

A Study Guide for

“Grow Together: You Are One. Grow Like It.”

Crosspointe Marriage | Class 8

Vision: *To build strong marriages with a foundation in Christ.*

Mission: *Mentor, encourage, and support marriages through Biblical teaching and guidance.*

Ice Breakers

- **Spiritually Disconnected:** Can two people both love God and still be spiritually disconnected in their marriage? What might that look like day to day?
- **Different Speeds:** Think of a couple who attend church together but rarely talk about what God is teaching them, or where one spouse serves constantly while the other feels overlooked at home. What do you think is really going on?
- **Where Is God Leading Us?:** Have you ever been so convinced about where God was leading you that you stopped asking where God was leading us?
- **Best or Leftovers:** Do the people outside your home get the best of you while your spouse gets what is left?

Key Scripture Passages

- **Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:6** – A man leaves his father and mother, is joined to his wife, and the two become one flesh: “no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”
- **Genesis 2:18; Proverbs 31:25–26** – The helper is a partner who brings wisdom, strength, encouragement, and discernment; strength and honor are her clothing, and on her tongue is the law of kindness.
- **1 Corinthians 13:2** – Though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.
- **Ephesians 4:1–6** – Walk worthy of your calling with lowliness, gentleness, longsuffering, and love, keeping the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
- **Ephesians 5:25** – Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.
- **Colossians 2:6–7** – As you received Christ, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith.
- **1 Timothy 6:11** – Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.
- **2 Peter 1:5–7** – Add to your faith virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love.

The Big Picture

It is possible to love God, serve faithfully, pray every day, and still be growing spiritually apart from your spouse. Couples can attend church together and rarely talk about what God is teaching them. One spouse can serve constantly while the other feels overlooked at home. One can grow in knowledge and become impatient or judgmental toward the other. They are moving at different speeds, and slowly

they begin moving in different directions. You can grow spiritually as an individual while your marriage is growing spiritually apart.

God's design changes the question. Because the two of you are one flesh (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:6), you are no longer asking only "Where is God leading me?" but "Where is God leading us?" Marriage does not erase your individuality, personality, gifting, or personal responsibility; you remain accountable to God for your own faith, obedience, and growth, and no one can pray, repent, obey, or mature for you. But it does change your direction, your decisions, the timing of your calling, and what you are willing to sacrifice. After your relationship with God, your first ministry is your home, and ministry outside it must never be used to hide private spiritual neglect. Husbands are called to grow into Christlike, sacrificial leaders, and wives into the strong, wise, kind helpers God made them to be.

Individual growth is necessary but it is not enough. The clearest test of your growth is whether it increasingly produces the character of Christ in the relationships closest to you. Growing together does not require the same speed. It requires the same anchor, the same direction, and a commitment not to leave one another behind. Paul's call to "walk worthy" (Ephesians 4:1–3) means humility, gentleness, patience, love, and an active commitment to unity. Just because I am ready does not mean we are ready. When a decision is big, couples discern together through eight intentional steps, and they build a shared spiritual life through the ROOTED practices: Read Scripture, Open prayer, Obedience, Time together, Encourage growth, Depend on God.

Group Discussion Questions

- Can two people both love God and still be spiritually disconnected in their marriage? Where have you seen it?
- "You can grow spiritually as an individual while your marriage is growing spiritually apart." Where might that be true of you?
- Have you ever been so convinced about where God was leading you that you stopped asking where He was leading us? What was the situation (careers, ministry, finances, parenting, moving, church involvement, giving, serving, schedules, major purchases)?
- After your relationship with God, your first spiritual responsibility is your home. Does your spouse experience the fruit of your relationship with God?
- How can spiritual activity (leading a Bible study, encouraging everyone at church) be mistaken for spiritual maturity?
- Husbands: which area of growth (spiritual leadership, sacrificial love, integrity, self-control, humility, gentleness, responsibility, courage and faith) would make your wife feel most loved, safe, heard, and helped toward Christ?
- Wives: which area of growth (wisdom and discernment, strength and courage, respect, encouragement, self-control, kindness, faithfulness, stewardship) would make your husband feel most respected, strengthened, understood, and helped toward Christ?
- What major decisions are most likely to expose different spiritual speeds in marriage?
- How can a spiritually confident spouse accidentally pressure the other?
- What is the difference between patient preparation and passive avoidance, and what would help a couple recognize that both are ready to move forward?

Closing Challenge

- Practice one ROOTED habit this week. Choose it together, set a specific day and time, and keep it simple enough to repeat.
- Have one shared discernment conversation this week about a decision, concern, or direction that affects you both.
- End that time by encouraging one area of growth you see in your spouse.
- Ask once a week, “What is God teaching you right now?”
- Pray together for two minutes before your next major conversation or decision.
- When your pace differs, ask, “How can we keep moving in the same direction?”

