

## Why Small Group Matters

Message from 2/23/25

### TALK IT OVER

#### Key Scriptures

*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another...*

Hebrews 10:24-25, NIV

*Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*

Acts 2:46-47, NIV

*And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick. Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus. When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."*

*But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, "We have seen remarkable things today." See Luke 5:17c-26.*

**BIG IDEA:** We need to foster friendships that will stop at nothing to get us to Jesus so that we might be healed.

1. Develop friendships where we can share our needs
2. Develop ourselves to be a good friend.

#### Three things to develop and offer:

- Acceptance of others of who they are and where they are in their spiritual journey.
- Affirmation of others' feelings, thoughts, and ideas.
- Assurance of confidentiality.

**Start talking.** Find a conversation starter.

- Why did you decide to join this small group?

**Start thinking.** Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Which part of this message was most impactful for you and why?
- Which word or phrase from the Key Scriptures speaks to you most?

**Start sharing.** Choose a few questions to create openness.

- The friends of the paralyzed man gave it their all to enable him to meet with Jesus. Share a time when you have done your all to be a good friend to someone or a time when someone has given their all to be there for you in your time of need.
- How do you think you could grow and benefit from being a member of this small group?
- How could you make a difference for those in your small group?

**Start doing.** Commit to a step to live out this week.

- Ask God who you could invite to join our small group. Reflect on why God put that person on your heart and share with that person this personalized invitation.
- Each of us has spiritual gifts, natural abilities, skills, and experiences that could benefit the group. Contact your host or group leader to offer your assistance in one such area.

**Start praying.** Be bold and pray with power for each other.

*Dear Lord, thank you for our small group of believers, for allowing us the opportunity to get to know each other better, accept each other, affirm each other, and support each other in your loving presence as we gain a better understanding of your Word and your desire for our lives. Be with our host and leader and with all of us until we meet again, and help us to continually bless and encourage each other. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*