

FIELD-TESTED SERMON RESOURCES

SERMON SERIES

TRUSTED | BIBLICAL | FIELD-TESTED

Thank you for downloading this sample PDF from our Sermon Series line of resources.

When you stand up in front of students to proclaim the Word of God, you need trusted, creative, and biblically solid content. YM360's Sermon Series are exactly what you're looking for!

Field-tested, from-the-trenches of youth ministry, YM360 Sermon Series are complete detailed sermon outlines, discussion questions, and graphic packages designed to help you lead students closer to God through proclaiming His Word.

SERIES OVERVIEW FOR GROWING: Our Response To A Love Relationship With Jesus

In this series, we attempt to lay out the purpose and reasons for growth and three disciplines that will help your students grab hold of, digest, and make a habit in their lives. We'll talk about the importance of prayer, Scripture memory, and the value of serving both inside your local church and outside of it.

"GROWING" COVERS THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES AND PASSAGES:

- **Session 1 – Why Grow? (Galatians 5:16-25) |** Growth is almost an assumed reality in the Christian faith. But why? And what is the value of growth? Maybe some students don't desire growth. The purpose of this session is it helps show students why growing and taking meaningful steps closer to Jesus is an important part of the Christian faith. This message explores the fruits of the Spirit and the truth that fruit is the evidence of growth.
- **Session 2 – Prayer (Psalm 139:1-12) |** If God gives us everything we need for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3), how do students take steps to start growing? How do they develop a meaningful prayer life? In this lesson, we will help create a prayer framework that students can adopt and help them see each of their problems as an invitation to pray this week.
- **Session 3 – Scripture Memory (Matthew 4:1-11) |** Memorizing Scripture is challenging for many Christ-followers. Is that because they can't? Or is that because they haven't ever tried it before? Jesus modeled the importance of memorizing Scripture and how it helps us navigate life, especially when we face tempting situations.
- **Session 4 – Serving (1 Peter 4:4-11) |** Serving is a tangible way to grow in the fruits of the Spirit. Serving helps us grow. And students don't have to wait until they're older; they can find a place to serve in the local church and beyond the church walls right now, regardless of their age.

"GROWING" IS PART OF YM360'S SERMON SERIES LINE OF RESOURCES AND IS IDEAL FOR:

- Any large group setting
- Mid-week youth service
- "Master teacher" format

BACKGROUND SLIDES, PROMOTIONAL ARTWORK, AND MORE . . .

EVERY SERMON SERIES FROM YM360 COMES WITH:

- **Detailed Sermon Outlines** – Every Sermon Series comes with detailed sermon outlines. Teach them "as is" or adapt them to suit your specific ministry context.
- **Discussion questions** – Questions are designed to foster conversations, help students think critically about the teaching, and wrestle with how these Biblical truths impact their complicated and ever-changing lives. You can use these discussion questions to facilitate small groups after your large group teaching or even create handouts for students to work through the message as you go.
- **Title and Background slides** – These are designed to be dropped into your favorite presentation software to help you build a creative environment around your sermon. Use them as a backdrop for song lyrics, Scripture passages, teaching points, and any illustrations you choose to display.
- **Artwork for promo and social media** – Social media images, web banners, and a printable poster file are included. Perfect for newsletters, websites, social media platforms, or print them off for posters and bulletin inserts.
- **Logo (including native logo design files)** – We include a logo file and the native design files to allow you to use the logo in ways you see fit.
- **100% downloadable and adaptable**

Each YM360 Sermon Series comes with title and background slides, promotional art (including Instagram images), and logo treatments. Here is what to expect.

**BACKGROUND AND
TITLE SLIDES**



**PROMOTIONAL
ARTWORK**



**INSTAGRAM
IMAGES**



**LOGO
TREATMENT**

GROWING

NOTE: Each YM360 Sermon Series also comes with the native files of the logo in case you want to replicate the design for other uses.

