

Small Group Discussion Guide for Episode 6: Growing Pains

Objective:

This guide is crafted to help your small group explore Episode 6 by focusing on the **Essentials of Shepherd Toward Spiritual Maturity and Function as a Team**. Integrating the **Head, Heart, and Hands** model, it encourages participants to reflect on fostering spiritual growth and working in unity within the church.

Opening Prayer:

Begin with a prayer, asking for God's guidance in helping the group understand how to support each other's spiritual growth and function effectively as a unified team.

[Watch the Video:](#)

Watch Episode 6 together, focusing on moments in the testimony that highlight the importance of guiding others toward spiritual maturity and the impact of functioning together as a team.

Discussion Questions:

Head (Understanding and Knowledge)

Shepherd Toward Spiritual Maturity ([Colossians 1:28](#) | Church Sphere):

In this episode, we see the intentional effort put into helping others grow in their faith, emphasizing the importance of nurturing spiritual maturity within the church community.

- How did the church community in this episode support each person's growth toward spiritual maturity? What methods or practices were highlighted as effective?
- What role does intentional discipleship play in helping others move from spiritual infancy to maturity?

Read: [Colossians 1:28](#)

- What does it mean to "present everyone fully mature in Christ"?
- How can our group intentionally work toward helping each other grow in understanding and faith?

Function as a Team ([1 Corinthians 12:12-14](#) | Church Sphere):

This episode emphasizes that the church operates best when its members function as a unified team, each contributing their unique gifts.

- How did teamwork enhance the effectiveness of the ministry in the story? What were some examples of how individuals used their unique strengths?
- How does understanding the body of Christ as a team impact the way we approach serving in the church?

Read: [1 Corinthians 12:12-14](#)

- What does this passage teach about the importance of each person's role within the body of Christ?
- How can we support each other's unique gifts and roles in our small group and church community?

Heart (Personal Transformation and Growth)

Shepherd Toward Spiritual Maturity ([Ephesians 4:15-16](#) | **Spiritual Realm Sphere):**

Spiritual growth is nurtured in a community that speaks the truth in love and helps individuals mature in their faith.

- How has being part of a connected small group or church community helped you grow spiritually? What impact has honest, loving guidance had on your growth?
- Reflecting on the **Spiritual Realm Sphere**, how can we encourage each other to confront challenges with grace and continue growing in our faith?

Read: [Ephesians 4:15-16](#)

- How does "speaking the truth in love" contribute to our spiritual growth and unity?
- How can we practice this within our group to help one another grow in maturity?

Function as a Team ([John 17:21-23](#) | **Church and World Spheres):**

Jesus prayed for unity among believers, knowing that a unified church reflects His love to the world.

- How does unity within the church demonstrate Christ's love to others, as seen in the testimony? How did working together as a team in this story create a powerful witness?
- How can we strengthen our relationships and teamwork within this group, so that our unity reflects God's love to those outside the church?

Read: [John 17:21-23](#)

- Why is unity among believers so important to Jesus, and what impact does it have on the world's perception of God?
- How can our group work more effectively as a team to fulfill God's purposes in our community?

Hands (Action and Application)

Shepherd Toward Spiritual Maturity ([2 Timothy 2:2](#) | **Church and Home Spheres):**

Discipleship involves passing on what we have learned, equipping others to grow and disciple others in turn.

- How can you take what you've learned and intentionally invest in someone else's spiritual growth this week? What practical steps can you take to begin this process?
- Reflecting on both the **Church Sphere** and the **Home Sphere**, how can you encourage and guide those in your home or family toward spiritual maturity?

Read: [2 Timothy 2:2](#)

- Why is it important to pass on what we learn to others who can then teach others?
- How can you apply this in your life by mentoring someone in their faith journey?

Function as a Team ([Romans 12:4-5](#) | World Sphere):

Serving as a team means embracing each person's unique role and working together to reflect Christ to those around us.

- What are some specific ways we can serve together as a team in our community, so that others experience the love of Christ through us?
- How can we encourage one another's unique contributions within our small group, creating an environment where everyone feels valued?

Read: [Romans 12:4-5](#)

- What does this passage reveal about the need for diversity within the body of Christ?
- How can we, as a group, support each other in fulfilling our unique roles and working together as a team?

Practical Application:

Shepherd Toward Spiritual Maturity ([Colossians 1:28](#)):

Encourage group members to identify someone in their life whom they can help grow spiritually. Challenge them to take one intentional step this week to reach out, encourage, or invest in that person's spiritual journey.

- Who can you reach out to this week to encourage in their walk with God, and how can you support them?

Function as a Team ([John 17:21-23](#)):

Emphasize the importance of teamwork within the church and challenge the group to think of one way they can serve together, either within the church or in the community, to reflect God's love.

- What specific action can we take as a group to serve together, reflecting Christ's love and unity to those around us?

Closing Prayer:

Close with a prayer, asking God to help each member grow spiritually and work effectively as part of His team. Pray specifically for unity, growth, and a commitment to invest in others.