

THE

WAY

DIGGING DEEPER

The Way: Grow

January 18th, 2025

Theme: Planted Together

Key Idea: Growing from belief in Jesus into a lifelong apprenticeship—becoming like Him through relationship, formation, and obedience.

LEAN IN — Connecting Life to the Message

The message talked about wanting a faith **bigger than our circumstances**, not just better circumstances.

- When you think about this season of your life, where do you most want growth—not just relief or change?
- What comes to mind when you hear the phrase “*The Way of Jesus*”? (A belief system, a lifestyle, a relationship, something else?)

Early followers of Jesus were known for living differently—and sometimes uncomfortably so.

- Where do you feel tension between following Jesus and fitting into the culture around you?
 - In what areas of your life does growth feel slow, frustrating, or unclear right now?
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LOOK UP — Scripture Engagement

Main Passage: Acts 2:42–47

Read Acts 2:42–47 together.

OBSERVE — What does the text say?

- What practices or rhythms stand out in this passage?
- What words describe how the early believers related to:
 - God?
 - Each other?
 - The world around them?
- What do you notice about **devotion** in verse 42?
- What surprises you—or what do you find yourself curious about?

INTERPRET — What does the passage mean?

The early church didn't just *believe* in Jesus—they ordered their lives around Him.

- Why do you think growth happened so naturally in this community?
- How do teaching, fellowship, prayer, and shared meals shape people over time?
- What do you learn about God from this passage?
 - (Consider His presence, power, generosity, and activity.)
- What do you learn about people?
 - (Consider formation, transformation, and the role of community.)

The message emphasized that growth is **intentional progress**, not instant perfection.

- Why do you think spiritual growth is described more as a process than a moment?

APPLY — What's my response?

The message outlined three ways we grow as followers of Jesus:

Relationship. Formation. Obedience.

- Which of these feels strongest in your life right now?
- Which one feels most underdeveloped or neglected?
- What does it look like for you personally to:

- Spend time with Jesus?
- Become more like Jesus?
- Obey what Jesus says?

Growth often requires dying to old ways in order to live new ones.

- What might Jesus be inviting you to surrender in this season?
 - Where do you sense resistance—or conviction?
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REFLECT — Bringing It Home

Jesus invites us not just to admire Him, but to follow Him.

Read Luke 9:23 together.

- What stands out to you in Jesus' invitation to deny yourself and follow Him daily?
- How does this challenge common ideas of comfort, success, or spirituality?

The message reminded us: *“You will never arrive, but you can always make progress.”*

- Where do you see progress in your life—even if it's small?
 - What would “one step of obedience” look like this week?
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Scripture

- Acts 2:42–47
 - Matthew 28:18–20
 - Galatians 2:20
 - Luke 9:23
 - 1 Corinthians 2:16
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Prayer

Use the guide below or allow space for spontaneous prayer.

Begin with Thanksgiving

- Thank God for inviting us into relationship, not religion.

- Thank Him for the gift of growth, even when it's slow.

Move to Confession

- Confess ways we've settled for belief without transformation.
- Name any fear, pride, or comfort that keeps us from fully following Jesus.

Pray for Formation

- Ask God to shape our hearts, minds, and habits to look more like Jesus.
- Pray for the fruit of the Spirit to grow in us.

Pray for the Church

- Pray that our church would be known not just for what we believe, but for how we live.
- Ask God to grow us deep, not just wide.

Close by praying the Lord's Prayer together.

Practice — STEP OUT

Choose **2–3 practices** to engage this week as a group or individually:

Daily Time with Jesus

Spend 5–10 minutes each day in prayer or Scripture.

Ask: What might Jesus want to form in me today?

Practice Dying to Self

Intentionally choose humility, forgiveness, or generosity in a situation where you'd normally protect yourself.

Live the Way Together

Share a meal, coffee, or meaningful conversation with someone from your group.

Practice presence—no agenda, just shared life.

Obedience Check

Ask yourself each morning:

"Jesus, how can I follow You more closely today?"