How To Use A YM360 Sermon Series | YM360 Sermon Series are designed for use by a communicator in a large group setting. Each series download provides various elements such as a detailed sermon outline, suggestions on illustrations or images, Scripture passages, background information, and application points that you can use to craft a message that speaks to your students in your specific context.

This series download also includes discussion questions that can be used to facilitate small groups after your large group teaching or even create handouts for students to work through the message as you go. These questions are designed to foster conversations, help students think critically about the teaching, and wrestle with how these Biblical truths impact their complicated and ever-changing lives.

Make sure to leverage the series logo, title slide, background slides, and social media artwork this YM360 Sermon Series provides for promotion and message support. We've even included the native design files to allow you the freedom to use the logo in any way that meets your needs.

This YM360 Sermon Series was created to be suitable for all types of churches and ministry environments. It was intentionally designed to provide you with everything you need while also allowing you the freedom to make it fit your particular ministry context. Nobody knows your ministry like you do. Therefore, we encourage you to make any adjustments to this series you feel are necessary to best fit the needs of your students, church, or ministry context.

A Prayer Before You Prepare | Heavenly Father, all glory, honor, and praise belongs to You alone! Without You, we would be unable to even notice or identify the idols in our hearts. Lord, as I prepare to teach this series, please search my heart and expose any areas I need to offer back to You. You are the Author and Perfecter of our faith, and apart from You, we can do nothing. Lord, this is Your church, Your youth group, and You care more about these teenagers than I could ever hope to. Thank You for Your love, Your grace, and Your mercy. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Growing Teaching Guide | A One-Page Glimpse Of Everything You Need To Prepare

Series Snapshot | The Christian faith is one of constant growth. A student once told me, "I'm tired of having things to do." Somehow, we have to look at growth as not an obligation but a response to a love relationship with Jesus. I want to be a better husband because I love my wife, and I want to be a better Christ-follower because I love my Savior. That's the focus of this 4-session sermon series entitled *Growing*.

Series Overview | In this series, we attempt to lay out the purpose and reasons for growth and three disciplines that will help your students grab hold of, digest, and make a habit in their lives. We'll talk about the importance of prayer, Scripture memory, and the value of serving both inside your local church and outside of it.

- **Session 1 - Why Grow? (Galatians 5:16-25)** | Growth is almost an assumed reality in the Christian faith. But why? And what is the value of growth? Maybe some students don't desire growth. The purpose of this session is it helps show students why growing and taking meaningful steps closer to Jesus is an important part of the Christian faith. This message explores the fruits of the Spirit and the truth that fruit is the evidence of growth.
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Growing Series | Session 1

Large Group Teaching Summary | Salvation is a moment of change. But after that, what does it look like to progress in the Christian life? It's not like measuring physical growth. And we don't get report cards. Spiritual fruit is evidence of growth. We lay aside our sinful desires and passions and allow the Holy Spirit to take the wheel of our lives. As a result, we should see more fruit in our lives through submitting to the Spirit.

Key Takeaway | Spiritual fruit is the evidence of growth in your life.

Scripture Focus | Galatians 5:16-25

What You May Need | *Optional Illustration:* An illustration about you or your kids growing. (Personal Story), Showing old pictures is a great way to illustrate it. *Optional Video Illustrations:*

- Emperor's New Groove (1/8) Best Movie Quote - Kronk's Shoulder Angel and Devil
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RseLZ9LqQv0>
- Running - John Piper
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SbJZRJLN544>

Growing Sermon Series | Session 1: Why Grow?

I. Introduction

- A. We're launching a brand-new series called "Grow." A big part of what it means to be a Christ-follower is the expectation of growth. You hear words like discipleship or spiritual fruit when describing your faith. All of those are words centered on the same concept or idea: to be in a relationship with God means to continue to grow in our understanding of who He is.
- B. You decided to commit yourself to Christ at some point in your life. From that day forward, this decision requires you to grow in your faith and Christ-likeness. This isn't much different from our life in general.

