

LIFEGROUPS - Facilitator Notes

Connecting in Community – Part 3



Suggested Icebreaker: What long term friend do you have and how do you keep connected?

Word: John 15:15 *“No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing: but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father, I have made known to you.”*

Note: Jesus lived in community with His disciples for 3 years resulting in friendship being forged.

Why we need to be in a smaller group within the church family?

Lifegroups are where we **Build Lasting Friendships**

Q: How did Jesus enlist His disciples?

A: He called them and chose them.

Note: Jesus picked His disciples, they didn't pick Him. The disciples were not all friends when chosen.

Q: Did the disciples always get along with each other within their small community?

A: No

Q: Can you name some situations in scripture which show us this?

A: Read Matt 20: 21, 24 and Matt 18: 20 - 21

Note: It is only by doing life together that we develop real friendships because over time we share “life experiences” together. I like to describe the difference between being in a church and being in a small group as (a) in Church – Convenient Friendship and (b) in Small Group we have Covenant Faithfulness. Convenient Friendships are founded upon how convenient it is for both friends to get together. Covenant Faithfulness is about a commitment to stand with each other in all circumstances whether convenient or not!

Q: Have you any relationships which you would call covenant faithfulness”? Share

Q: What was it that caused this committed relationship? Share

Q: How many relationships of this covenant faithfulness type to you think you could have? Share

Note: Jesus, the Son of God chose only 12 to do life together with and to forge a covenant faithfulness relationship. I believe He set a pattern that He knew us mere mortals could handle and 12 was the limit for most.

Q: Why 12? Explain your thoughts.

Note: It takes time and regular commitment to build lasting friendships and any more than 12 people maximum would not be possible for most. A Lifegroup should NOT be just another meeting. Lifegroups should be varied and interesting as you share life's journey together.

Q: What are some good ways have having fun together?

Q: When will you have your next social event?

Note: To be in covenant faithfulness relationship we will often have to sacrificially reach out in love to one another – Jesus says that's what real Christian love is.

Close in Prayer.