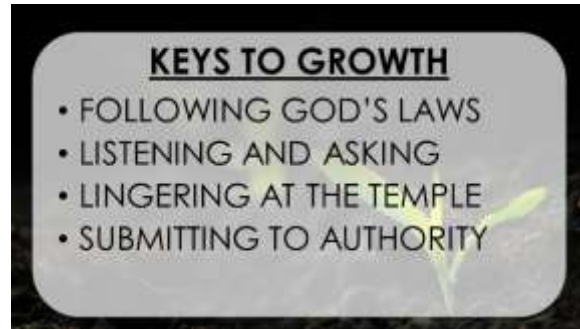


Keys to Growth

December 26, 2021 Discussion Notes

Everyone is encouraged to bring a Bible

(Phone apps are good for reading together in the same translation. Study Bibles give help with interpretation.)



Questions:

1. Icebreaker question: At what age did you stop growing physically? When did you have your biggest growth spurt?
2. The sermon looked at a snapshot of Jesus' life as a boy, and how he was growing in maturity. It also looked at how we can grow in spiritual maturity. What do you remember about each of the main points? What stood out to you or impacted you?
3. Which of the points do you need to apply the most in your own life?
4. Think about the average Christian in America and the average Christian in China. In what ways are they probably different? Why do you think that is?
5. Read Zechariah 3:1-7
 - a) In Zechariah's vision, what was Satan trying to do to Joshua? (Note: This is not the same Joshua who led Israel into the Promised Land. Can anyone explain to the group the historical context of this Joshua?)
 - b) Was Satan right about Joshua? (see v. 3)
 - c) How did God respond to Satan?
 - d) In what way was Joshua "a burning stick snatched from the fire"?
 - e) What did God do for Joshua?
 - f) What did God expect Joshua to do? (see v. 7)
 - g) Why is God's grace essential for our spiritual growth?
6. Read Judges 6:22-27. This story takes place after the Lord miraculously helped Gideon and 300 men defeat a vast army.
 - a) Who did the Israelites give credit to for saving them?
 - b) What did Gideon say in response? What grade would you give Gideon for his response to the people?
 - c) What did Gideon do with all the gold that people contributed from the plunder?
 - d) What went wrong?
 - e) What grade would you give Gideon for his handling of this situation?
 - f) What does God care about more: that we say the right things or that we do the right things? (see James 1:23-25, Matthew 21:28-32)
 - g) Do you struggle to follow through with what you know to be right and true? How can you grow in your spiritual integrity? (see Romans 12:1-2, Romans 8:11-14)
7. Pray together for a great season of spiritual growth in 2022. And pray for any needs in your group.