



**SMALL GROUPS: ENGAGE IN CHRIST**

Dr. David Platt • August 12, 2007

**John 17:20-26**

**Why Small Groups?**

- ▶ **The \_\_\_\_\_ of our Creator...**
  - We have been invited to join in the mystery of \_\_\_\_\_ community.
  - God desires for His glory to be the \_\_\_\_\_ of our community in this world.
  - God desires for our community to be the \_\_\_\_\_ of His glory in this world.
  
- ▶ **The \_\_\_\_\_ of creation...**
  - God created us to \_\_\_\_\_ life in Him.
  - God created us to \_\_\_\_\_ life with each other.
  
- ▶ **The \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ...**
  - Jesus' method for reaching the multitudes was a small group of \_\_\_\_\_.

<b>Matthew 10:2-4</b>	<b>Mark 3:13-19</b>	<b>Luke 6:12-16</b>	<b>Acts 1:12-14</b>
<b>Simon Peter</b>	<b>Simon Peter</b>	<b>Simon Peter</b>	<b>Peter</b>
Andrew	James	Andrew	John
James	John	James	James
John	Andrew	John	Andrew
<b>Philip</b>	<b>Philip</b>	<b>Philip</b>	<b>Philip</b>
Bartholomew	Bartholomew	Bartholomew	Thomas
Thomas	Matthew	Matthew	Bartholomew
Matthew	Thomas	Thomas	Matthew
<b>James/Alphaeus</b>	<b>James/Alphaeus</b>	<b>James</b>	<b>James/Alphaeus</b>
Thaddeus	Thaddeus	Simon the Zealot	Simon the Zealot
Simon the Zealot	Simon the Zealot	Judas/James	Judas/James
Judas Iscariot	Judas Iscariot	Judas Iscariot	(Matthias)

- People, not \_\_\_\_\_, are God's method for winning the world to Himself.

- ▶ **The \_\_\_\_\_ of the early church...**
  - Christ chose for His glory to dwell in local bodies of believers, not local \_\_\_\_\_ for believers.
    - WE ARE THE \_\_\_\_\_!
  - Small groups were key to their \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Small groups were crucial to their \_\_\_\_\_.
  
- ▶ **The \_\_\_\_\_ of the church today...**
  - Biblical community and biblical mission are \_\_\_\_\_.
  - We want to give ourselves to the most effective \_\_\_\_\_ for disciple-making to occur.
    - Small groups are \_\_\_\_\_.
    - Small groups are \_\_\_\_\_.
    - Small groups are \_\_\_\_\_.
    - Small groups are \_\_\_\_\_.
  - We want to give ourselves to the most intentional \_\_\_\_\_ of the Gospel to the whole world.

**So What Now?**

- ▶ **This week...**
  - Begin considering how you will get involved in a small group of the church.
- ▶ **Today...**
  - Step up and commit to lead a small group of the church.



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**John 17:20-26**

**Why Small Groups?**

- ▶ **The pattern of our Creator...**
  - We have been invited to join in the mystery of **divine** community.
  - God desires for His glory to be the **foundation** of our community in this world.
  - God desires for our community to be the **reflection** of His glory in this world.
  
- ▶ **The plan of creation...**
  - God created us to **enjoy** life in Him.
  - God created us to **experience** life with each other.
  
- ▶ **The precedent of Christ...**
  - Jesus' method for reaching the multitudes was a small group of **men**.

<b>Matthew 10:2-4</b>	<b>Mark 3:13-19</b>	<b>Luke 6:12-16</b>	<b>Acts 1:12-14</b>
<b>Simon Peter</b>	<b>Simon Peter</b>	<b>Simon Peter</b>	<b>Peter</b>
Andrew	James	Andrew	John
James	John	James	James
John	Andrew	John	Andrew
<b>Philip</b>	<b>Philip</b>	<b>Philip</b>	<b>Philip</b>
Bartholomew	Bartholomew	Bartholomew	Thomas
Thomas	Matthew	Matthew	Bartholomew
Matthew	Thomas	Thomas	Matthew
<b>James/Alphaeus</b>	<b>James/Alphaeus</b>	<b>James</b>	<b>James/Alphaeus</b>
Thaddeus	Thaddeus	Simon the Zealot	Simon the Zealot
Simon the Zealot	Simon the Zealot	Judas/James	Judas/James
Judas Iscariot	Judas Iscariot	Judas Iscariot	(Matthias)

- People, not **programs**, are God's method for winning the world to Himself.

▶ **The practice of the early church...**

- Christ chose for His glory to dwell in local bodies of believers, not local **buildings** for believers.
  - WE ARE THE **CHURCH!**
- Small groups were key to their **sanctification**.
- Small groups were crucial to their **multiplication**.

▶ **The potential of the church today...**

- Biblical community and biblical mission are **inseparable**.
- We want to give ourselves to the most effective **avenue** for disciple-making to occur.
  - Small groups are **biblical**.
  - Small groups are **simple**.
  - Small groups are **reproducible**.
  - Small groups are **cross-cultural**.
- We want to give ourselves to the most intentional **advancement** of the Gospel to the whole world.

**So What Now?**

▶ **This week...**

- Begin considering how you will get involved in a small group of the church.

▶ **Today...**

- Step up and commit to lead a small group of the church.