

Life Groups: "Connect Sunday" (9-10-2017)

Last Week: Life Group Principals . . .

- 1) A place of rest for the weary
- 2) Serve together & Eat Together (learning the value of work & play)
- 3) Shelter in the Storm - When life is hard, you need people in your boat - especially ones who will invite Jesus into the boat too!
- 4) A place to feast on God's Word together. We can have all the food, fun, and even a shelter from the storm, but if we lack Jesus and the life found in His Words, then we are just a social gathering.
- 5) A place to Wrestle & Grow – Jesus invites us to engage with difficult ideas & difficult people, for our mutual growth.

Today – Launching Life Groups

Life groups

1) **The Purpose:** Living Life Together – loving God & loving People

Matthew 22:36-40 (ESV)

(36) "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" (37) And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. (38) This is the great and first commandment. (39) And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. (40) On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

Notes: Loving God & Loving our neighbor are Jesus commands, and they work together.

Hebrews 10:23-25 (ESV)

(23) Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. (24) And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, (25) not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Notes: Notice the words of action. . .

- **Hold fast** (to hope) – Holdfast: have and to hold (think marriage vows – He who promised is faithful)
- **Stir up** (love & works go together) – stir up: motion into, direction of, toward, or upon
- **Meet together & Encourage** one another
 - Meet together: not solitary or occasional, but customary
 - Encourage: To aid, help, comfort, encourage, invite, exhort
- **All the More:** (so much more) the closer we get to The Day, we should purpose all the more to meet

2) The Plan

Small Group environment:

- **Safe Place** (so we don't fix, interrupt, gossip, or give un-solicited advice)
- **Value People** (so our goal is to listen, love, & affirm each-other)

The Long pause & followup questions – embrace the awkward
 The Talkers learn to hang back
 The Quiet learn to open & share

We aren't trying to win arguments; we are trying to win people to Jesus. So we are going to have a welcoming environment that you would feel good about inviting people to.

- **Plan for Growth:** Open Group – Open Chair – Open Growth (through branching out)
 - Groups won't stay a holy huddle of the same few people forever, expect change)

Practical Details:

3 groups (see card/map: Hawkins on Tue, Spencer - Panella on Wed, Soreanos on Thursday)

Signup today – meet & mingle for the next 10 minutes, ask questions, etc.

You can email in order to signup as well – grab a card before you go!

Curriculum:

Sermon Discussion - Notes & Discussion Questions will be provided

Listen to the Sermon: Subscribe to Podcast on iTunes (podcast app), Soundcloud, or our website (Mondays)

Weekly Groups for a weekly commitment, but each lesson stands alone – no excuses if life happens and you miss, just jump right back in. These start this week and next week, but the groups are open. Jump in & spread the word.

New Sermon Series: starting next week "Holdfast" – a Study of the book of Ruth