



Introduction:

This week, we begin our series Antidote. Unless you have been living totally off-the-grid & disconnected, you have probably sensed that our culture is a wreck. We seem to live in a world that has been poisoned. Whether the subject is politics or race or even a kid choosing to quit the football team we root for, we are constantly at odds with each other and with our situation. Our collective default has become anger, accusation, unrest and conflict. We can probably agree that this is not how it should be. If we are going to make progress and reverse the damage, we are going to need a solution: an antidote.

Scripture:

2 Peter 3:18 - "You must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

John 13:35 - "Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever started a project at home or at work that only got bigger & more complex as you worked on it? Ever started out hoping for completion but ended up being satisfied with progress?
2. Second Peter encourages us to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." Growth is progress, not completion or perfection. Why do you think it is so important for us to strive for progress in our faith?
3. What is one way that you have seen yourself or someone close to you "grow in the grace and knowledge" of Jesus?
4. As we grow, we all progress through a series of steps or periods of time that make up a lifelong journey of faith:
 - Seeker - We are interested in God.
 - Receiver - We accept God & the gift of his son Jesus.
 - Follower - We pursue a daily relationship with Jesus.
 - Contributor - We look for opportunities to impact our world & grow the body of Jesus.
 - Where on this list do you feel like you've spent the most time?
5. What category would you place yourself in at this moment?
6. Moving into the role of 'contributor' is a process that includes allowing the change that has occurred in you internally to become a way of life externally. Do you think you are making progress towards that goal?
 - If you are not making progress, what would you say is holding you back?
 - If you are making progress, what would you say is helping you take that step?

Take the Next Step:

You have already identified where you think you fall between Seeker and Contributor and what it is that is helping or hindering your progress. Taking a step this week might be investing further into that which is helping your progress or eliminating that which is hindering it. If you want to think more about what growth may look like for you, check out Cokesbury.tv/move.