

MESSAGE BIG IDEA

Christ is in you...so grow in Christ.

SCRIPTURE

Colossians 1:28-2:7, Luke 8:4-15

POINTS TO KEEP IN MIND

1. Allow people to share some memorable milestones in their lives or their children's lives if they have any. This moment is an excellent opportunity to get to know each other a little better.
2. Allow people to express their challenges in their growth in Christ. Be ready to share your challenges in your growth with Jesus.
3. We are in week two of the "Greater Than" series. As you read the Colossians passage, you can refer to last week's big idea of making Jesus the center of everything. One of the purposes of making Jesus the center is to grow and be fully mature in Christ. People might think that growing in Christ is about following rules. Remind people that is not what being a Christ-follower is all about.
4. The context of John 15 is that this is the night before Jesus dies, where he is commissioning his disciples to do what he has been doing. Jesus knows the tendency we have to try to perform. He reminds his disciples that this is not about performing but about remaining in him. Some examples of remaining in him might include: reading Scripture, meditating, worshipping, fasting, and other spiritual disciplines.
5. Roots play an essential role in the tree's life—the bigger the tree, the deeper the roots. Help people understand these two metaphors Paul uses to describe our growth with Jesus. What does it mean to be rooted and built up in Christ?
6. Get familiar with the 3Cs. They stand for Celebrate, Connect, and Contribute. For some people, one might come more naturally than the others. It is ok to recognize that reality.
7. 3Cs are the initial steps, but God calls us to grow in so many different areas in our lives. Allow people to share some other areas they might feel God calling them to grow.
8. Challenge people to take the assessment, and then follow up the next week for accountability and to discuss some next steps.