

# THAT WE MAY GROW

Study for the week of September 8, 2019

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## Opening Prayer

Ask God to be present with you and to open our hearts to His Word.

## Message Moment

What is one nugget you remember from the message this week?

## Ice Breaker

What role has someone's word of encouragement played in your life?

## Studying the Word

### Psalms – Psalm 1

What are some habits of happy people? (According to this Psalm!)

Aside from being happy, what is/are the benefit(s)?

Why is attention to our spiritual formation important?

What happens to the wicked?

How easy is it for you to make the choice between happy and not happy each day?

How can this be a struggle for some?

### Gospel – Luke 14:25-33

This may be easier to read from "The Message"!

What does it mean to "hate" family, self?

What does it take to be a disciple of Jesus?

Are you encouraged by this? Discouraged by this?

What should we be considering when Jesus tells of "unfinished towers" and "not being prepared for war"?

How is this related to our faith journey?

What are realistic expectations for our faith and discipleship?

Where is there grace in this?

### New Testament – Philemon

Who are the players/characters in this passage?

How do we know this is a big ask of Paul to Philemon?

In this short letter, how important is love?

Verses 8 – 9 – Is what we do in Christ bound by duty or love, or both?

In our Christian service can we learn from both duty and love?

Where do you see reference to forgiveness and reconciliation in this passage?  
How does this passage challenge you?

#### Music Suggestions

Play instrumental music for all to have time of contemplation.

#### Closing Prayer Prompts

##### Prayer Journal

To the person on your right say: “[Name}, The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your Spirit.”