

SAME SAME BUT DIFFERENT!

PASTOR PARKIN YOUNG

This week, I have been able to meet my seminary classmates and friends that I haven't had the chance to see since I graduated. I also got to meet new friends and people this week. We got to reminisce and remember the times we had and also get to talk about life and what has kept us busy throughout these years. There were new things worth celebrating like a promotion, new assignment, and even a new place to move to! But with the joys of our everyday lives also comes the sad news like losing a loved one, and broken relationships with employers and previous churches.

There are so many things that have changed, but some things still remain the same with all of us. Much of what we think of people would still be the same, but over a period of time, given that unpleasant or challenging circumstances do come our way, there will definitely be changes because we react, respond, and adapt to these. And we won't notice these changes in others unless we spend time with them or

they open up to us, which is rarely the case. That is why communicating with the people around us is so important. Sometimes, with what has happened and is happening still due to the pandemic, many have tended to socially and emotionally isolate themselves from others because of the trauma that the lockdowns have brought upon us.

By the grace of God, the past week, I was able to also start a new growth group with two men and another man will be joining us next week. In the conversations I had with them, one thing they are looking for in a growth group is the feeling of community and connection that they have not found in isolation and lockdown. Truly, we humans are communal people. Community is important because we are made by God to not be alone as we know in Genesis. Now, more than ever, as we return back to a sense of normalcy in the things we have not been able to have during the lockdown, we are trying to return to what we were used to before the pandemic happened. But that cannot

be anymore! We have experienced so much also during the pandemic that we cannot go back to the way things were.

Have you ever felt that way in the past and find that things are very much different? What can help us navigate through the confusion is a group of people who are going through the same experiences! That is one of the many things that we can find in a growth group! I want to encourage each one of us to be part of a growth group! This is a venue where we can journey together in the ups and downs of life.

If you are not yet part of a Growth Group, I highly recommend you to join one! Please contact me or any of the staff and we would be more than happy to connect you to one! Blessed Sunday to all! ✨