



I am pumped! Starting next week (May 30), we will be launching a second couples' growth group! The existing couples' group has been officially handed off to Keith Thompson, so next week 2 couples will be helping Emily and I launch a new group at our house! I am looking forward to what God is going to do in our groups this summer.

Here's the summer Growth Groups schedule:

Sunday Groups	Wednesday Groups
May 27, June 3, 17	May 30, June 6, 20
July 15, 29 (Church-wide Event on July 4)	July 4 (Church-wide event), 18
August 12 (Fall Kick-off?), 19, 26	August 1, 15 (Fall Kick-off?), 22, 29

This week, we conclude our "Questions" series by asking: *"Where are you headed?"*

- **When you were in grade school, what did you want to be when you grew up? How did that dream affect the way you did your school work, played games, and other activities as you went through school? Whether or not you became what you dreamed about, how did that dream affect who you are today?**
- **Read John 5:1-12. In his message, Eric showed us that the man in this passage was more focused on his circumstances than he was on Jesus who could get him out of his circumstances. What kind of circumstances have you been in that overwhelmed you so much you "forgot" that God is big enough to help you get out of them?**
- **There's another type of person in this passage: the Jews. What were the Jews focused on in this passage?**
- **How have you ever lost sight of God because you got too focused on "Christian" activities such as worship, Bible Study, ministry, church activities, etc.?**
- **What do you want your life and family to look like in 10-15 years? What decisions are you making today to make that vision happen?**
- **What decisions are you making today that will affect your life in eternity?**



Auburn, Alabama

Growth Groups  
**Leader's Travel Guide**  
 Week of May 20-26, 2007



***“Where are you headed?”***

This week's lesson is about making decisions today that define where we are going in life. I encourage you to use the opportunity to instill the vision for where Journey Church is going, and the vision of where the Growth Groups at Journey are going.

I am excited! Next week we will be launching a new Growth Group. The couples' group has grown to the point where we needed to multiply to keep the momentum moving. Creating new groups is not going to hurt the momentum in the existing groups - it will build momentum.

As an introduction to the Leaders' Guide below, I included a story about a church my company met with this week. One other concern we raised with this church is that several new churches are doing a lot of great things around them. At their current size, they can not continue the current growth and decline cycle forever. Eventually, some of these churches would build buildings down the street and overshadow them, making it impossible to even survive in their current state. Unless they make a decision to be able to grow, they will stagnate and die.

If our growth groups grow without multiplying, the value of a healthy group will be lost because close relationships can not continue in a group that is too large. However, if a group doesn't grow, it will also stagnate, because the excitement of what God is doing in new peoples' lives will not be experienced in your groups.

My prayer is that “Friend Day” has produced several new people at Journey Church, and that those people are prospects to grow each of our Growth Groups, and possibly multiply into more as fall approaches. Remind your folks that if they want the group to thrive, they need to continue to “Invest and Invite” throughout the week.

Keep up the great work!  
 Andrew

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This week, we conclude our “Questions” series by asking: *“Where are you headed?”*

Before you begin, I want to relate a timely experience I encountered this week. You may want to think of a similar story from your own experiences to open your discussion.

My company interviewed with a couple churches this week. I went to one of the meetings and found myself asking “where are you going as a church?” This church has experienced several rounds of growth and decline for almost 20 years, primarily due to limits on their facility. As we were trying to help them envision what moves to make to overcome these limits, it became clear that they really didn't know who they wanted to be as a church. Until they can decide who they are and who they want to be, it will be very difficult for us to develop facilities to help them get there. The bottom line of this week's lesson is exactly what this church is dealing with: **The decisions you make today affect where you are headed, and knowing where you are headed helps you make the right decisions to get there.**

- **When you were in grade school, what did you want to be when you grew up? How did that dream affect the way you did your school work, played games, and other activities as you went through school? Whether or not you became what you dreamed about, how did that dream affect who you are today?**

This question has two purposes:

- 1 - learn a little more about each other and get a good laugh out of each others' childhood dreams.
- 2 - Begin to get your folks thinking about how their dreams affect their actions and how their actions affect the results.

- ***Read John 5:1-12.* In his message, Eric showed us that the man in this passage was more focused on his circumstances that he was on Jesus who could get him out of his circumstances. What kind of circumstances have you been in that overwhelmed you so much you “forgot” that God is big enough to help you get out of them?**

This questions is meant to be a faith-building discussion. Remind your folks that God is bigger than our biggest problem. Remind them that God is even bigger than our biggest dream. You may know some of the struggles in your group from past discussions . . . you may want to challenge your folks in a positive way by asking “How is God bigger than [insert circumstance or problem]?”

- **There’s another type of person in this passage: the Jews. What were the Jews focused on in this passage?**

No matter what else your people say . . . let them know that the Jews were trying to serve God, but that they got so mixed up in the “details of religion” and the “doing the right things” that they lost sight of the God that they were doing them for.

- **How have you ever lost sight of God because you got too focused on “Christian” activities such as worship, Bible Study, ministry, church activities, etc.?**

I highly suggest that you use this question as an opportunity to let people know that Journey Church has a goal to stay simple so we can stay focused. By staying focused on the few things we do well, it will help us stay focused on why we are doing them: *to transform ordinary people into passionate Christ-followers.*

However, don’t let your folks diminish the importance of doing certain activities as Christ-followers. Instead, remind them that we do certain things to draw us closer to God. Everything we do is a good thing with a good purpose . . . but too much of a good thing becomes a god in itself.

- **What do you want your life and family to look like in 10-15 years? What decisions are you making today to make that vision happen?**

This question and the last question are our application questions for this week. Not only is it an opportunity for your folks to evaluate their lives, but it also gives your group some bonding time to get to know each others dreams. Enjoy, and pray for whatever is shared!

- **What decisions are you making today that will affect your life in eternity?**