1. Optional Illustration: Growing Children

- a) ***NOTE: Tell a story about children growing up using pictures of them. If you're a parent, talk about your children. If you're not a parent but have nieces or nephews, consider talking about them. Or, use pictures of yourself or your team to show how kids grow over time.***
- b) ***Make the point that while a part of us gets sentimental about seeing children grow, children are supposed to grow. It's normative and healthy.***

II. Tension

- A. Let's think about this another way. How many of you in here can drive? Legally? How old are you when you're allowed to get your driver's permit? How many of you, ten years from now, want to still have only your permit? Do you want to be in a situation when you're 25 where your parents are still in the passenger seat with you every time you drive? Of course not! And yet many of us are living our lives as Christ-followers like we have our "Spiritual Driver's Permit." We're saved by faith in Christ but haven't moved further past that.
- B. And as we grow older in life, we can look at things like photos or report cards to measure our progress. But here's the question we're wrestling with in this session: How do you know you're growing spiritually?

III. Scripture

- A. Read [Galatians 5:16-25](#)
 - 1. *But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things, there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its*

Growing Sermon Series | Session 1: Why Grow?

passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

- B. In this passage, the Apostle Paul, the author of the letter to the Galatians, sets up what you might recognize from English class as a contrast. Paul is contrasting two things: what it means to live your life according to your wishes and desires or to live your life according to the leading of the Holy Spirit. These two ways of living are not just different; they are enemies of one another!
- C. Paul uses the word "flesh" to describe our sinful desires. We come under judgment and condemnation when we try to live according to our flesh. Our sinfulness puts us at odds with God. OUR SIN MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE TO BE IN A RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. By trying to do things our way, we make it so that we'll never experience the true life offered by God through saving faith in His Son, Jesus, and the spiritual renewal that happens as a result.
- D. But if we live according to God's ways and listen to and follow the Holy Spirit, we live in the freedom of God's grace and salvation. It's wild to think about it: WHEN WE SURRENDER TO GOD, WE EXPERIENCE TRUE FREEDOM. And this freedom, this surrender, empowers our spiritual growth. We see this in the two lists Paul provides in the passage we read. Paul shows what a life led by the flesh looks like. And it's not pretty. We can see this in verses 19-21. But in verses 22-23, Paul shows us a picture of the life of someone who surrenders to the leading of the Spirit. This list of attributes is only possible because the Holy Spirit produces this growth in our lives.
- E. Verses 24 and 25 are Paul's way of saying that if we are saved by faith in Jesus, we should expect to look differently than those who are not. OUR LIVES SHOULD BE FULL OF THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT. THIS FRUIT IS EVIDENCE OF OUR SPIRITUAL GROWTH.

IV. Application

- A. The first way we should consider applying this to our lives is to ACTIVELY SURRENDER OUR LIVES TO THE HOLY SPIRIT (vs. 16).
 - 1. As Paul said, *"But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh."* It's through giving our lives to Him that we won't continue sinning.
 - 2. Here is what you must understand about sin: SIN WILL TAKE YOU FURTHER THAN YOU WANT TO BE TAKEN. KEEP YOU LONGER THAN YOU WANT TO STAY. AND COST YOU MORE THAN YOU WANT TO PAY. Sin will severely hamper your ability to grow, but the way to be convicted, corrected, and brought back on course is through a relationship with the Holy Spirit. Give him the wheel of your life!
 - 3. You might feel the tension between yourself trying to take over the wheel and allowing the Holy Spirit to take the wheel. It may feel something like this:

a) Optional video illustration: Emperor's New Groove Video - Kronk's Shoulder Angel and Devil

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RseLZ9LqQv0>

Growing Sermon Series | Session 1: Why Grow?

- b) That's exactly how Paul describes it, right? Verses 19-21 show what it looks like to battle our sinful desires. Verses 22-23 are what the Spirit desires. So, once you lean on and rely on the Holy Spirit, then what?

