



If you haven't been through the Newcomers class, be sure to sign up to be a part of it. This class will help you understand who we are as a church and help you identify with us and become a vital part of what God is doing here in Auburn.

This week, we conclude the *Blueprints for Your Life* series by talking about a Blueprint for Your Spiritual Life.

- **What do you think of when you hear the phrase “spiritual life”?**
- **READ: Romans 8:1-2 and 8:8-11. What does this teach us about the relationship between Christ and the “spiritual life”?**
- On Sunday, Eric spoke about “3 spiritual houses,” (1) The House of Growth, (2) The House of Rejection, and (3) The House of Compromise. **Which house would you consider yourself in now? What would cause you to choose this house?**
- **Are there any barriers in your life right now that would keep you from moving toward a growing relationship with God?**
- **What steps can you take right now to improve your spiritual intimacy with God? What will you do this week to take that step?**



Hey Growth Group Leaders!

I have not heard from all the Growth Group Leaders from last week. I hope that no news is good news. However, I remind you that communication about your Growth Group meetings is essential for the success of our ministry. **Please be sure to send me an email within two days after your Growth Group meeting.** For those of you who have given me feedback, I greatly appreciate it and am glad to hear that most everything is starting off well for the fall.

As we finish up this series, I also ask that you begin looking around your group for potential apprentices. There is constant potential for new groups at Journey, and we need to be ready when the need arises. Begin looking for potential leaders in your group and begin showing them the ropes. As you identify an apprentice, let me know so that I can help you get them ready for leading a group in the future.

Just as a coaching idea to help your groups experience success, be sure to watch the time as you go through your Growth Group Meeting. We do not want great conversation to be cut off, but we also need to be sure to move through the material and to be done in a timely manner. Whatever you need to do to get through the material, be sure to cover the last question, because it is the “rubber meets the road” question to bridge from truth to life.

I continue to be excited as we look forward to a successful year together!

God bless!
Andrew

This week, we conclude the *Blueprints for Your Life* series by talking about a Blueprint for Your Spiritual Life.

As a quick reminder, this week was “friend day.” One of the goals of these high-attendance Sundays is to present the way to become a Christ-follower as clearly as possible. In the midst of sharing the Gospel, we are also challenging our folks to live their lives more focused on living out the Gospel day-to-day. As we follow up on this message, find creative ways to encourage your folks to invest and invite as they live their lives as Christ-followers.

- **What do you think of when you hear the phrase “spiritual life”?**

In our post-modern culture, this could be a very loaded question for your folks. But with our current topic, this is a very needed question. One of the trends in today’s culture is to separate “spiritual matters” from “everyday matters.” For example, you hear it in political circles: “His personal beliefs will not affect his ability to perform his job in office.” This shouldn’t be true. Our beliefs ought to affect *everything* we do. If not, our beliefs are meaningless, or contradictory at best. Our challenge is to find out when our folks are leaning this direction and to gently turn them toward a holistic view of life through Christ-centered spiritual glasses. Verse 8 in the following passage may help in making that shift.

- **READ: Romans 8:1-2 and 8:6-11. What does this teach us about the relationship between Christ and the “spiritual life”?**

Essentially, this passage and question are at the core of the Gospel. Without a relationship with Jesus Christ, we are spiritually dead (v6). With Jesus, we are made spiritually alive (v6, 10). Additionally, as we live a spiritual life in Christ, he will give life to every aspect of our being (v11).

- On Sunday, Eric spoke about “3 spiritual houses,” (1) The House of Growth, (2) The House of Rejection, and (3) The House of Compromise. **Which house would you consider yourself in now? What would cause you to choose this house?**

Hopefully you will have a clear picture of where each person in your group is spiritually. Even if they put themselves in “The House of Growth,” be sure to listen to the why they believe they are there. As people answer this question, you can get a real clear picture of their understanding of what it means to be a Christ follower. Be listening for clues of their spiritual condition. If you come across any incorrect views that you can use as a springboard for healthy discussion, that is great. If anything comes up that you are afraid to deal with in the group, either try to meet with the individual some other time or let Eric and I know so we can follow up. At least give us feedback so we can join you in prayer.

Another issue you may come across is someone who is a genuine Christ follower who puts themselves in one of the other two house because of some situation they are in or because of a situation in their past that they just can’t let go of. As you continue through the rest of these questions, I encourage you not to excuse ongoing sinful behavior, but for those who are still holding on to forgiven sins, remind them of the forgiveness and life they have in Christ, and that taking steps away from their bondage is the key to moving to the House of Growth. As we get to the application questions, help them formulate practical goals to overcome their guilt (See Romans 8:1). If their struggle is with situations beyond what simple weekly goals can overcome, be sure to let us know so we can help you lead them to healing, or find more qualified help for the more significant issues.

Still other folks will put themselves in House 2 or House 3 and be proud of it or at least comfortable there. In this case, you may want to revisit the Romans passage, including the skipped verses, and just ask them where they see themselves in this passage. People who are comfortable in a disconnected state are hard to deal with, so we can only pray that our efforts are helping take steps to break down the walls of confusion, hostility, or whatever.

- **Are there any barriers in your life right now that would keep you from moving toward a growing relationship with God?**

This question is not only for those folks who are in House 2 or House 3. Even people who are in the House of Growth may be holding on to some barriers . . . we may be growing, but we may be limiting our growth. Encourage your folks to think carefully about any barriers that might exist, so that we can set practical goals to overcome them in the next question.

- **What steps can you take right now to improve your spiritual intimacy with God? What will you do this week to take that step?**

For many folks, the answer is going to be to increase their practice of various spiritual disciplines such as Bible study, Prayer, Sharing their faith, Attending church, serving in a ministry capacity, etc. For others, this will require making a decision to step over the line of faith follow Christ and to turn from their sin. For still others, they may need to be baptized or sign up for the newcomers lunch, or something else. In any case, don’t let them say a nebulous goal like “Read my Bible more.” Try to help them come up with a measurable goal like “Read my Bible at least 20 minutes 4 times this week.” That way your group can ask them if they met their goal next week, and celebrate together when goals are met and lives are changed.

Have a great week!