Latechurch in 2010

At Latechurch in 2010 we're having a renewed focus on **Growing Followers of Jesus through Growth Groups**. But how do we know if that's a good idea? And, what will that mean for each of us in our different stages of understanding Jesus?
On our first Growth Group night we're taking a look at **why** the Corinthian followers of Jesus got together and **how** that affected the way their gatherings worked.

Why

KICKOFF

Fill in this table about the way you recognise different kinds of gatherings.

Who	Why	How do you know?
Soccer Club	To play soccer	they play every week

BIBLE

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

What is Paul's message? v18, 23

What kinds of words does Paul use to describe that message?

THINK

Despite different responses from different groups of people, what do you think Paul sees as the clearest way to understand what God is doing in the world?

BIBLE

Look at some of the things people like to see and hear in v22. Paul's message is different to that. How is it different v23-25?

People in Paul's day looked for impressive shows and new ideas. Nothing's changed. But the message of **God's saving crucified king is God's main message**. Paul was on about Christ crucified, and that's what we're on about at Latechurch.

So what does this mean the focus of our Growth Groups will be?

Given your answer above, what should we expect from each other in Growth Groups?
What we talk about:

The questions we ask:

What we read:

Who	Why	How do you know?
Growth Group		

We want everyone to feel at home in a Growth Group. But it's good to be clear that **we get together because Christ crucified is the power of God to save people**. We're not primarily a support group, or a social group. Sure, we do those things, but we should expect that understanding and explaining Christ together will be our highest priority.

Now's a good time for someone in the group to pray that Christ would be the priority for each Growth Group

How

How will we work together to explain and understand Jesus? Paul uses an explanation to show that everyone has some kind of role to play in gatherings with followers of Jesus.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

What are the most repeated words in that section?

What are followers of Jesus described as in v27?

God views followers of Jesus as the body of Christ. Seeing **Christians together should give a clearer picture of Jesus**. So depending on where you're at with Jesus, either you're part of the body showing what Jesus is like, or you're getting a clearer picture of him by seeing Christians follow Jesus together.

Let's take a quick look at how God's people work together when things are going to plan!

Who arranges the parts of the body? v18

So who put you where you are in Latechurch?

On this scale, put a mark where you think you fall:

I've got nothing to offer Latechurch

Latechurch can't live without me

God has given everyone everything they need to follow Jesus together. Even you. In your Growth Group God says you're vital. They need you, and you need them.

If everyone has a role to play in the Body of Christ, what should we expect from Growth Group then?

To help you think creatively about your role in Growth Group here's some ideas of what some people are good at. Add your own and talk about them together. You never know what God might use to help others follow Jesus!

Week by week things need to happen in Growth Groups and with Growth Groups to grow everyone at Latechurch as followers of Jesus. Talk together about who could do the following:

Organise a Group supper roster if you want one

Plan the social stuff for the Group

Take down weekly prayer points and send them to mitch@mpc.org.au

Lead prayer time in your Group each week

Volunteer to be interviewed up front on Sunday nights

Have a go at leading a study or two

Co-ordinate when your Group is rostered to organise Sunday nights

Email the whole Group each week to grow community

Perhaps there's something else…

The aim of this study has been to see what we are on about. Everyone will have a role as we get together because of God's saving message about Jesus. In 2010 Latechurch is **Growing Followers of Jesus through Growth Groups**.

Spend a few minutes praying for each other to use your energy and efforts to help Grow Followers of Jesus through Growth Groups.