

Small Group Study

Our Vision

To know God and enjoy Him forever.

Our Mission

To build a Christian community by making fully devoted disciples of non-religious and nominally religious people

Discussion

Building Kingdom People: Equipping Believers

Scripture

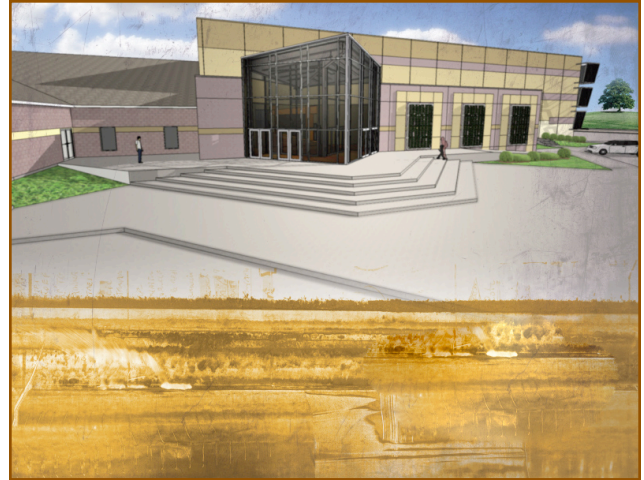
Have volunteers read the following scriptures:
Ephesians 4:11-13, 1 Peter 4:8-11, and Mark 10:45

Introduction

Many times throughout Scripture we are reminded that if we love the Lord, we will love and serve one another as He commanded. We are called to demonstrate our love not just within our church body but outside it as well. This is where our giftedness and calling comes into play. We have established that we are all called by God to serve, but we are also gifted (equipped) by God to fulfill that calling. Paul, in Ephesians 4, urges us to live a life worthy of the calling we have received. He is urging us to press beyond getting our 'fire insurance' and to step fully into the abundant life He has for us as partners in ministry.

Like any gifting or talent, there is an effort required on our behalf. Even the most talented individual must discover that talent and then develop and nurture it throughout their life to be the very best they can be at it. We too must recognize, develop, and nurture that talent (through the Spirit) the gifts God has given us and others. We do that through the many opportunities we have already been given—small groups, worship, discipleship classes, and serving in ministries. It is a beautiful thing when we are not only identifying, developing, and nurturing our own gifts, but those of others as well.

As we press in to Jesus and walk out our calling, exercising our gifts in relationship with Jesus and others, we begin to change and grow. We begin to become more and more like Jesus. Not only that, but our relationships become more authentic and empowering. This is the beginning of the abundant life Jesus talks about in John 10:10.



Ice Breaker

Use ONE of the questions to help people open up and to focus your meeting. It is very helpful to go around in a circle with the leader going first. (Remember if you have new members or guests you should take time to introduce everyone.)

- 1.** When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?
- 2.** Tell us 3 things about yourself, two of which are true and one which is false. The leaders will say to the group with each person, "Who thinks #1 is false? Number 2? Number 3?" and the group will raise hands each time. Then the person will reveal which one is false.
- 3.** What were your 2 favorite subjects in school?

Questions

Please feel free to adjust this study to fit your group's needs and to listen to the direction of the Holy Spirit. It is not necessary to use all of the questions.

1. What are some of the things God is calling you to do that you haven't done yet?

2. Do you think you are making progress towards becoming more like Jesus? What areas do you need to continue to grow in?

3. If you could do any ministry in/for the church, what would you do? What ministry would give you the most fulfillment? (It doesn't necessarily need to exist yet!)

4. What is one thing in this world that you just can't stand and you have to do something to change it?

5. What are your spiritual gifts? (Leader: you may need to explain what spiritual gifts are to the group.) Does the group identify any gifts in you that you didn't mention?

God bless,

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