B. WHEN WE SURRENDER TO THE LEADING OF THE SPIRIT, WE WILL SEE FRUIT (vs. 22-23)

- 1. Look back at verses 22-23. It's OK to admit if this feels a little oversimplified. Is it that easy? I mean, it kind of is! The Holy Spirit of God lives in us. And if we follow His leading and stay in tune with His presence, He will produce good fruit in us. And this fruit is the "report card" of our growth. The bottom line is fruit is the evidence of growth in your life.

V. Gospel

- A. This is made possible by submitting and surrendering your life completely to Christ. This, in Christian circles, is called "salvation." The Bible teaches that sin earns us a spiritual death, an eternal separation from God, the worst possible place a person could find themselves in. We are saved from this penalty when we come to faith in Jesus. On the cross, Jesus paid the penalty of death that our sin rightfully earned for us. And God, in His goodness, allows Jesus' payment to count on our behalf if we simply believe that Jesus is who He says he is and did all He said He did. That is what salvation is.
- B. Everything we've been talking about tonight takes place after salvation; using another big Christian word, this is called "sanctification." Sanctification means "to be made holy." The Holy Spirit works in our lives to make us more Christ-like, more holy. But sanctification can't happen without the initial first moment of salvation.
- C. Have you given your life and heart to Jesus? Have you had a moment where you profess your faith in Jesus and accept His payment on your behalf? If you have, you have been saved by faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ and have God's Spirit dwelling within you, working to make you more like Him. If you haven't, I'd like to challenge you to consider why not. What are you waiting on? I'd love to talk with you about anything that might be keeping you from experiencing new life in Christ.

VI. Conclusion

- A. Another great way to frame this question is to ask: IS THERE MORE FRUIT IN MY WALK WITH JESUS THAN THERE WAS A YEAR AGO? Maybe you respond with a yes. Maybe a no. Maybe not as much as you'd maybe like. As we've said in this session over and over, fruit is the evidence of growth in your life. If there is not as much fruit as there should be, maybe it's time you made some changes.
- B. Are you walking with the Spirit in every part of your life? Are you following God's leading when it comes to your pursuits? Your desires? Your disciplines? Your ambitions? Your dreams? Because THE PATHWAY FOR ALL OF THIS IS FOUND BY KNOWING AND FOLLOWING GOD'S WORD UNDER THE POWER OF HIS SPIRIT.
- C. God desires to spend time in a relationship with you. This primarily happens through prayer and spending time with Him in the Bible. If you are ready to see an increase in growth in your life, it starts with a renewed commitment to spending time with God. Are you ready to take your commitment to being in God's presence to the next level?

Growing Sermon Series | Session 1: Why Grow?

- D. Optional video illustration: Running - John Piper <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SbZRJLN544>
- E. Let's pray.

Growing Sermon Series | Session 1 Discussion Questions: Why Grow?

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Growing | Session 1 Discussion Questions

You can use these discussion questions to facilitate small groups after your large group teaching or even create handouts for students to work through the message as you go. These questions are designed to foster conversations, help students think critically about the teaching, and wrestle with how these Biblical truths impact their complicated and ever-changing lives.

Get Them Talking | An Optional Opening Question To Get Students Talking

1. Do a fruit "draft." Let your students start out choosing a draft position, and then they go through and pick their top three fruits, but they can't take one that's already been taken off the board. For additional fun, post it on social media to let people vote on who they think wins.

Discussion Questions

1. How would you know if you have a "learner's permit" type of faith? What would be some signs that would indicate that someone has this type of type of faith?
2. When we talk about the idea of obedience, does it feel freeing or constricting? Why?
3. What does it look like, practically speaking, to give the wheel of your life over to the Holy Spirit?
4. Look at Galatians 5:22-23. Which fruit of the Spirit is most difficult for you?
5. If fruit is the evidence of growth in your life, rank your spiritual growth over the last month, six months, and one year.
6. Are you walking with the Spirit in every part of your life? Which areas are a struggle for you?
7. Look up 2 Peter 1:3. What does this verse mean in light of our discussion about fruit?
8. How often are you turning to the authoritative Word of God for guidance in your everyday life?
9. What is one small step you can take to turn to the Bible more frequently?