Personal Action Steps

- Ask God to show you one area where He is asking you to grow personally, and take one step of obedience in it.
- Ask your spouse how that growth could bless them, your family, your work, and your other relationships.
- Honestly consider whether your spiritual activity or personal growth has created distance between you and your spouse.
- Look at the order of responsibility (Christ, then marriage, then others) and ask whether your ministry, work, or service strengthens your home or repeatedly competes with it.
- Watch for the warning signs in yourself: impatience with your spouse’s pace, judgment of their questions or fears, pushing your own plan because it feels spiritual, moving ahead without shared prayer, being more impressive in public than loving at home.
- Share one verse, sermon insight, or answered prayer with your spouse without turning it into a lecture.
- Choose one household concern and seek God about it together for a week.
- Bless your spouse’s growth with encouragement instead of comparison.

Memory Verse

“With all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” – Ephesians 4:2–3 (NKJV)

Main Themes

Theme 1: One Flesh Changes the Question (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:6; 2 Peter 1:5–7)

Marriage does not erase your individuality, your personality, your gifting, or your personal responsibility. You become one without becoming the same person; God still uses your unique temperament and abilities to strengthen your spouse, home, church, and community; and you remain accountable to God for your own faith, choices, character, obedience, and growth. But being one flesh can change your direction (you consider where God is leading us, not only me), your decisions (major choices must account for your spouse and the health of your covenant), the path or timing of your calling (the calling may stay the same while how or when you pursue it changes so you can move forward together), your sacrifices (some personal preferences may need to be surrendered to protect unity), and your spiritual growth (you must learn to pursue God and mature together).

The questions shift accordingly. “Where is God leading me?” becomes “Where is God leading us?” “Who is God calling me to become?” becomes “Who is God calling us to become?” “What step of obedience should I take?” becomes “How do we obey God while protecting the unity He created?” And “How can I grow stronger?” becomes “How can my growth strengthen my spouse, home, and covenant?” God’s direction for your marriage will never require you to abandon God’s design for your marriage to get there.

None of this removes your individual responsibility. Your spouse cannot develop a prayer life for you, obey for you, repent for you, study for you, mature for you, or develop character for you. Peter calls each of us to “giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love” (2 Peter 1:5–7). You are individually responsible for becoming who God has called you to be, and in marriage you are also responsible for learning to walk with God as one.

Personal Reflection

- Have you ever been so convinced about where God was leading you that you stopped asking where God was leading us?
- Which of your personal convictions (career, ministry, finances, parenting, moving) have you pursued without fully including your spouse?
- Which step of personal growth is only yours to take, and what are you waiting for your spouse to do instead?

Theme 2: Your First Ministry Is Your Home

After your relationship with God, your first spiritual responsibility is your home. Before you are a pastor, ministry leader, employee, business owner, volunteer, or friend, God has given you a role inside your marriage. Before He uses you to influence people outside your home, He is concerned with who you are becoming inside it.

Spiritual activity is not necessarily spiritual maturity. A husband can lead a Bible study while failing to spiritually lead his home. A wife can encourage everyone at church while failing to encourage her husband. Either spouse can pray, study Scripture, serve, attend groups, and grow in biblical knowledge while the marriage becomes increasingly disconnected. If ministry outside the home requires you to sacrifice the spiritual health of your marriage, your ministries have gotten out of order.

The order of responsibility is: first, your relationship with Christ, where you receive identity, direction, truth, power, and love, and take responsibility for your own obedience, character, repentance, and growth; second, your marriage, where that growth becomes visible in love, service, leadership, help, patience, and unity at home; third, others, where you serve, lead, work, and influence from a spiritually healthy foundation. This order does not mean we ignore people outside the home. It means public spiritual activity must not be used to hide private spiritual neglect.

Personal Reflection

- Does my spouse experience the fruit of my relationship with God?
- Am I more patient, gentle, faithful, and loving at home because I am growing spiritually?
- Do people outside my home receive the best of me while my spouse receives what is left? Is my ministry, work, or service strengthening my home or repeatedly competing with it?

Theme 3: What Kind of Husband Are You Becoming? (1 Timothy 6:11; Ephesians 5:25)

A husband's first priority after God is growing into the spiritual leader God made him to be in marriage. Biblical leadership is not control, superiority, or demanding compliance. Jesus-shaped leadership takes responsibility, sacrifices, serves, protects, listens, and leads by example. Paul urges, "Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness" (1 Timothy 6:11), and commands, "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her" (Ephesians 5:25).

