

What's Involved

My last article asked the question regarding how we as The Lakes Church go about the work of making disciples: where it is occurring, who is involved, what we are intentionally doing in that work.

I also mentioned that one ideal environment that we already provide just might be an ideal environment for this work to occur: our small groups. Let's poke around this concept and see what we might find...

What makes a small group special is the way it provides community for us. A casual reading of the New Testament reveals to us that the Lord never intended for us to live and follow Him alone. The church was His idea. We follow Jesus together, with each other. We live life together, and we love each other in the process.

And when you consider that the New Testament provides one example after another of this phenomenon, you start to arrive at the conclusion that following Jesus and helping others to follow Jesus is done in community. And that is what a small group can provide.

Yet that's not all that makes a small group so special. If it were only to provide community, it would merely be a social group. That's not a bad thing; but when it comes to the mission of making disciples, is community all that is needed?

When you go back and read the New Testament, the answer is a big "no." Acts 2:42-47 describe what that first church was doing. They were meeting house to house (a small group); but they were also devoting themselves to several things that were going to help them know Christ more deeply. Where was this happening?

One place was house to house. In their small groups.

So the Lord designed (and yes, I think it all was HIS idea!) to provide His people with a way to learn how to follow Him as Lord in the context of a community. So that following (or discipleship) happens not just one person at a time, but also in the context of a loving, caring, affirming group that will continue to challenge one another to follow Christ to greater levels.

As a small group leader, can you see that? Can you see the potential? Have you considered your small group could be a group of people who are becoming greater followers, greater disciples, of the Lord Jesus?

If you can, does that potential change your understanding of your role? Are you just running a meeting two or four times a month; or is your role even greater, even more significant, even more important than what you might even think it is right now?

I happen to believe that it is. But don't take my word for it. Spend some time before the Lord, praying and asking Him to show you how **He** sees you and the role that He has given you.

What's my role in this? To be used by the Lord to equip **You** to serve the Lord by serving those people He has placed in your group, who are under your care. I'm here to help!

I'll share some more next week...