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What Makes Small Groups Successful?

Romans 12:9-21

I. Three Parts that Make a Small Group

- A. A bold and beautiful _____ - That's Jesus!
(Phil. 2:6-8; Lk. 22:42, 44; Jn. 8:2-3, 10-11, 44; Matt. 19:14; Jn. 20:27-28)
- B. A bloody and brilliant _____ - That's the gospel!
(1 Cor. 15:1-4; Eph. 2:1-5; Rom. 1:16-17)
- C. A bunch of _____ - That's you and me!
(1 Cor. 1:26-27; 3:9)

II. Seven Descriptions of Sanctified Socialization

- A. _____ one another (vv. 9-10)
[Heb. 13:1; Phil. 2:3; 1 Pet. 2:17]
- B. _____ the Lord together (v. 11)
[Acts 20:19; 1 Pet. 4:10]
- C. _____ for one another (v. 12)
[Acts 1:14; 1 Thes. 5:17]
- D. _____ each other's needs (v. 13)
[Acts 2:42-47]

- E. Be _____ to one another (vv. 14-15)
[1 Cor. 12:26]
- F. Live in _____ with each other (v. 16)
[2 Cor. 13:11]
- G. Overcome evil by doing _____ to each other (vv. 17-21)
[Rom. 14:19; 2 Cor. 8:21]

III. Four Changes a Small Group Could Bring in Your Life

- A. Moving from a sealed envelope to an _____ letter
- B. Going from a lonely planet to _____ relationships
- C. Provide service _____ in bite-size pieces
- D. Lasting change happens at _____ range

TAKE HOME

- If you are not presently in a small group, ask yourself, "Is it _____ it?"
- If you are in a small group, ask yourself, "What kind of _____ do we want to make this year?"
- If you know someone who is not in a small group, ask yourself, "Would I be willing to _____ them to come?"

STUDY QUESTIONS

James 1:22 says, *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* These questions are designed to help you apply today’s message to your life. We encourage you to thoughtfully answer these questions and discuss your answers with others. For more information about joining a small group that uses these questions as the basis for discussion, prayer, and accountability, please visit our website at placertachurch.com.

1. Review and explain the opening illustration about bread. How are you and I like yeast? Do you see yourself as functioning that way? Why or why not?

2. Read Phil. 2:6-8; Lk. 22:42-44; and Jn. 8:44. In what ways is Jesus bold? Now read Jn. 8:10-11; Matt. 19:14; Matt. 8:2-3; and Jn. 20:27-28. In what ways is Jesus beautiful? Is Jesus in your small group?

3. Read 1 Cor. 15:1-4; Eph. 2:1-5; and Rom. 1:16-17. Is there a bloody yet brilliant gospel message alive and well in your small group? How can you make sure this gospel message is never absent in your times together?

4. Read 1 Cor. 1:26-27 and 1 Cor. 3:9. Do you see yourself as one of the little people? How necessary are you really to the overall health and vitality of your small group?

5. Read Rom. 12:9-12. How are you as a small group doing in loving, serving, and praying for one another? What are some ways you could grow in these areas?

6. Read Rom. 12:13-16. How are you as a small group meeting each other’s needs, showing kindness in your successes and failures, and living in harmony together? What are some areas of improvement here?

7. Read Rom. 12:17-21. Do you as an individual overcome evil by doing good to those in your small group? Are you treating those who are not in your small group with the same level of grace? Why or why not?

8. Share some of your personal goals and desires you would like to see in the relationships and service of the your small group as you enter into a new year together.

“The person who loves their dream of community will destroy community, but the person who loves those around them will create community.”

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Christian Community*