TALK IT OVER

The Secret Growth Accelerator

Get Growing - Week 3
Pastor Andy Wood
May 30-31, 2026

If you would like to watch the weekend message, visit www.saddleback.com/watch.
Open your group in prayer and remember that this is only a guide. Feel free to discuss each of the questions provided or simply dive deeper into just one. Before you close with prayer, take a few minutes to look over the Three Essential Questions at the end of the document.

Scriptures

John 12:24–26; Ephesians 2:4–10; 2 Corinthians 1:4; Philippians 2:5-7; Acts 2:45–47; Ephesians 4:11–13, 16; 1 Corinthians 12:4–11, 27; Mark 10:43-45; 1 Peter 4:10

Questions

1. Read John 12:24–26. Jesus says that a seed has to fall into the ground and die before it can produce a harvest. What do you think Jesus is teaching about serving and sacrifice? What is one area of your life where God may be asking you to put his purposes ahead of your own?
2. Read Philippians 2:5–7. Jesus, the King of Kings, chose the path of a servant. Why do you think serving helps shape our character to become more like Jesus? What attitudes or habits could God be trying to change in you through serving others?
3. Read Ephesians 2:8–10. These verses remind us that we are saved by grace, not by works. However, we are created to do good works. Why is it important to understand the difference between serving to *earn* God's love and serving because we have *already received* God's love? How does gratitude for salvation motivate us to serve? How does God use serving to grow us spiritually?
4. Read Ephesians 2:10. The Bible says we are God's workmanship, (masterpiece). What unique gifts, talents, passions, or experiences has God given you? God has prepared in advance what we are to do in serving. How does this statement make it easier to dive in and serve?
5. S.H.A.P.E. is the acronym that stands for: Spiritual Gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality, and Experiences. Which facet of your SHAPE stands out to you right now? How have you seen

God use that part of you to help or encourage someone else? The early church served, shared, worshiped, and cared for one another, and God continued to bring new people to faith. How does serving help people see the love of Jesus?

6. You heard in the sermon that "You are saved not only *from* something, but also *for* something." What do you think God has saved you for? How would your daily life look different if you lived according to the purpose God has for your life? Do you see value in using your shape rather than just your interests to serve in ministry?
7. Paul says the church grows when every person does their part. What happens when people choose not to use the gifts God has given them? If you already have a ministry in the church, what is it and how did you get involved? In what way do you sense God inviting you to serve with others this month? What dream has he given you? What is one practical step you could take this week to discover your SHAPE, begin serving, or use your gifts to help someone else?
8. The big idea of this message is that a life of service is the secret accelerator of growth. When you think about your own spiritual growth, what has helped you grow the most? Have you ever experienced growth through serving others, and what did God teach you through that experience?

Three Essential Questions

The following questions are intended to be open-ended and encourage members to consider how they and what they, or the group, can do as a result of hearing the message.

1. **What did you hear?** *What point in this message was most impactful for you?*
2. **What do you think?** *How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?*
3. **What will you do***? How will you or your group put into practice what you've learned today?*

Are you interested in the Bible and in helping small groups benefit from the weekend message? Well, you are in luck! Saddleback members like you create these discussion guides each week. If you are interested in joining the team, please email *JasonW@saddleback.com*.