Husbands are invited to grow in these areas: spiritual leadership (initiating prayer, Scripture, worship, conversation, and obedience without forcing or performing); sacrificial love (considering what strengthens his wife and family, even when it costs time, comfort, or preference); integrity (being the same man privately and publicly, keeping commitments, telling the truth); self-control (governing anger, appetites, words, habits, spending, and reactions); humility (listening, receiving correction, apologizing, admitting when he is wrong); gentleness (using strength to create safety rather than fear or pressure); responsibility (dependable effort, stewardship, follow-through, and presence); and courage and faith (facing hard things with God while refusing to drag his family forward carelessly). If you became stronger in these areas, others besides your wife would benefit too: your children, coworkers, friends, church, employees, the people you lead, and the wider community. A husband's spiritual growth should make his wife feel more loved, safe, heard, and helped toward Christ.

Personal Reflection

- Which of the eight areas would my wife say I most need to grow in?
- Is my leadership creating safety and trust, or fear and pressure?
- Besides my wife, who would benefit if I became stronger here?

Theme 4: What Kind of Wife Are You Becoming? (Proverbs 31:25–26; Genesis 2:18)

A wife's first priority after God is growing into the helper God made her to be in marriage. Biblical help is not weakness, inferiority, or the absence of influence. The helper in Genesis 2 is a partner who brings wisdom, strength, encouragement, discernment, and faithful support to the covenant. "Strength and honor are her clothing; she shall rejoice in time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness" (Proverbs 31:25–26).

Wives are invited to grow in these areas: wisdom and discernment (bringing thoughtful, prayerful insight into decisions, relationships, and family life); strength and courage (standing faithfully through difficulty without being controlled by fear); respect (speaking and acting in ways that honor her husband without ignoring truth or wisdom); encouragement (calling attention to growth, effort, gifting, and what God is doing in her husband); self-control (governing words, reactions, fear, resentment, habits, and impulses); kindness (using truth to build, not wound; helping without keeping score or serving with resentment); faithfulness (being dependable, loyal, prayerful, and committed in public and private); and stewardship (using time, influence, resources, relationships, and abilities for the health of the home). If you became stronger in these areas, others besides your husband would benefit too: your children, coworkers, friends, church, employees, the people you lead, and the wider community. A wife's spiritual growth should make her husband feel more respected, strengthened, understood, and helped toward Christ.

Personal Reflection

- Which of the eight areas would my husband say I most need to grow in?
- Am I using my wisdom and strength to build my husband up, or to keep score?
- Besides my husband, who would benefit if I became stronger here?

Theme 5: Individual Growth Is Necessary, but It Is Not Enough (1 Corinthians 13:2)

You can become more knowledgeable about Scripture, more disciplined, more confident, more active in ministry, and more willing to take bold steps of faith, and still be leaving your spouse behind. The clearest test of growth is whether it increasingly produces the character of Christ in the relationships closest to you. The more spiritually mature you become, the better you should become at helping your marriage grow together.

Watch for the warning signs: becoming more impatient with your spouse's pace, more judgmental about their questions or fears, more determined to get your way because you believe your plan is spiritual, more willing to move forward without shared prayer, counsel, or preparation, or more impressive in public but less loving at home. Your increased faith must not become a weapon against your spouse. Avoid statements such as, "I trust God. Why don't you?" Greater maturity should make you more patient, understanding, prayerful, gentle, and concerned about unity, not more spiritually proud. "Though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing" (1 Corinthians 13:2).

Growing together does not mean both spouses will always learn, heal, decide, or develop at the same speed. One may recognize the next step first. One may have greater faith in a season. One may need more time, information, prayer, counsel, or healing. Growing together does not require the same speed. It requires the same anchor, the same direction, and a commitment not to leave one another behind. Picture two climbers connected to the same anchor: one may be stronger and see the route first, but pulling ahead without regard for the other creates tension and instability. Healthy progress keeps both connected to the anchor and attentive to one another.

Personal Reflection

- Which warning sign am I most likely to show?
- Have I ever used spiritual language ("I trust God, why don't you?") to pressure my spouse?
- Are we connected to the same anchor, and am I staying attentive to my spouse's pace?

Theme 6: Walk Worthy Together (Ephesians 4:1-6)

"Walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:1-3). Paul's picture of a worthy walk is not individual achievement at the expense of relationship. It requires humility, gentleness, patience, love, and an active commitment to unity, because there is one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of all (Ephesians 4:4-6).

A dividing approach says, "I am ready, so we should go now," "Your concern proves you lack faith," "I am the spiritual leader, so I decide," "If you loved me, you would support this," or "We will never move because you are too slow." A unifying approach says, "I believe God may be leading us here. What do you need so we can seek Him together?" "Help me understand your concern. Let's pray, learn, and seek

wise counsel.” “I will lead like Christ through sacrifice, listening, responsibility, truth, and love.” “Our unity matters. I will not use guilt or spiritual language to pressure you.” “We can keep preparing faithfully while God develops clarity and readiness in both of us.” Sometimes faith means stepping forward. Sometimes love means slowing down. Sometimes maturity means trusting God enough to wait while He prepares both of you.

