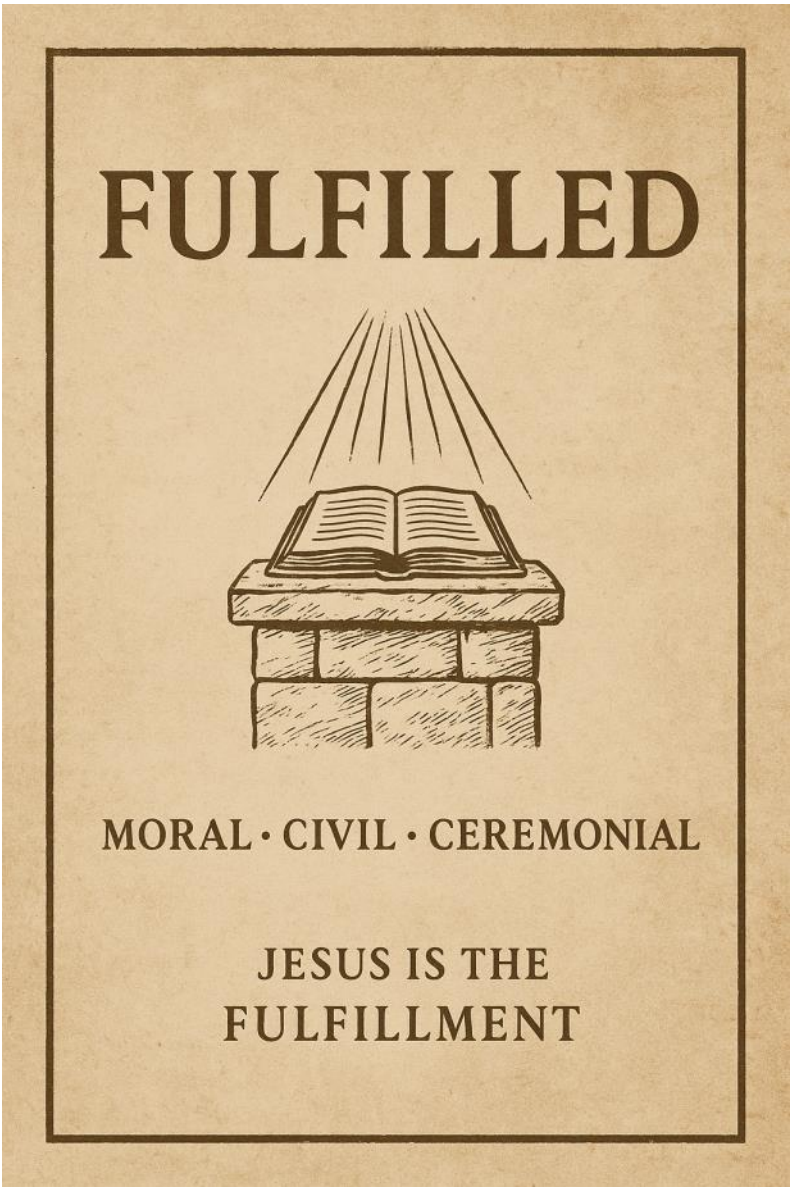
Growth Groups

PALMER FAMILY CHURCH
OF THE NAZARENE



My Study Journal

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Who we are

We are not fancy, but we are family. Everything we do, the way we think, program, and practice is driven by our Mission statement, Core Values, and Action Points.

The Mission:

Love God ~ Serve Others ~ Make Disciples

Core Values:

~ Unapologetically Christians

~ All are Welcome

~ Radical Compassion

Action Points:

Fervent Prayer—We believe prayer is not just words, but an intimate time speaking with and listening to God.

Spiritual Maturity—God calls us to continually grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. An important aspect of this growth comes through Life Groups.

Conversion Growth—Just like no one would withhold telling someone about a life saving cure from a life ending disease, we believe Jesus is the answer to sin and death. We cannot keep that to ourselves.

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FULFILLED

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Overview

This series explores the ceremonial laws found in Scripture and we practice them today as being fulfillment of Jesus' teaching and life. The laws given to Israel were shaped by their time and culture. Today, they reveal timeless principles about the formation of our worship experience. Rather than dismissing these ceremonial laws as outdated, we will uncover the heart behind them—God's desire for a people who reflect His character in how they live together in community.

As we move through the series, we will listen closely to Jesus as He speaks to His disciples and re-centers these principles in the context of the Kingdom of God. Jesus did not abolish the law but **FULFILLED** it, drawing attention to the deeper intent behind ceremonial commands—truthfulness over technicality, mercy over mere compliance, and righteousness that flows from the heart. In His teaching, we see that ceremonial laws are not just about external practices but about internal transformation that produces just and compassionate living.

Ultimately, Jesus not only taught these values—He embodied them. In every interaction, from how He treated the marginalized to how He responded to injustice, Jesus modeled what it looks like to live out the heart of God's law in real life. This series invites us to follow His example, recognizing that while ceremonial laws may change across time and culture, the values behind them remain constant. As we apply these truths today, we are called to live as people of integrity, justice, and mercy in our own communities.

Finally, this Growth Group booklet is designed to help you go deeper than Sunday mornings allow. Spiritual formation happens best in community—when we discuss, question, reflect, and pray with others who are seeking Christ. Growth Groups provide a space to explore God's Word together, to practice discipleship, and to experience transformation as a family of believers.

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JESUS IS THE FULFILLMENT

Date: October 4, 2026 **Scripture: Luke 22:14-20**

This do in Remembrance

In reading Luke 22:14-20, what words or actions of Jesus stand out to you?

In Exodus 12:1-14, what was Israel commanded to remember when they celebrated Passover?

Why do you think God gave Israel a meal to help them remember their deliverance rather than simply telling them to remember it?

When Jesus says; 'This do in remembrance of me' What specifically are we suppose to remember when we receive communion?

Communion is normally practiced together, not privately. What does this tell us about relationship with other believers?

How can Communion become a routine religious activity rather than a meaningful act of remembrance?

Takeaway Thought

Christians are delivered through Christ. Never forget that Communion is a meaningful act of remembrance.

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JESUS IS THE FULFILLMENT

Date: October 11, 2026 **Scripture: Hebrews 9:13-14**

Washed Clean

What role did water play in restoring someone who had become ceremonially unclean?

Read Hebrews 9:13-14, What contrast does the writer make between ceremonial cleansing and the cleansing accomplished through Christ?

Hebrews says Christ cleansed our conscience, not merely our bodies. Why is that distinction important?

How does Christian baptism carry forward the imagery of cleansing while also pointing to something greater than ceremonial washing?

Romans 6:3-4 connects baptism with Jesus' death and resurrection. What does baptism communicate about the life we're leaving behind and the life we are beginning?

Why can people sometimes continue carrying guilt and shame even after they believe Christ has forgiven and cleansed them?

Takeaway Thought

Christ has made us clean. What would it look like this week to live as someone who has actually been made new?

Date: October 18, 2026 **Scripture: 1 Peter 2:9-10**

More than Attenders

What words does Peter use to describe followers of Jesus?

What language does Peter borrow from God's description of Israel found in Exodus 19:5-6?

Why do you think that God consistently formed a people rather than simply collecting individual believers?

Peter says, 'Once you were not a people, but now you are a people of God.' What changes when Christianity becomes "we" rather than "me and Jesus"?

What is the difference between attending a church and actually belonging to a church community?

What responsibilities should come with saying; This is my Church? What are the privileges due to the believer?

Takeaway Thought

At PFC, we call those who identify with PFC as being their home church as Co-Owners.

Date: October 25, 2026 **Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9:6-9**

Is it His?

What attitudes towards giving does Paul emphasize?

Read Leviticus 27:30. What does the statement; 'a tithe...belongs to the Lord' communicate about ownership?

What was the purpose of Israel's tithes, offerings, and firstfruits beyond simply funding religious activity?

In Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Why did God connect giving the firstfruits with remembering what He had done?

Why do you think money can be one of the hardest areas of life to surrender to God?

Paul says giving shouldn't be done "reluctantly or under compulsion". What makes generosity joyful rather than burdensome?

Takeaway Thought

Is it His? If it is, then let us live in a way that reflects that truth.

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JESUS IS THE FULFILLMENT

Date: November 1, 2026 **Scripture: Nehemiah 8:1-18**

The Strength of Joy

After reading Nehemiah 8:1-12, what happens when the people finally understand God's law?

Why do you think hearing the Law caused God's people to mourn and weep?

Instead of encouraging them to continue mourning, Nehemiah tells them, 'The joy of the Lord is your strength.' Why?

Nehemiah 8:17 says 'their joy was very great'. What connection do you see between understanding God's Word, obeying it, and experiencing joy?

Read John 15:10-11. What connection does Jesus make between obedience, remaining in His love, and joy?

Can you think of a time when obeying God initially seemed restrictive or difficult but ultimately proved healthy and joyful?

Takeaway Thought

God's commands are not meant to steal our joy; they teach us how to live in it. His joy becomes our strength.

Date: November 8, 2026 **Scripture: Matthew 5:23-24**

Make it Right

Is there anything surprising about Jesus telling His followers to leave their offering at the altar?

What does Jesus' instruction tell us about the relationship between worshipping God and our relationships with others?

What did God require in Leviticus 6:1-7 when someone had financially or materially wronged another person?

What's the difference between being sorry that something happened and genuinely trying to make something right?

What commonly prevents us from initiating reconciliation—pride, fear, embarrassment, believing the other person should go first, or something else?

Does reconciliation always mean restoring a relationship to exactly what it was before? Why might boundaries sometimes be needed?

Takeaway Thought

Is there someone you may need to initiate a conversation, apologize, repay, or make something right? Now is the time.

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JESUS IS THE FULFILLMENT

Date: November 15, 2026 **Scripture: Mark 12:28-34**

When Worship goes Wrong

According to Jesus, what are the two greatest commandments?

Why do you think Jesus joins loving God and loving our neighbor together?

The scribe says these two commandments are 'more important than all burnt offerings or sacrifices'. Why is that such a significant statement?

How could someone participate in all the ceremonial practices of Christianity while completely missing what God wanted from their heart?

How can the way we treat others reveal something about the authenticity of our own worship?

What things may need to change in our lives from Monday to Saturday to match the worship we offer on Sunday?

Takeaway Thought

Keep the main thing the main thing: Worship God.

Date: November 22, 2026 **Scripture: Hebrews 10:1-10**

Once for All

Why does the writer of Hebrews call the Law a 'Shadow of the good things that are coming'?

If we think back over all the ceremonial systems—priests, sacrifices, cleansings, Passover, offerings at the Day of Atonement. What did all these practices teach Israel about approaching a holy God?

Why did the Day of Atonement need to be repeated every year?

Read Hebrews 10:5-10. What did Jesus accomplish that the repeated sacrifices could never accomplish?

What does the phrase "once, for all" tell us about the sufficiency of Jesus' sacrifice?

If Jesus has completely provided the way for us to be reconciled to God, why do Christians continue trying to earn God's acceptance?

Takeaway Thought

On the cross Jesus said, "It is finished". The completed work of salvation has been made. Live in it!

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