

# Gathering

## GROWTH

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**T**he theme for the month is “Growth”. When we think about the idea of growth many things come to mind. We live in a world where things are constantly growing. One growing item I always found fascinating was the Pawpaw tree. The Pawpaw tree is a tree native to America and can take up to 6 years before it starts bearing fruit! In order for the Pawpaw tree to grow to its best potential, it needs to be in rich, well-watered, deep bottomland soil. The soil literally needs to be perfect in order for the tree to grow, then an additional amount of time is needed before the first fruits begin to bear.

In the Scripture, Jesus said that we need to create in our lives the perfect soil in order for us to grow in Him. The world that we live in today is full of deception and many things that can distract us from the truth. If we create the good soil for the Word of God in our lives, Jesus promises that we will not only grow but be fruitful!

After sharing the Scripture, use at least three of the questions below with your group:

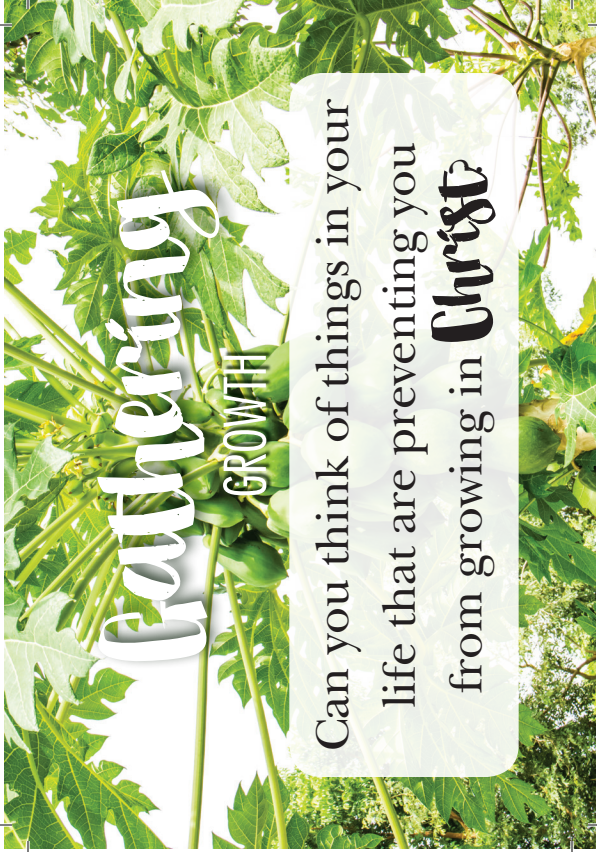
- Can you think of things in your life that are preventing you from growing in Christ?
- Describe your life soil.
- What things can you change in your life so you will become better soil so Christ can grow more and more in you?
- Have you seen recent examples in your life of ‘fruit’ as a result of your faithfulness?

After the sharing, you may wish to take time to discuss how as a group, accountability can be held to encourage a deeper exploration of Scripture or even offer a fun challenge of memorizing a new verse per week. Be sure to hand out the Monthly Scripture Card and Take-Home Sheet.

*Complete your monthly report and turn it in to the Corps Officer.*



Mark 4:19–20



Can you think of things in your life that are preventing you from growing in **Christ**?



Describe your **life soil**



What things can you **change** in your life so that you will become better soil so **Christ** can grow more and more in **you**?



Have you seen recent **examples** in your life of '**fruit**' as a result of your **faithfulness**?



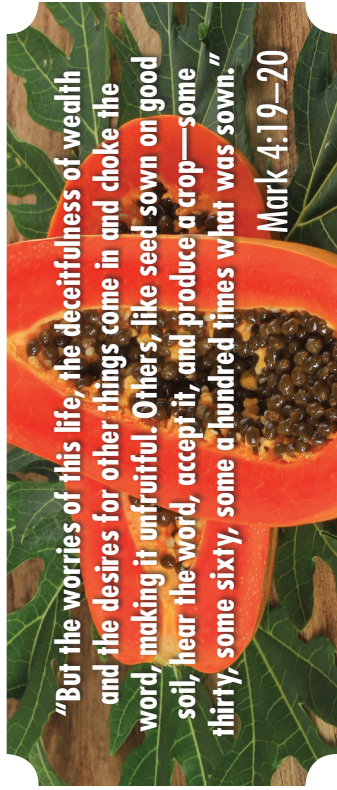
**"But the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown."**

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