



## YEAR 3—The God Who Pursues Relationship: A Story of God's People

### Module 5: The Message of the Prophets Communal Experience: Growing

#### EXPERIENCE DESCRIPTION

The focus of this module has been on the message of certain prophets. They were God's mouthpieces to the people. In other words, God spoke to the people through the prophets. We are called today to be God's messengers to the world through both our words and actions.

As important as sharing God's good news with others is, it is crucially important that our relationship with God is first and foremost alive and growing. This is not only true individually, but as the community of faith.

Lesson 3 of this module invited group members to practice things that helped them grow in their faith. This communal experience will take those same practices and invite the group to practice them as a community of believers.

#### EXPERIENCE DIRECTIONS

Begin by sharing with the group that Jesus said: *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."* This requires spiritual growth on the part of the individual and community of faith. Growth happens when we intentionally do those things that allow God's Spirit to guide and strengthen our lives.

Divide your people into five groups. Give each group a 3x5 index card with their instructions. Tell the groups that they are to meet sometime during the week ahead and follow the instructions written on their card. Be sure to let them know to be prepared to share their communal experience with the whole group at next week's meeting.

- **Group 1: Grow your mind:** Research something that relates to God that you hear those outside the church talking about. Take time to discuss how you might be able to use this subject to share God's good news with others. Decide on one thing your group could do in the next two weeks.
- **Group 2: Grow your heart:** Focus on finding out the condition of the under-privileged in your city. Take time to discuss one way you could reach out and help meet the need of these people within the next two weeks.
- **Group 3: Grow your soul:** Listen to some worship music you're unfamiliar with and sing along as you can. Then, as a group, write out a full page of nothing but praise to God. Take time to discuss all the blessings and struggles you are currently facing. Be ready to read your written praise to God at next week's meeting.
- **Group 4: Grow your strength:** Set a time for your group to get together and exercise. Follow up by talking about the importance of staying physically fit and why taking care of our bodies is needed. Create a weekly easy-to-follow exercise plan that could be implemented by those in your group. Be prepared to share this at next week's meeting.
- **Group 5: Grow your relationships:** Write a note of encouragement or appreciation to someone in the church. Take time to discuss the importance of encouraging one another within the body of Christ.

At next week's meeting allow each group to share. Follow up by talking about the ways your group can grow in faith as a community of believers.