



SG | Small Groups

The 'e' stands for community.

Koinonia: Sharing a common life in Christ

They worshipped together at the Temple ... Acts 2:46

46% believe their life has not changed since going to church. (Barna Research)

52% believe their is much more to the Christian life than what they've experienced. (Barna Research)

They worshipped together at the Temple each day, met in homes ... Acts 2:46

Life change happens best in the context of intentional relationships.

Circles are better than rows.

Life is better connected.

1. We gain wisdom.

Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers **harm**. Proverbs 13:20

Your future will be determined by the people you choose to be in community with.

2. We gain credibility.

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through **their** message, that all of them **may be one**, Father, **just as** you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us **so that the world may believe that you have sent me.**" John 7:20-21

We minimize our credibility when we fail to maximize our community.

The conversation begins in the weekend service, but life change is amplified in small group.

Group Prep

Please read Acts 2:42-47 and John 17:20-26, then answer the following discussion questions prior to attending.

Introduction

Francis Schaeffer said, "Our relationship with each other [fellow Christians] is the criterion the world uses to judge whether our message is truthful." As important as it is for each follower of Christ to experience Christian community, the benefits go far beyond ourselves. The way we treat and interact with one another can either give credit to or discredit the message of the Gospel.

Discussion Questions

1. Since joining a group, share one piece of wisdom you've gained that you feel is valuable to others and how this principle has changed your life.

Read John 10:10. Over half of church attenders (52%) believe there is more to the Christian life than what they've experienced. Why do you think such a large percentage of church attenders feel this way, and why would people continue to invest valuable time week after week in something that does not produce this "abundant life" result?

2. Do you agree that community with other followers of Christ is crucial to experiencing abundant life? Why or why not? The church in Acts 2 experienced high levels of community with other believers. After reading Acts 2:42-47, what occurrences did the first church experience? What do you feel may keep Christians from experiencing this kind of church community?

Christian community is described in practical ways throughout the New Testament in what are called the "one another" passages. Read Romans 12:10, Romans 12:16, Romans 15:7, Galatians 5:13, Galatians 5:26, Ephesians 4:2, Ephesians 4:32, Colossians 3:16, 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Hebrews 10:25, 1 Peter 4:9, James 5:16, and 1 John 3:11. How could this small group do a better job of living out Christian community in practical ways? How could you do a better job personally?

3. What kind of requests did Jesus pray for in John 17:20-26? What do you think it looks like to be unified with other believers in the same way Jesus was unified with God? Why do you think Jesus felt so strongly about His followers experiencing the same kind of unity He had with God? How could this kind of unification create the credibility needed to influence those God has placed in your life?

4. How does it make you feel to know that the 'e' you wear means your faith has credibility? Is there anything you feel that needs to change about your life because of the weight this holds in your community?

How would your life and the lives of others be impacted if you were to experience and be a part of the kind of Christian community we've discussed tonight? What's one step you can take this week to begin living out true Christian community?

Outreach: Groups in Action

As a small group, start collecting hats and gloves (new or good condition) for the cold weather approaching. You can drop them off at the information counter during a weekend service throughout October.

Action Step

Fill in the blanks below for this upcoming week.

My action steps are _____.

I'm accountable for _____, and their action steps are _____.

My memory verse is _____.

This coming week, I'm praying for: _____