

# Using *8 Habits for Growth* in Your Church

**I WROTE THIS BOOK AS A PASTOR.** I wanted to create a resource that would help my people grow and help others to grow.

I firmly believe that church is central to the Christian life. My goal in writing this book is to help ordinary local churches like mine and yours.

Here are some lessons I've learned in using this material within our congregation.

- **Model these habits yourself.** Let people see that you are growing in your faithfulness in ordinary things, and also share your struggles. Be honest, and set the pace.
- **Invite, don't impose.** We can't personally disciple everyone, but we can disciple some. Look for people who are hungry, and disciple them, and then invite them to disciple others. Practice "small batch discipleship."<sup>1</sup>

## 8 HABITS FOR GROWTH

- **Talk about the habits as people join your church.** As you welcome newcomers into your church, introduce them to the core habits they need to build into their lives. Don't assume that they already know what to do.
- **Offer this book as a self-guided tool with support.** We've had success organizing a group to work through this material together, with a coach checking in through email to provide support and encouragement. We've also invited participants to email their responses to the questions in this book to their coach.
- **Use this book as a curriculum.** Allow people to work through the material at home, and use the Group Discussion Questions at the end of each habit in small groups and other classes.

I'd love to hear from you. Email me at [darryl@gospelforlife.com](mailto:darryl@gospelforlife.com) with your questions and comments.

You and your ministry are important. May God encourage and strengthen you!