



**A companion for every  
small group member**

**T**his is not a personal journal. It's a companion for your growth group (or 'home group' or 'connect group' or whatever else you might call them at your church). It's designed to help your group grow together and grow the gospel together.

Each section aims to focus your collective attention on gospel concerns so that as you study the Bible together, pray together, promote the gospel together, and serve and care for one another, you slowly take on the likeness and fullness of Christ.

In its pages, you can record group prayer points and jot down regular reflections on things God has been teaching you from your times studying the Bible together. But there are also helpful articles on a variety of topics relating to the life of your group, suggestions for broadening the scope of your group prayers, and advice on setting helpful group goals and expectations.

As a bonus, we've also thrown in a section for you to record notes from sermons.

Are you ready to get started?





**A companion for every  
small group member**

*with bonus sermon notes section*

**Edited by Karen Beilharz**



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SYDNEY • YOUNGSTOWN

*The Growth Group Notebook*

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# INTRODUCTION

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Hebrews 10:24-25

**T**HE NOTEBOOK you hold in your hands is not, as such, a personal Bible study journal. There are many Bible study journals on the market—products to help you study God’s word day by day, write notes, write down your prayers, journal your journey with God, doodle, and even colour in. This is not one of those.

Instead, this notebook is meant to be a companion to your Growth Group (or home group, small group or whatever terminology your church uses). To quote Colin Marshall, “A Growth Group is a place where Christians can grow. It is also a catalyst for the growth of the gospel”.<sup>1</sup> So we have designed this notebook to help you grow *as a group* (and not just as an individual); to help you grow together and grow the gospel together. Each section aims to focus your collective attention on gospel concerns so that as you study the Bible together, pray together, promote the gospel together, and serve and care for one another, you will slowly take on the likeness and fullness of Christ this side of his return (cf. Eph 4:11-16; Col 1:27-28).

As you work through its pages, it is our hope and prayer that this notebook will help you to process and digest what you’re reading and studying in the Bible; aid and shape your prayer life both within the

<sup>1</sup> Col Marshall, *Growth Groups: A training course in how to lead small groups*, Matthias Media, Sydney, 1995, p. 5.

group and during your private prayer time; and reflect on where you started and how far you've come not only every six weeks or so, but also over the course of the year.

Karen Beilharz  
Editor

PS. If you are a Bible study leader, please consider purchasing one of these for each member of your group at the start of the year and encouraging people to use it. We hope it will not only help them personally, but also might give some helpful extra focus, direction and value to your times together as a group.

## How to use this journal

The journal contains the following sections:

- *Group contact details*: Space for you to record everyone's details so that you can keep in touch outside group times.
- *Group guidelines*: A place for you to note your group's rules and expectations. We have provided some questions and ideas to help your group develop its own.
- *Group goals*: A place for you to brainstorm and list the sorts of things you'd like to do as a group this year.
- *Who to pray for*: As prayer is an essential part of any Growth Group, it's worth exploring this section and thinking about how to broaden the concerns of the group beyond the group itself.
- *Growth group notes*: Constitutes the bulk of the journal. We have included 48 of them (expecting that your group will spend at least a few weeks in the year on a break or doing something social). As well as providing space to record group prayer points, there are also some targeted questions to help you think through what you learned during each study.
- *My six-week review*: Designed to help you think about the previous six studies, to reinforce what God has been teaching you and prompt you to consider how he has been answering your prayers.

- *My yearly review:* At the end of the year you may like to take some time as a group to fill out these pages, share them with one another in the group, and pray together.
- *Useful resources:* Contains a list of resources for Bible study leaders and group members, links to prayer points and Christian articles, and sample prayers for various concerns. Use them if they will benefit your group.
- *Appendices:* Interesting and helpful articles related to small group membership and group prayer. You may want to read and discuss one or two of them in your group.
- *Sermon notes:* Although not as directly related to your group, we've included a section for you to record weekly sermon notes and reflections. This means you can keep track of what you've been learning from both church and your Growth Group in the one place. (Perhaps sometimes a member of your group might kick off your time by taking 5 minutes to share some of their sermon reflections from the previous Sunday.)





**GROWTH GROUP**  
**NOTES**

**PASSAGE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

What I learned from this study:

Questions I still have:

Thank God for:

What I need to change:

Who would benefit from me sharing with them what I've learned today?

Preparation for next time:

Prayer points from the group:

Answered prayers to thank God for: