

WEEK 6 OF RENEW

THIS WEEK'S TOPIC: **How to thrive in community**

We are in the final week of our Renew series. Over the past weeks, we've explored how to renew our spiritual lives through practices like Bible reading, prayer, generosity, faith sharing and rest. Today, we focus on thriving in community. At the heart of a thriving community are the ABC's of Life Groups: Accountability, Belonging, and Care.

“You cannot grow spiritually unless you are connected relationally.”

WHY DO WE NEED ACCOUNTABILITY, BELONGING + CARE?

- **Vulnerability leads to growth:** Being open and honest can be difficult, but it's where true growth happens. Life Groups provide a safe space to be vulnerable, where you can share your struggles without fear of judgment.
- **Overcoming pride and independence:** We often resist community because we think we can do it all on our own, but thriving in community means recognising that we need each other.
- **Moving beyond perfection:** Life Groups aren't about being perfect; they're about journeying together through life's ups and downs. It's a place where grace and growth happen side by side.

PRACTICAL STEPS TO IMPLEMENT ABC'S

1. FIND A LIFE GROUP

If you're not already part of a Life Group, take the step to join one today. If one doesn't suit your schedule, why not consider starting one.

2. COMMIT TO REGULAR MEET-UPS

Make Life Group meetings a priority. Whether weekly or bi-weekly, commit to gathering with your group consistently.

3. BE REAL

Authenticity is key. Share your life – the good, the bad, and the messy. Trust that in community, you'll find support and encouragement.

4. ENCOURAGE + CHALLENGE EACH OTHER

Don't shy away from asking tough questions or offering a word of encouragement. Life Groups are about growth, and growth requires both challenge and support.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

As we wrap up the Renew series, take some time to reflect on the following questions:

1. How have you experienced accountability, belonging, and care in your life recently? If not, why do you think so?

2. What steps can you take to be more accountable in your faith journey?

3. Where do you feel a sense of belonging in your community? How can you deepen that connection?

4. How can you show care to those around you, both within and outside of a Life Group?

Thriving in community isn't just about attending church or participating in a group – it's about engaging deeply with others. When we embrace accountability, belonging, and care, we create a community where faith flourishes and lives are transformed.

Let's commit to living out the ABC's of Life Groups and experience the fullness of living with Jesus, together. We hope and pray that this series Renew has given you the tools to grow spiritually.

*Lord, help me to embrace the community You've placed me in. Give me the courage to be accountable, the grace to belong, and the compassion to care for others. May our Gracegate Life Groups be places where we grow closer to You and each other.
Amen.*

