

Growth Group Questions
Week of February 10

1. Can you remember a misunderstanding you shared with someone related to the time you arranged to meet? How did that turn out? Do you value punctuality? Is time a more fluid concept to you?

2. Did anything about today's sermon, *Deconstructing Love: Time*, surprise or challenge you? What was your take-away from the sermon today?

3. Read John 15:5-8. Pastor Amy connected the concept of quality time to Jesus' metaphor of an abiding relationship, such as that of vine and branches. What other insights do you gain from this teaching of Jesus? What does "quality time" mean to you?

4. Read Luke 24:13-35. What was revealed to the disciples in the quality time that Jesus spent with them on the Emmaus Road? What could be revealed to us in quality time with our loved ones?

5. Pastor Amy and the children used ping pong balls and rice to demonstrate the importance of prioritizing quality time with loved ones. Have you given thought to any realignment that may be needed regarding quality time the people in your life?

6. What is your love language? Do you know the love languages of the most important people in your life? How could knowing these things improve your relationships — with other people and with God? If you have not self-identified or taken an assessment, consider going to www.5lovelanguages.com or picking up a copy of the book, "The Five Love Languages," by Dr. Gary Chapman.

Lectio Divina for Growth Groups

John 15: 5-8

The phrase lectio divina is Latin for “sacred reading” and describes an ancient approach to reading the scripture that originated in the Benedictine tradition. Including this practice in our Growth Group meetings this semester will do at least three things: 1) Invite each person to go deeper into study of the week’s sermon text. 2) Invite each group to go deeper into group discussions each week. 3) Equip each person with a spiritual practice that can be used on a daily basis with any passage of scripture during personal devotion time.

A group practice of lectio divina includes three readings of the text aloud. It is best to choose three different readers and three different translations, if possible. During each reading, group members will listen for three different but related purposes as detailed below. Silence will follow each reading, and then discussion will follow at the very end.

First Reading

Step 1: Everyone takes a deep breath to prepare for reading of the sermon text.

Step 2: One group member reads the passage out loud while all group members listen for a word or phrase that jumps out in their minds. Tip: Simply acknowledge the word or phrase without judgment or analysis.

Step 3: A moment of silence is observed as people take note of that word or phrase.

Second Reading

Step 1: Everyone takes a deep breath to prepare for reading of the sermon text.

Step 2: A second group member reads the passage out loud while all group members listen for why that original word or phrase might have jumped out in their minds. Tip: Ask, “What is going on with me right now that this word or phrase might have significance in my life?”

Step 3: A moment of silence is observed as people take note of what they have discerned.

Third Reading

Step 1: Everyone takes a deep breath to prepare for reading of the sermon text.

Step 2: A third group member reads the passage out loud while all group members listen for what God might be calling them to do with the information they’ve learned in the first two readings. Tip: Ask, “How is God inviting me to respond to what’ve I learned tonight? What action might I take?”

Step 3: A moment of silence is observed as people take note of what they have discerned.

Group Discussion

