

# GROW DAILY

## Life Group Leaders Guide

### Directions

This packet contains the background information, series information, and weekly curriculum you will need to lead a life group during our *Grow Daily* series. Everything on this page is to help you stay connected to the series as a whole. Behind this page is the individual curriculum to help you point people to Jesus. The *Purpose* and *Move* sections of the curriculum are for the leader to read or paraphrase to the group. The *Notes and Commentary* section is for the leader to get background information and go deeper into the passages before leading the life group. The curriculum was designed with your freedom in mind. Read through the curriculum and decide what will work best for your group. SOAP the passages with the group, use only certain questions, write your own questions, or use the curriculum verbatim. As the leader, you know what will point your people to Jesus.

### Series Overview

The New Year is a great time to start new habits that lead to a healthier life. For most people, these changes during the New Year fall in the health or financial realm but what would it look like to spend the beginning of 2018 focusing on our relationship with God? That is what we want for our people of The Point...to spend the beginning of 2018 focusing on one of our values, *Grow Daily*. This series, titled *Grow Daily*, will zoom in on 3 daily practices that will help people become more like Jesus. This series was designed to go hand-in-hand with a churchwide SOAP schedule and Core Group launch so that people will not just hear about these practices on Sunday or talk about them at Life Group, but instead, begin applying them to their daily life.

### Life Group Overview

During the *Grow Daily* series our life group curriculum will cover the same topic that was covered from stage but using a different passage or set of passages. Each curriculum will begin with an unpacking of the previous Sunday's service to help the leader open up the topic for the study and also see how people responded to the Sunday teaching. To coincide with our SOAPing schedule, we decided to use a passage from Psalms for each of the life group studies.

### Grow Daily Series Schedule

Week	Sermon Date	Topic of sermon	Topic of life group
Week 1	1/7	Grow Daily - Scripture	Psalms 119:9-24 & 97-105
Week 2	1/14	Grow Daily - Confession	Psalms 51
Week 3	1/21	Grow Daily - BLESS Prayer	Psalms 67

## The Point Church Life Group Curriculum

# Grow Daily - Week 3 - Psalm 67

### Purpose of Study

In this study we are going to continue looking into habits of the Christian that will allow them to grow in their relationship with God. The past two weeks we have looked at reading scripture and confession. This week we will finish the *Grow Daily* sermon series by looking into praying for the lost. In our church, we refer to praying for the lost as a BLESS Prayer. We use the acronym B.L.E.S.S. as a way to remember how to simply share Christ with the people he has placed in our lives. The acronym stands for...

B = Begin with Prayer

L = Listen

E = Eat

S = Serve

S = Share your story

In this study we will focus on the “B” of the acronym. Begin with prayer. All Christians pray and what they pray for has a way of revealing and then changing their heart. The hope is that all people at The Point will uncover the necessity and power of praying BLESS prayers for people in their life. We believe that these prayers will not only change the hearts of who we are praying for but also our own.

### Flow of Study

**Optional Icebreaker:** What’s the weirdest thing you ever asked someone for?

**Move #1:** Since the sermon series and life groups are covering the same topics, it might be a good idea (both for content and time) to begin the discussion with some unpacking questions from this Sunday’s sermon.

1. Did anything stand out to you from the message this weekend?
2. If you are a Christian, do you think the prayers of someone in your life were involved in your salvation?
3. Do you think praying for those far from God is good for them alone? Does it have an impact on us as well?
4. If God answered all of your prayers from today with a “yes!”, would the world look different or just your life? **OR** “If God answered all your prayers from today with a “yes!”, how many people would be going to heaven?”

**Move #2:** In this study we will begin with a famous verse from 2 Peter on dealing with BLESS prayers. Due to time we will not read the surrounding verses. Christians during this time were experiencing a lot of persecution and because of it were eagerly awaiting Christ’s return. Peter speaks into this struggle by letting them know that God is not being slow but is always on time. The gist of the whole passage is that God views time way differently than we do. Although 2 Peter 3:9 is only one verse from this section, this verse alone is a fantastic memory verse to use as a BLESS prayer.

## Read 2 Peter 3:9 (NIV)

<sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

1. What stands out to you from this passage?
2. The promise mentioned in the beginning of the verse most likely refers to Christ's return. By looking at the rest of the verse, why would God be incredibly patient regarding the time of Christ's return?
3. The writer plays off the phrases "slow" and "patient." What is the difference between slowness and patience?
4. What does this verse reveal about the heart of God?
5. Based on your answer to question #4, what should the Christian be passionate about?
6. Have you experienced the patience of God in an area of your life?
7. How should God's patience with us affect our patience with people who are not followers of Jesus?

**Move #3:** Now that we have unpacked 2 Peter 3:9, let's turn our attention to a psalm that is about all peoples coming to know the Lord. This psalm was referred to as "Israel's Missionary Psalm" because it clearly reflects the desire for all people to praise our God. Although this psalm is rather short, it gives great insight into the heart of a person that is praying BLESS prayers. By looking through this psalm we will not only be able to see God's desire for all people to know him but will also be able to use it as a litmus test for our own lives.

## Read Psalm 67 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> May God be gracious to us and bless us  
and make his face shine on us—

<sup>2</sup> so that your ways may be known on earth,  
your salvation among all nations.

<sup>3</sup> May the peoples praise you, God;  
may all the peoples praise you.

<sup>4</sup> May the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
for you rule the peoples with equity  
and guide the nations of the earth.

