Lifegroup Study – 11th March 2018

**Vision Series – Growing Up**

**INTRODUCTION**

Maturity means becoming like Christ in our *being* and *doing*. But some of us believe The Myth of Maturity – “*I must be mature before doing ministry*”.  **The truth is doing ministry is *how* we mature.** This requires faith to step out and try something we may not have done before. Growing mature means taking the initiative – as Peter discovered, if you want to walk on water you’ve got to get out of the boat (Matthew 14). As we live this way, we will stretch, it will be uncomfortable, but we will learn new things and we will grow. As a church God isn’t calling us to be comfortable in Jesus’ boat. He is calling us to hear His voice and walk on water (metaphorically). We will see miracles and breakthrough as we step out in faith. No stepping out in faith – no miracles. This “unity in the faith” is all of us living by faith, stepping out in faith together. The result of this kind of maturity, is Jesus will receive more glory, God will entrust you with more (fruitfulness) and you will be blessed.

**KEY POINTS**

1. Myth Busting: Myth of Maturity - The truth is **doing ministry is *how* we mature.**
2. Growing mature requires steps of faith
3. Speaking the Truth in love to each other helps us grow

**KEY SCRIPTURES**

**READ Ephesians 4:12-16** 12“[Church leadership exists] to equip the saints for the work of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up. 13This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that **we will be mature in the Lord**, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. **14**Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won’t be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. **15**Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. **16**He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.”

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Within this passage, what insights into God’s character do you find?
2. What do these passages teach us about God’s purposes for his people?
3. Ps. Adam made the connection that the leaders of the church are to empower everyone to be ministering in some way, **so that they can grow mature.** “The truth is doing ministry is *how* we mature.” Why do you think this might be important? What do the scriptures suggest is the outcome of this, for you personally, and for the church together? (or the outcome if we don’t)
4. From this passage, what Christ-like character or behaviour should we have towards others?
5. Is there anything God has spoken to you about personally from this passage? (or from the sermon)
6. **James 1:22** says“*Don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.”* What is the next step you need to take in response to God’s word?

**PRAYER POINTS**

* For each individual to have a personal revelation of what these scriptures mean for them.
* For grace and forgiveness: Is there any need to repent of wrong attitudes or actions and making right any relationships?
* For each individual to take a step of faith this week and learn something new
* That *“[Christ] makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.”*

**SUGGESTIONS FOR PRACTICAL APPLICATION**

How you can be involved in sharing the good news of Jesus

1. Invite to Lifegroup
2. Invite to Church
3. Share the good news about Jesus
4. Share a personal God-story
5. Give away *Elim Stories*
6. Join outreaches (talk to Dion or Tony)