

GROWING STRONGER TOGETHER

GROUP GUIDE

This guide is designed to help you experience deeper intimacy with Jesus and build meaningful, lasting relationships with others. Get together with friends or find a group by visiting brookwoodchurch.org/groups. Let's grow stronger together!

Based on the Message:

Attitude

August 31, 2025

Check In

- Which of the following words resonate with you most right now?
Sad, Angry, Scared, Happy, Excited, Tender, Stuck
Why?
- What stood out to you from the devotional or the Bible this week?

Open

- What brings you hope?
- What's something that drains you?

Pray

Spend a few minutes releasing your cares and worries to God. Draw your attention to the One who knows you and cares about you far beyond what you can think or imagine.

A simple centering prayer: God, You are the source of all that is good and beautiful and right. We pray You'd fill us with more of Your life. Help us grow deeper in Your love. Restore our union with You. We pray You'd give us strength to endure, wisdom to choose what's right, and a hope that anchors our souls. Protect us from the evil one who seeks to steal, kill and destroy. Move us beyond only looking at our own needs, and fill us with a deep love for each other. May Brookwood become a community that's continually growing stronger together. Amen.

Study, Reflect and Discuss

Exodus 16:1-12 (NLT)

¹Then the whole community of Israel set out from Elim and journeyed into the wilderness of Sin, between Elim and Mount Sinai. They arrived there on the fifteenth day of the second month, one month after leaving the land of Egypt. ² There, too, the whole community of Israel complained about Moses and Aaron.

³ “If only the LORD had killed us back in Egypt,” they moaned. “There we sat around pots filled with meat and ate all the bread we wanted. But now you have brought us into this wilderness to starve us all to death.”

⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, “Look, I’m going to rain down food from heaven for you. Each day the people can go out and pick up as much food as they need for that day. I will test them in this to see whether or not they will follow My instructions. ⁵On the sixth day they will gather food, and when they prepare it, there will be twice as much as usual.”

⁶So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, “By evening you will realize it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt. ⁷ In the morning you will see the

glory of the LORD, because He has heard your complaints, which are against Him, not against us. What have we done that you should complain about us?” ⁸ Then Moses added, “The LORD will give you meat to eat in the evening and bread to satisfy you in the morning, for He has heard all your complaints against Him. What have we done? Yes, your complaints are against the LORD, not against us.”

⁹Then Moses said to Aaron, “Announce this to the entire community of Israel: ‘Present yourselves before the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.’” ¹⁰ And as Aaron spoke to the whole community of Israel, they looked out toward the wilderness. There they could see the awesome glory of the LORD in the cloud.

¹¹ Then the LORD said to Moses, ¹² “I have heard the Israelites’ complaints. Now tell them, ‘In the evening you will have meat to eat, and in the morning you will have all the bread you want. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.’”

Background:

The name *Wilderness of Sin* (verse 1) has nothing to do with sin and could just as easily be translated *Wilderness of Zin*.

Elim was an oasis of rest and comfort (see Exodus 15:26-27). Sinai was the place the people were to meet God and receive His law. Between those places was harsh wilderness. That’s where we find the Israelites in this story.

1. How would you describe the attitude of the Israelites?
2. What caused the Israelites to mistrust Moses?
3. Describe a dark season of life. Did your response help you get through it or lead you into further despair?
4. Which of these do you tend to feel when things don’t go your way? (1) There must be something wrong with me (self-loathing). (2) God, I trust in You to bring me through (faith and hope). (3) Here we go again (victim). (4) I have to fix this (self-sufficiency). Give an example.

5. What's the difference between ownership and blame?
6. When have you blamed someone else for your attitude?
7. What's it like to be around people who are constantly complaining?
8. When has your fear fractured a relationship?
9. How did God respond to the Israelites' complaints? What does that tell you about God?
10. When have you felt confident God would come through for you? What was the result?
11. Describe a time you were overwhelmed by God's provision. How did that affect the way you treated others?
12. How can you move your focus from problems to possibility?

You can walk where things are predictable – or you can enter the wilderness. Without the wilderness, there can be neither reverence nor revelation.

Lawrence Kushner

Meditate on Colossians 3:12-17.

What stands out to you in this passage?

How can these qualities help us grow stronger together?

Scripture Memory

Memorizing Scripture enables you to carry the life-shaping words of God in you at all times and in all places. Here's a verse to store in your heart and mind based on this week's theme:

Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow.

James 1:2-3 (NLT)

Recommended Reading

(on the Topic of Growing Stronger Together)

- *Community: The Structure of Belonging*, Peter Block
- *SoulTalk: The Language God Longs for Us to Speak*, Larry Crabb
- *Life Together in Christ: Experiencing Transformation in Community*, Ruth Haley Barton