<sup>5</sup> May the peoples praise you, God;  
may all the peoples praise you.

<sup>6</sup> The land yields its harvest;  
God, our God, blesses us.

<sup>7</sup> May God bless us still,  
so that all the ends of the earth will fear him.

1. What stands out to you from this passage?

2. Reread verse 1. When you think of God being gracious to you and blessing you what types of things come to mind?
3. Reread verse 2. Notice how this verse begins with “so” showing that it is connected to verse 1. What does the psalmist say God’s grace and blessing should produce?
4. Notice the specific wording in verse 3. The psalmist does not say “let US praise you” or “let OTHERS praise you” but instead clearly says “let ALL people praise you.” What do you think the psalmist is trying to make clear?
  - a. **Note to the leader:** Not only is wording important but the phrase itself is repeated around 4 times in a 7 verse psalm.
5. Reread verse 4. Why would God ruling (or in other versions “judging”) with equity be a reason to sing for joy? Don’t judgement and ruling with equity seem like a contradiction from where the psalmist was going?
  - a. **Possible answer:** For the Christian, God judging or ruling with equity is good news. All people, apart from race, status, mistakes, or history will be equally judged by the blood of Jesus.
6. Verses 3-5 almost seem to define what the world would look like if verse 2 is accomplished. What would our world look like today if all people were praising the Lord (try not to get caught up on singing, think other actions and mindsets as well)?
  - a. **Possible answer:** Not only would more people know Jesus but our world would change. Social issues would be dealt with appropriately, babies would be adopted, relationships and marriages would be mended, trafficking and slavery would be fought. Children would grow up in believing families.
7. In verse 6-7 the Psalmist is connecting the idea that the Lord’s blessing (through harvest and prosperity) is a way that the world will know Him. During this time, a successful harvest would draw attention to the Lord’s people and their God who had to be behind the success. In what ways does the Lord bless us today so that we can be a blessing to others?

**Move #4:** What has been made clear through the passages we have studied is that God is passionate about people knowing Him which means His followers should be the same. In our last move let’s unpack some of what we have uncovered tonight.

1. Throughout our discussion tonight has anyone in particular come to your mind that we can pray for?
2. We see throughout scripture that prayer is not only about making God aware of your problems but also about making your problems aware of your God. Outside of God moving in a response to your prayer, what good will praying BLESS prayers for others do for us?
3. Have you ever experienced praying BLESS prayers for someone and God responding to them? What was that like?
4. Is there someone you have been praying for for a long time and it seems like nothing is changing? What is that like?

5. 2 Peter 3:9 mentions the patience of God. The parts before this verse also make clear that God views the passing of time differently than we do. In what way could this verse be an encouragement to someone who can answer question 4 with a “yes?”

**Next Steps:** The following are things you could challenge your members to do in order to take what you studied in this curriculum farther.

1. Read Luke 15:3-7 this week and consider the heart of God for the lost. Seek to have the same heart for the lost in your life.
2. Make a list of people you want to begin praying a B.L.E.S.S. prayer for daily. Put the list in your car, on your mirror, in your bible, or somewhere else where you will be reminded daily. If need be, set a reminder on your phone to pray daily for the people on your list.

**Prayer:** End your study with a time of prayer where people can share prayer requests and be prayed for before they leave. If possible, please steer some prayer towards what your group talked about during this study.

## Notes and Commentary

The following are pieces of commentary, facts, and links based on the passages of this study in order. Use them to help supplement your group time or for your personal preparation.

- **On 2 Peter 3:9:** One of the points on which Peter’s audience needed reassurance was the issue of timing. Excited about the new faith they had embraced, often experiencing severe persecution, many early Christians looked eagerly for Christ to return and take them to glory. (Moo)
- **On 2 Peter 3:9:** Peter’s second response to the problem of the apparent delay in Christ’s coming has to do with God’s purpose in delaying the return. This argument comes at the end of verse [9](#). The beginning of verse [9](#) is a transition between the first argument (v. [8](#)) and the second: “The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness.” The “Lord” may be Christ, since the New Testament writers usually think of the Lord in the phrase the “day of the Lord” (v. [10](#)) as Christ. But the “Lord” in verse [8](#), referring to [Psalm 90:4](#), is, of course, Yahweh. Consequently, the “Lord” here in verse [9](#) is also probably God. “His promise” refers to the promise of Christ’s return in glory (see v. [4](#)). (Moo)
- **On 2 Peter 3:9:** “Some,” Peter suggests, interpret what they think to be God’s “slowness” in fulfilling this promise to be an indication that the whole idea should be rejected. These “some” may be Christians who have been disturbed by the false teachers. Peter is then exhorting these believers not to fall into the heresy of the false teachers. But the word “some” has a polemical edge. It is more likely that Peter is thinking of the false teachers themselves. They view the delay in the fulfillment of God’s promise as a sign of God’s weakness or uninvolvedness with history. God is not really concerned with what is happening here on earth, they may have argued, so that any idea of a real end of this world or of judgment is foolish. This being the case, people might as well do whatever they want, for no accounting for actions before a just God is to come. Peter directly counters this heretical skepticism: Rather than being a sign of God’s lack of concern, his delay in sending Christ in judgment is a sign of his deep concern for human beings. For in God’s infinite patience, he is waiting for people to repent before it is too late. He does not want “anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” (Moo)

- **On Psalm 67:** Much of the insight into Psalm 67 came from *Charles Spurgeon's Treasury of David* commentary which can be found here → <https://goo.gl/piQtLG>