

## **FULLY Mature in Christ**

### **Introduction**

God has a wonderful plan for your life. Mature, strong, healthy, deep, secure, free, and flourishing—this is what you are meant to be in Christ, and God is at work for that to happen. God’s grace is powerful and constant. It is transforming you more and more into the image of Jesus. The work you do in partnership with God is vital.

God is at work and God is the power that makes all your partnerships possible, but you must still respond and engage. Your entire life is something like the Parable of the Talents. God gives you resources and expects you to take what he gives and use those resources for what he wants.

You are a human being and you are a human “becoming.” You are in process. You are on the road. You are walking a certain way. God’s grace is the starting point and your maturity is the destination. You mature as you walk toward that destination. For Christians, the ultimate goal of Christian maturity is that we live in, enjoy, and reflect the fullness of Jesus.

### **Look it Up in the Bible**

Paul provides extensive insights about the maturity process. As a group, look up each of the following passages and identify the most important lessons Paul has in each passage.

1 Corinthians 15:10

Philippians 1:6

Philippians 2:12-13

Philippians 3:1-8 – on letting go of what holds you back

Philippians 3:9-11 –on the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ

Philippians 3:12 – on knowing where you are on the journey

Philippians 3:13-14 – on the very hard work Paul invests in so he can go further on the journey

Philippians 3:15

Philippians 3:17 – on growing together with others

### **Additional LifeGroup Conversation Starters**

1. In addition to the many insights Paul provides about growing, what are some of the most important lessons you have learned during your years as a Christian about how growth takes place?
2. What is a current area where you are seeing the need for growth and learning? What are you going to do so you can grow in that area OR what is a skill you would like to gain and become more proficient in?
3. Why is growth so hard? Why do people seem to get stuck and unable to grow in some areas of life?
4. Will anyone ever be able to say to Jesus, “Jesus, the reason I did not grow more, learn more, be more transformed, get past my patterns of sin is because YOU did not do enough for me”? Who is always the PRIMARY person responsible for your growth or your lack of growth?
5. What would you say to a person who says their approach to growth is to sit back and “let go and let God” do what God wants to do?