



As a group grows in the Bible, Community and Prayer, we grow up in Jesus, and we will want others to grow too. We'll be outward looking, not insular, keen for others to know Jesus, and we'll support each other in reaching out to our friends.

**And as all our groups grow, our church becomes more like Christ, and God is glorified in us.**



## Growth Groups

## God wants us to grow up!

“speaking the truth in love, we will in all things **grow up into** him who is the Head, that is, **Christ**. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.” EPHESIANS 4:15-16

God’s purpose for Dundonald is that we **grow up into Christ**, living together under his loving rule. This agenda for the whole church gives our Growth Groups their essential focus. Equipped with God’s word and God’s Spirit, **we want to help each other grow up in Christ**.

### This growth...

**... centres on Jesus.** God has made Jesus our “Head”, and we are his body, growing to become more like him. So we focus our attention on Jesus Christ in the Bible.

**... involves everyone,** “as each part does its work”. Together we are the body of Christ, joined “by every supporting ligament”. So our relationships really matter, and we want to take care that no one misses out.

**... depends on Jesus.** We grow “from him”, so we pray always out of our need for his help.

Our Growth Groups therefore focus on three areas:



## We only know Christ through the Bible, as the Spirit teaches it to us.

God gave some to be apostles and prophets, who wrote the Bible for us, and others to be evangelists and pastor-teachers, who help the church understand what it says and what it means for us today. (Eph 4:11-12) This is why the preaching of our pastor-teachers is at the heart of the church’s life.

But listening in a congregation is not enough for us to grow as God intends. We actually need to be “speaking truth in love to each other” (Eph 4:15) — encouraging each other with what we are learning from God’s word, in patient love.

Growth Groups are **Bible** groups, studying together and learning from everyone in the group so we see what the Bible really means and how it helps us grow.

**Leaders** will help us discuss together what the Bible says about Jesus and what it means for us to follow him.

**Members** will serve one another by discussing together what the Bible says about Jesus and what it means to follow him.



Jesus tells us to “love each other”.

This is how people know that we belong to Jesus (Jn 13:34-35). With the help of his Spirit, our Growth Groups become places where we know we are loved despite our faults and where we are learning to love the others in the group, ‘warts and all’.

That means knowing a bit about each other, and what is going on in our lives, so we can help in ways that are thoughtful and relevant. For some of us it means opening up a little so others can know us better, while others might need to say less and listen more! It means finding ways to share our lives, not just our opinions on Bible passages, and perhaps finding time to have longer conversations outside our weekly meetings. It will also mean caring for each other as we go through the tougher times of life..

Growth Groups are **Community** groups, where we lovingly share our lives and serve each other in Christ-like ways so that we grow.

**Leaders** will aim to grow the relationships within the group, aiming to include each person and ensure none are missing out or drifting away.

**Members** will make the group one of their highest priorities, getting to know and be known in the group, and will help care for other group members.



“God is our refuge and strength”, “our rock and our redeemer” (Ps 46:1; 19:14).

We need him always, in everything. As we grow to know God’s will and each other’s joys and concerns, we talk together to Our Father in thankful praise and dependent prayer.

Prayer is therefore absolutely essential to the life of every Growth Group. If we are serious about growing to become more like Christ, we will be serious in asking God to grow us, confessing our failure and rejoicing in progress.

Once a month we have a special whole church prayer meeting for all our growth groups, meeting together in our Central Prayer Meeting. This is not a week off for our group, but a precious week to focus as a whole body on growing in our praise of, and dependence on, God. For those unable to come in the evening, our daytime groups have their own prayer meetings.

Growth Groups are **Prayer** groups, responding together to our Father in heaven, praising God for his goodness and depending on him to grow.

**Leaders** will lead the group to pray each week, and evening leaders will attend the central prayer meeting.

**Members** will grow to pray for each other, and attend the central prayer meeting or their daytime group prayer meeting.