Just because I am ready does not mean we are ready. You may believe God is calling you into full-time ministry, with faith to leave a secure job and trust God for what comes next. Maybe you really are ready. But if your spouse is not spiritually ready to make that move with you, then we are not ready. If moving forward requires leaving your spouse behind spiritually, something is wrong with the way you are moving forward. Maybe God is not saying no. Maybe He is saying, “Not yet. Grow there together.”

Waiting for shared readiness is not doing nothing. Couples can move toward clarity and unity with eight intentional steps: (1) name the decision honestly, separating what you know from what you want, fear, assume, or feel pressured to do; (2) pray individually and together for wisdom, clean motives, courage, peace, patience, and unity; (3) listen without correcting as each spouse explains hopes, concerns, timing, risks, and what readiness would require; (4) test the direction with Scripture, since God will not lead in a way that contradicts His Word or excuses ungodly character; (5) seek wise counsel from trusted pastoral, financial, professional, or mature Christian guidance; (6) prepare together by gathering information, reducing avoidable risk, building skills, addressing debt, healing wounds, or creating a transition plan; (7) agree on the next faithful step, whether action, preparation, a date to revisit, or a season of waiting; and (8) protect the covenant by refusing pressure, contempt, manipulation, spiritual superiority, and secret movement. Waiting together should be active obedience, not indefinite avoidance.

This teaching must never be used to keep a spouse trapped in danger, abuse, coercive control, illegal activity, or serious untreated harm. Safety, pastoral care, and appropriate professional or legal help may be necessary. Unity is not permission for abuse.

Personal Reflection

- Which dividing statement do I most often say or think, and what unifying statement could replace it?
- Is there a decision where I am ready but my spouse is not? What would waiting together actively look like?
- Which of the eight steps for shared discernment are we skipping?

Theme 7: Rooted Together (Colossians 2:6–7)

“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith... abounding in it with thanksgiving” (Colossians 2:6–7). Shared spiritual life is not created merely because two Christians are married. It grows as two people pursue Christ and intentionally invite one another into that pursuit.

The ROOTED practices give that pursuit a shape. Read Scripture: read or discuss a short passage together and ask what it reveals about God and how it applies at home. Open prayer: pray honestly with and for one another, including decisions, burdens, gratitude, and growth. Obedience: choose one clear response to what God is teaching; shared growth requires action, not information alone. Time together: protect unhurried time for spiritual conversation, connection, worship, and shared

discernment. Encourage growth: notice and affirm what God is developing in your spouse, and ask how you can support the next step. Depend on God: remember that neither spouse is the source of change; trust the Holy Spirit to lead and mature both of you.

Simple ways to begin: ask once a week, “What is God teaching you right now?”; pray together for two minutes before a major conversation or decision; share one verse, sermon insight, or answered prayer without turning it into a lecture; choose one household concern and seek God about it together for a week; bless your spouse’s growth with encouragement instead of comparison; and when your pace differs, ask, “How can we keep moving in the same direction?”

Personal Reflection

- Which ROOTED practice would most strengthen us right now?
- When and how will we practice it this week?
- Am I inviting my spouse into my pursuit of Christ, or pursuing Him alone?

The Big Idea

Spiritual growth in marriage is personal and shared at the same time. Your relationship with Jesus remains the foundation and source of spiritual life, and you are responsible for becoming the man or woman God has called you to be. But because you are one, your first ministry after God is your marriage and household, and the question widens from where God is leading me to where God is leading us.

Growing together does not require the same speed. It requires the same anchor, the same direction, and a commitment not to leave one another behind. Different speeds must never be allowed to become different directions. So couples pray, listen, test, seek counsel, prepare, and agree on the next faithful step, and they stay rooted by reading Scripture, opening prayer, obeying, making time, encouraging growth, and depending on God.

Growing together looks like this:

- Grow in Him. Your relationship with Jesus remains the foundation and source of spiritual life.
- Grow in you. Take personal responsibility for becoming the man or woman God has called you to be.
- Grow at home. Your first ministry after God is your marriage and household.
- Grow as one. Ask not only where God is leading me, but where God is leading us.
- Honor different speeds. Refuse to let different speeds become different directions.
- Discern together. Pray, listen, test, seek counsel, prepare, and agree on the next faithful step.
- Stay rooted. Read Scripture, open prayer, obey, make time, encourage growth, and depend on God.
- Remember: just because I am ready does not mean we are ready.
- Spiritual maturity is not demonstrated by how far ahead you can go. Sometimes it is demonstrated by your willingness to slow down so you can walk there together.
- Your spiritual growth should make you better at being one, not better at going alone.

Are we becoming the couple God can lead together?

Grow Together: You Are One. Grow Like It.