

Growth Group Kickoff Study 2023

Part 1

▸ Pray

▸ **Read Colossians 1.1-23** (the following questions are taken from, 'The Small Group and the Vine', Matthias Media, 2018, p10-11)

1. In verses 5-6, the gospel almost has a life of its own. What is the gospel doing?
2. What has the gospel done or produced in the Colossian's lives? (vv. 6, 12-14)
3. What does Paul hope and pray they will continue in/grow in? (vv. 9-12)
4. Who is the Son? What is his place in God's plan? (vv. 13-20)
5. What role or place do you think Christians meeting together has in what God is doing? (see also Colossians 3.16; Hebrews 10.24-25)

Part 2

At APC, we have been deliberate in nurturing a network of growth groups. Even when Bible study and prayer are core activities, it can often feel like there is little personal progress in Christian maturity, fellowship, and evangelism. One core reason for this problem is a blurred vision about growth groups. Are they just for Bible study and prayer? What about pastoral care? How does evangelism fit in? Is there a place for training and equipping?

We are crystal clear that our mission is '**growing followers of Jesus**'. It's who we are AND what we do! We know this! So how do growth groups help us achieve our mission?

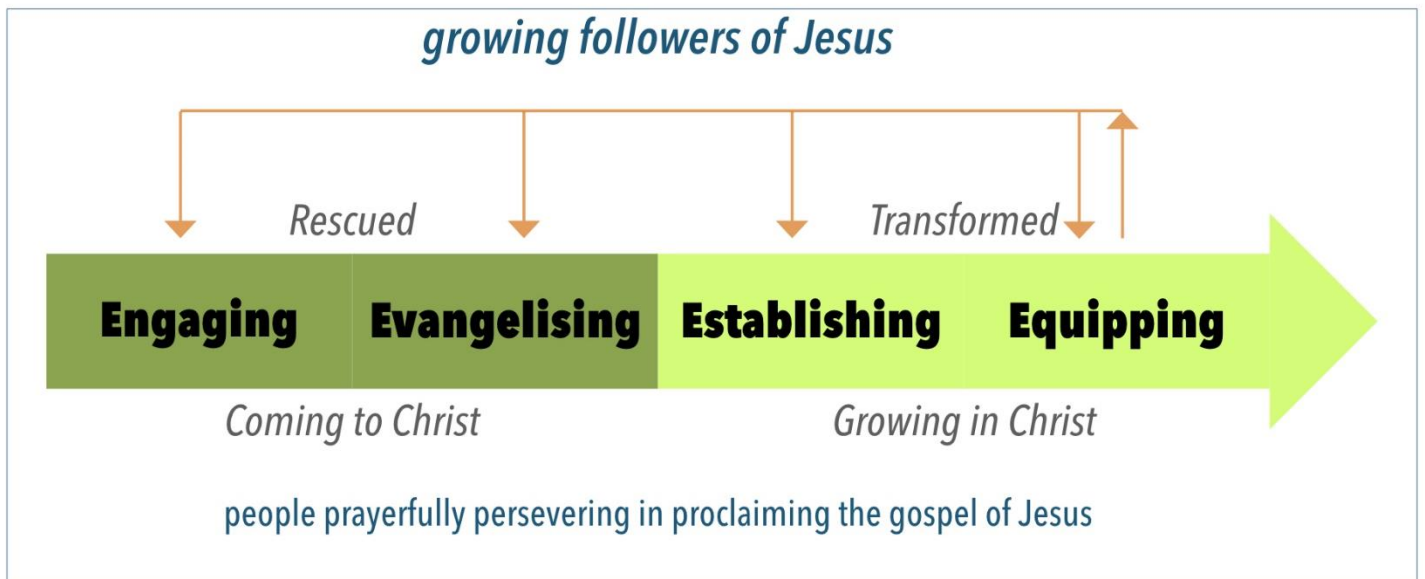
Well, we believe that *God's* agenda is to:

- i) **rescue** all people into his kingdom, and then
- ii) **transform** us to be like Christ.

This means *our* agenda is to:

- i) press forward towards maturity in Christ by **prayerfully** setting our minds on God's **Word**, and to
- ii) move **others** towards maturity in Christ by prayerfully speaking God's Word to them

This is literally the meaning and purpose of life! In this context, growth is 'moving to the right'. It is represented in the diagram on the next page.



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**In 2023, our growth group challenge and joy is to:
 focus on the 4Ps so that we each grow in the 4Es.**

1. Reflecting on Colossians 1.1-23 (read back over the whole passage again if you need) write down and discuss anything you find about how God is achieving his purposes. By what means, or through what methods, is God acting in the world? What if any of the 4Ps and 4Es are obvious?

2. What are some ways that the 4Ps of growth group have already helped you grow (move to the right) in the 4Es? What does this growth group do well when it comes to the 4Ps?

3. What could growth group do better to help you personally grow in the 4Es?

4. Is there a particular E that this growth group would like to focus in growing together in for 2023? How could you do that?

▸ Pray with thanks to God for his work in the gospel of Jesus. Pray for your personal and group commitment to grow by the 4Ps. Pray for your personal and group's growth together in the 4Es