - Scott and Sara McCloughan // Admin Office
This two-week class will focus on identifying specific family milestones and developing a culture of celebration, intentionality, and compassion in the midst of these milestones. Some ideas are: Coming of Age Ceremony, Baptism Celebration, Graduation Tradition/Celebration.

Reframing Foster Care - Ryan and Jamie Arledge // Admin Office
Pulling from the book “Reframing Foster Care,” this two-week class will focus on how the church can get involved in foster and adoption care. It will encompass the theological foundation of orphan care and practical ways to get involved. It will serve as an opportunity to open the church’s eyes to the immense need in the foster care system.

Family Sabbath and Devotion - John and Melanie DeKruyter // Room 318
This two-week class will focus on how families can set up daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly spiritual practices. It will encompass how to lead a family devotional time and embrace the rhythms of Sabbath. This class will offer practical tips to infuse the gospel into everyday family life.

Screenagers - Lunch and Learn // Sunday, February 23 at 12:15 p.m. in The Venue
SCREENAGERS is the first feature documentary to explore the impact of screen technology on kids and offer parents and families proven solutions that work. What started out as a personal story for one has grown into a national movement, helping millions of teens and their families navigate growing up in a world with instant access to screens. Join us in the Venue for lunch, a screening of the movie, and discussion afterward.

Parents’ Night Out // Saturday, February 29
Our gsYouth will be hosting a “Parents’ Night Out” fundraiser on Saturday, February 29 from 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. to give parents an opportunity to enjoy some kid-free time. The youth will be providing a kid friendly program for ages birth to 5th grade. This experience will give the youth the opportunity to explore different activities and games to host a future VBS on their outreach trip. Donations will be accepted at the doors during check in. ALL proceeds will go towards the gsYouth Summer Outreach Trips. Please note that this is for gracespring attendees only. There will be adult supervision. Sign up EVENTS on our church app or website.

DETAILS ON CLASSES & WHEN THEY ARE OFFERED:

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<th>Sunday, February 2:</th>
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BELONG. GROW. REACH.