

Home Group Leader's Notes
Week of February 23, 2020

NOTES TO LEADERS: This week, we will look at our final core value: "We pursue spiritual growth and life-change in community."

Share from your experience

How has God's family helped bear burdens in your life? (Galatians 6:2)

Have you known people who stopped connecting with God's family? What happened?

NOTES TO LEADERS: Good time to let people reminisce on how God has used His family to love and serve them. The second question addresses the common failure of the book of Hebrews, i.e. that when people drift from God's family they drift from God.

Learn from the Bible

Our core value: "We pursue spiritual growth and life change in community"

Throughout the Scriptures, followers of Jesus do life and mission together. What do we learn from the following passages about **why we need to be in community and how that happens?**

John 13:34-35; 15:12-13

NOTES TO LEADERS: (NOTE THAT I DIDN'T WRITE THIS QUESTION WITH CLARITY. PLEASE SEE THE CHANGES ABOVE.) These passages emphasize the need for Jesus' family to be together to learn to love and serve one another. John 15 emphasizes that love is expressed by serving and sacrificing for one another.

Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 12:7; Ephesians 4:16; 1 Peter 4:8-10

NOTES TO LEADERS: All of these passages emphasize that each of us has been endowed with God-empowered abilities to serve one another in various ways. Romans tells us to be intentional, 1 Corinthians informs that these abilities are for the common good, Ephesians says that the result of serving one another will be edification, and 1 Peter challenges us to be good stewards of the grace God has given to each one of us.

Galatians 6:2; Philippians 2:4

NOTES TO LEADERS: We are all to bear one another's burdens by denying ourselves and looking to the needs and interests of others.

1 Thessalonians 1:6-7; 2 Thessalonians 1:3

NOTES TO LEADERS: We are to be examples to one another of Jesus love and character and pray for one another with thankfulness that should result in increasing love for one another.

Hebrews 10:24-25

NOTES TO LEADERS: As God's family, we need to consider (Lit., to think about, to perceive, to think on) how we can stimulate (Lit. to provoke in) one another love and good deeds (Lit. good works). To do that, we need to be students of one another, to bring out the best in each other. IN ADDITION, the second verse tells that this requires us to BE TOGETHER, making sure that we are in contact with one another enough to encourage us to make the most of our days (which are short).

What helps or hinders you from pursuing growth in community?

NOTES TO LEADERS: I assume that this will sound different for each person. Though we share common needs, we have different life experiences. I URGE YOU TO LISTEN CAREFULLY – THIS WILL HELP YOU KNOW HOW TO SERVE ONE ANOTHER.

Discuss Together

What would a rich community life look like to you?

NOTES TO LEADERS: AGAIN, AS SHEPHERDS, LISTEN CAREFULLY.

What happens to us if stop doing life with God's community? What are the signs of lack of community?

NOTES TO LEADERS: A dear brother shared stories last week of two college friends who drifted from God's community and now live with deep troubles. Both of them lived with strongholds and lacked genuine connection with God's family.

Danger signs include lack of a circle/group of God's family with whom to do life and mission together, brokenness caused by their own sin, not gathering for worship, separated from God's family.

How has God's community helped strengthen you and one another?

NOTES TO LEADERS: This will helps us to know how we can improve own Home Group.

What would help us 'independent people' strengthen true community? (Share specifics)

NOTES TO LEADERS: We can be more interested in appearance of health or success than we are in learning to trust and be real with one another. Learning to trust one another is the absolute essential. Because we are independent by culture, it is hard for us to think community rather than my world. We tend to value being self-dependent and don't see the great need that we have for one another. Therefore, we don't develop the deep and rich community / family for which God designed us.

How can we connect deeper with one another and keep this as a new rhythm?

NOTES TO LEADERS: I believe there are some key components: More time together, more trust of one another, more prayer for one another, listening to and serving one another, allowing all people opportunity to use their gifts, confession of needs including strongholds, and generally being less busy.

Healthy Life Rhythms

Consider how you can connect deeper with your group and make this a new rhythm.

NOTES TO LEADERS: Every group is different, but see if there is a way to encourage this healthy rhythm. One of the keys to a healthy community is communication, encouragement, and prayer for one another. How could this happen in your group?

May you "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 3:18)

Steve