



**Growth Groups  
Travel Guide  
Week of August 8-12, 2007**

**CONFESSIONS  
OF A PASTOR!**

Welcome to a new semester of Growth Groups at Journey Church! Wow! Summer is over and we're running full force into the fall. This week and next week we will continue with our current groups to get us into the groove for the fall. On August 26, we're going to relaunch all of our groups through Connection Groups at the church over lunch, following the service. This will be a great time to invite your friends to get involved with a group on the ground-level.

This is the final week of the *Confessions of a Pastor* series. This week's topic is *Most of My Life I've Lived a Lie*. The purpose of this series is to help us realize that we all share the same struggles (even pastors), but God is big enough and wise enough to give us strength and wisdom to overcome even the simplest of everyday struggles. By opening up and admitting our struggles, we have the opportunity to experience authentic community.

- One of Journey Church's core values is "Authentic Community." **What does the term "Authentic Community" mean to you? Describe what you think "Authentic Community" looks like.**
- **Do you personally feel like you are experiencing authentic community at Journey Church? How is your Growth Group a part of this?**
- This summer, we strongly encouraged our Growth Groups to "do life together" outside of scheduled Growth Group events. "Doing life together" is only one part of authentic community. **READ Ephesians 4:25-27. What does this verse teach us about how to interact with each other as we are "doing life" together?**
- **What is one way that you struggle with "being real" with the people around you?**
- **Is there anything in your life that you should "confess" so that healing can begin?**
- **Who can you confess to this week that can hold you accountable? When will you talk to him/her?**



## Growth Groups Leaders' Travel Guide Week of August 8-12, 2007

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Welcome to a new semester of Growth Groups at Journey Church! Wow! Summer is over and we're running full force into the fall. This week and next week we will continue with our current groups to get us into the groove for the fall. On August 26, we're going to relaunch all of our groups through Connection Groups at the church over lunch, following the service. This will be a great time to invite your friends to get involved with a group on the ground-level.

### Growth Group Leaders:

We are having Growth Groups Leaders Training on Monday night, August 13 . . . which means it will have happened by the time some of you get this information. But, the key is that we are trying to ramp up the effectiveness of the Growth Groups ministry by helping you as GG Leaders be more effective in leading your groups. I have put together a Growth Groups Manual to go through at this training . . . which will provide significantly more information than we will cover at the meeting, but will be a valuable resource for you as we continue to grow.

A few high points of training that I will hit on and explain at the training, that I need you be aware of:

- In order for this ministry to thrive, I need feedback from every group leader each week on how the group meeting went. What was good, what was not so good? Please email me within two days after you meet.
- Find an apprentice to start preparing to be a leader in the future so we can continue to multiply.
- Constantly encourage the folks in your group to "do life together" and to "be real with each other."

Please let me know if there is anything else I can do to help you make your groups a success!

I am really excited to see what is about to happen this fall. There is so much momentum and potential built up at Journey right now . . . let's all work together to see it through and watch what God is going to do!

Thanks for helping us get this far!  
Andrew

The list of questions this week is short and sweet. Mainly because they are potentially loaded questions that can lead to some awesome discussion in your groups. These questions will help all of us really know how healthy our Growth Groups ministry is . . . and will also help us to know how well we have communicated our core values to our people. Listen carefully and be ready to communicate the Journey Church vision as we move into this discussion.

Particularly, the core value related to Growth Groups we are discussing this week is "Authentic Community." The purpose for Growth Groups is to grow in relationship with God and with others. These questions will help people understand what that means and will give us a feel for how well we are doing at accomplishing our vision. Giving me your feedback after your meetings will definitely be crucial this week.

This is the final week of the *Confessions of a Pastor* series. This week's topic is *Most of My Life I've Lived a Lie*. The purpose of this series is to help us realize that we all share the same struggles (even pastors), but God is big enough and wise enough to give us strength and wisdom to overcome even the simplest of everyday struggles. By opening up and admitting our struggles, we have the opportunity to experience authentic community.

- One of Journey Church's core values is "Authentic Community." **What does the term "Authentic Community" mean to you? Describe what you think "Authentic Community" looks like.**

**\*KNOW THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WELL BEFORE STARTING THE QUESTIONS:**

Our core value of “Authentic Community” states: *We are committed to “doing life together” in an environment where people have a place to belong, believe and become.* Therefore, our goal to fully achieve “Authentic Community” is to group people together in such a way that they can “do life together,” both at Journey Church and throughout the week doing other things. At the same time, just doing stuff together doesn’t make community. Genuine community involves being able to be yourself, and to not worry about what other people think about you. It also involves being able to share your struggles, know the people will pray for you and help you through rather than judge you or condemn you. Finally, it also involves knowing that the people around you care about you and will help you when you need it. **Bottom line: an authentic community is a place where you do not have to perform to be accepted, where you can trust and be trusted, and where people genuinely care about you and what you are going through.**

Don’t feed your folks this information too quickly. Let them talk a little bit and feed them this information as encouragement as you go along. Don’t let bad ideas of Authentic Community stay on the table, gently try to shift peoples’ thinking in the direction of above.

As you transition . . . you may want to go into the next question by saying something like:

*Since an authentic community is a place where you do not have to perform to be accepted, where you can trust and be trusted, and where people genuinely care about you, . . .*

- **Do you personally feel like you are experiencing authentic community at Journey Church? How is your Growth Group a part of this?**

**Be prepared for the truth!** Don’t take whatever anyone says personally. If someone says no, it is not a personal attack on you as a Growth Group Leader. Use their input to gauge how we are doing as a ministry, and give me feedback so we can work together improve any weaknesses. If you get positive feedback, celebrate what we are accomplishing, and be sure to reiterate and reinforce everything we are doing right. DEFINITELY give me positive feedback . . . those who are truly experiencing authentic community might just find themselves on a video promo for the Connection Groups.

- This summer, we strongly encouraged our Growth Groups to “do life together” outside of scheduled Growth Group events. “Doing life together” is only one part of authentic community. **READ Ephesians 4:25-27. What does this verse teach us about how to interact with each other as we are “doing life” together?**

Basically, our goal for this question is to instill the idea that authentic community includes openness and honesty.

**Be sure to use the term “be real” with each other during the discussion of this question.** This question is meant to give us Scriptural Truth to reinforce our three values of authentic community:

1. A place where you do not have to perform to be accepted.
  2. A place where you can trust and be trusted.
  3. A place where people genuinely care about you and what you are going through.
- Essentially . . . being OPEN, HONEST, and REAL with each other.

- **What is one way that you struggle with “being real” with the people around you?**

Our theme verse for this series has been James 5:16: *“Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.”* Use this question and the next as a lead-in to your prayer time. The main point of Eric’s message this week was “You can confess and be healed, or you can continue living the lie.” We’re not accusing people of sinning . . . we’re letting them know that we all struggle with various temptations, and together we can overcome them and achieve victory and healing.

- **Is there anything in your life that you should “confess” so that healing can begin?**

This is the first “so what” question . . . It’s not just good enough to admit you have a struggle. Confessing admits you are struggling, and that you need help to overcome it . . . and you want that help . . . Perhaps the answer for this question will be a simple “yes” without much detail. Don’t try to press. If there’s a struggle to confess the actual issue, use it as a lead-in to the last question.

- **Who can you confess to this week that can hold you accountable? When will you talk to him/her?**