

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS - SMALLER

“Stop Attending and Start Engaging”

Acts 2:46-47; Matthew 26:36-46



JASON'S MAIN POINTS:

In a small group, you are noticed.

In a small group, you are a leader.

Small groups give you an extended family.

Small groups allow you to search and ask questions.

Small groups provide advice and support.

Small groups help the church grow.

READ: Matthew 26:36-46; Acts 2:42-47; Galatians 6:1-4

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Read Acts 2:42-47 out loud in your group. When you're done, answer the following questions:
 - What are the four things the early church Christians were devoted to, and what are the 10-11 experiences that followed this devotion?
 - What Acts 2 records occurred primarily in small groups in homes. Have you ever experienced any of these in a small group? Tell the group about it.
 - Looking at all they experienced:
 - Should we be eating together when we gather for small groups? Why or why not?
 - Should we be taking communion when we gather for small groups? Why or why not?
 - Should we be willing to give up possessions to help a group member in need? When and how would that happen?
 - What is the difference between commitment and devotion? What are you devoted to right now? What would it take to be devoted to a small group experience?
 - Read the following passages: John 13:35, Ephesians 4:1-6, Philippians 4:2, Galatians 6:10. As you think of your devotion to the church now, do you experience the unity described in these passages. Why or why not? What is missing from you or from the church?
2. Jason commented, *“Many have mistakenly taught that if we're really mature, we don't need anyone; we can be totally self-feeding and not dependent on others. Only the weak need somebody.”* In Acts 2:42, the Scripture says that the early Christians were devoted to “fellowship.” When we think of fellowship, we often think of food and fun, but the word has a much deeper meaning. From the Greek word *koinonia*, fellowship

had a rich meaning: sharing, participation, communion, partnership. It implies a degree of community, intimacy, and interdependence. Jason quoted Matthew 26:36-46, as an example of this kind of fellowship.

- What was Jesus wanting His disciples to share with Him? What could that tell us about how we practice true fellowship?
 - How is that different than our normal use and expectation of the word fellowship, and how should it change what we do in our small groups?
3. *“Growing smaller is about growing a community. A lot of Christians will talk about what you need to know, not who you need to be with. If we get the relationships right, the information will follow.”*
 - What do you think of this statement?
 - Which is more important: knowing doctrine or having solid biblical relationships? Why?
 - Jason listed 5 benefits of small group life (See his Main Points). Do you agree with him? What would you look for most? What would you add?
 4. Take a few minutes to get a good look at the New Testament “One Another’s” listed on the other side of this page.
 - Highlight and share one or two with your group that you feel are really important right now and why?
 - How many of these could effectively be carried out on Sunday mornings at church? Does this say something about “devoting” ourselves to small groups?
 5. How does the following quote support what Jason said today?

“No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less...any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind...”

John Donne (Meditation XVII)