

# Small Group Fair...no, Small Group Great!

## I. Introduction

## II. The Case for Community

### A. Jesus' prayer for us.

1. John 17:20-23 (NIV) <sup>20</sup>"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, <sup>21</sup>that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup>I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: <sup>23</sup>I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."

### B. The early church's response to Jesus' prayer.

1. Acts 2:42-47 (NIV) <sup>42</sup>They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup>Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup>Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. <sup>46</sup>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, <sup>47</sup>praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

### C. We are created to be interdependent.

1. Genesis 2:18 (NIV) The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

### D. We can accomplish great things together, for good or evil.

1. Genesis 11:5-9 (NIV) <sup>5</sup>But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the men were building. <sup>6</sup>The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. <sup>7</sup>Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other." <sup>8</sup>So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. <sup>9</sup>That is why it was called Babel—because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

E. God removes the curse of the Tower of Babel.

1. Acts 2:1-6 (NIV) *<sup>1</sup>When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. <sup>5</sup>Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. <sup>6</sup>When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language.*

### III. Reasons We Don't Attend a Small Group

A. I already go to church every week, why do I also need to go to a Small Group?

1. Weekend Services and Small Groups serve different purposes.
2. *"The aim of God in history is the creation of an all-inclusive community of loving persons, with Himself included in that community as its prime sustainer and most glorious inhabitant."* (Dallas Willard)

B. Going to Small Group is really inconvenient.

1. *"We don't drift in good directions. We discipline and prioritize ourselves there."* (Andy Stanley)

C. I'm doing fine; I don't really need a Small Group.

1. Hebrews 10:23-25 (NIV) *<sup>23</sup>Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup>And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. <sup>25</sup>Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*
2. *"The illusory feeling that it is good for us to be alone – is a bad spiritual symptom; just as a lack of appetite is a bad medical symptom because men really do need food."* (C.S. Lewis)
3. *"It's not about you!"* (Rick Warren)

### IV. Closing

A. Do you want to be known as a disciple of Jesus?

1. John 13:34-35 (NIV) *<sup>34</sup>"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

**Upcoming Messages:**

**9/14-15/2013 – “Buy the Pearl” (Fight to Win Series)**

**9/21-22/2013 – “Doing Healing”**

**9/28-29/2013 – “Biblical Healing”**