

## WATER Lesson 5: Community Fosters Spiritual Growth



**Q: Romans 12:4-8 mentions that the body of Christ is made up of many parts; you are a part of something greater. How do you think that your puzzle piece fits in to God's master plan? Do you know what His purpose is for you yet?** We'll be talking about this again when we discuss the "GROW" section of this study. For now, it's good to be thinking about how God has created us unique and with purpose. Encourage one another to brainstorm ideas on how to use your gifts to do something to bless others and build God's kingdom.

**Q: Why do people who have been in the church their entire lives sometimes feel unqualified to teach or lead a Bible study or small group?** Many people just haven't taken the opportunities before them to exercise their faith and abilities so that they grow and stretch themselves spiritually. It's easier to be a spectator than a participant, but God doesn't want us to sit on the sidelines - He wants us in the game! We often make excuses why we cannot be more engaged at church - I'm busy, it's not the right season, I am not capable, nobody asked me to, I'm too young, I'm too old, I need to wash my hair, etc. They're exactly that - excuses. You may not be ready or qualified, but that shouldn't be a reason to not take the next step.

**Q: 2 Corinthians 5:7 says, "For we live by faith, not by sight". What is the next step of faith God would want you to take? How will this prepare you for the plans He has for you down the road?** You may not need to start a new mega ministry that reaches to the ends of the earth, but perhaps you commit to reading your Bible daily. Maybe you decide to pray on a regular basis. Maybe you need to bring reconciliation to some relationships. Perhaps you talk to your pastor or possibly a counselor. We should deal with our past and plan for the future. Dream big and ask God about what He wants to do through you!

**Q: What would be something that you would want God to do but you could never accomplish on your own? Be encouraged by Psalm 37:3-4.** God giving us the desires of our hearts can only happen when our hearts are aligned with His. When we ask Him to do something according to His will, He is more than able to do it. Perhaps God has blown your mind before? It's amazing to see God do something only He can do. When this happens, many try to call it "coincidence", but it's really divine intervention from a God who listens to our prayers! Any good stories to share?

**Q: Why is it not enough to go to church to be spiritually fed?** Going to church is good, but it's not enough to keep us spiritually strong throughout the week. We are to live out our faith daily and so we need to stay connected to God on a regular basis. It's so easy to get tripped up by life and circumstances and if we aren't seeking God on our own, we won't have the strength or relationship to stand firm in the midst of trials. We need to feed ourselves and surround ourselves with people who will build us up and remind us who we are in Christ.

**Q: Do you have any tips for others about how to continue growing in faith? Consider 1 Timothy 4:15-16 and the importance of maturing as a believer.** We've mentioned the importance of spiritual disciplines in weeks past, but this only prepares our spirits for the plans that God has for us. We need to be intentional about reaching outwards, not just upwards. We grow as we exercise our faith and share God's love with others. It not only helps us to mature but we have an extremely important message that others need to hear. If we don't tell them, who will?

**Q: What resources do you usually go to when you want to grow in your faith? Do you know of good online resources or any must-have books that you recommend?** Biblegateway.com, GotQuestions.org, YouVersion.com, Logos Bible Software, biblestudytools.com, biblehub.com, openbible.info, thegospelcoalition.org, crossway.org, BlueLetterBible.org, e-sword.net.... Find a good author or preacher. Look at rightnowmedia.org if you have account access. Check out your church library. Obviously, the Bible is our primary go-to option to grow in our faith!

**Class Assignment:** Have you given any more thought to whom God might want you to connect with to help you grow in your faith? It's time to sit down with someone and come up with a plan for spiritual growth, fellowship, and accountability. Are you able to get together on a weekly basis? Get your next meeting(s) on the calendar and start by getting to know one another. Consider a book or study to bring some structure to your discussions but keep the focus of your group on getting healthy, getting equipped, and getting going on God's plans for your life!

**Memory Verse:**

**1 Corinthians 12:25-27** - *"there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."*

**PRAYER REQUESTS:**