

Home Group Notes
Week of November 3, 2024
“Shift?!” week #10



If you haven't yet, please listen to Pastor Bill Born's message from Sunday. He summarized many of the things to which we aspire.

Most of this week's discussion is about you leading a conversation about becoming the kind of church and community group that Pastor Bill exhorted us to follow.

A HOLY HUDDLE?

The term “holy huddle” has been used of Christians who isolate themselves from non-Christians and only having relationships with other Christians. But, if “holy” means devoted to God and a “huddle” is people drawing close to one another, then perhaps a Home Group is a “holy huddle.” If a friend asked you, ‘Why do you go to your Home Group,’ how would you answer?

Traditionally, most people will answer that they participate because of friendships. This is a good reason to come. Perhaps, we might also hear other reasons, e.g., to discuss the Word, to encourage one another, to pray, etc.

Let's listen well.

WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN THE EARLY CHURCH “HUDDLES?”

This is a very very brief sampler and is only intended to highlight and few of the many places where discipleship happens in relational contexts.

Read the following passages and consider what we learn about their gatherings.

John 13:34-35

Clearly and repeated in the New Testament is the call to love (*apage*) one another.

Hebrews 10:24-25

We are to meet regularly, spurring on one another to love and good deeds and encourage each other.

Galatians 6:1-2

We are to restore one another if caught up in sin and carry one another's burdens.

1 John 4:11-13

This command to love one another is repeated because God is love and calls us to become like Him.

Proverbs 27:17

Just as iron sharpens iron, we are called to keep help another grow and go as Jesus' disciples.

James 5:13-16

We are called to be vulnerable with one another. This can be seen in this passage where we have to reveal weakness, challenge, and sin to that others might pray and restore one another.

1 Corinthians 14:26

Paul wrote that we should be coming together to use our spiritual gifts and skill to worship, encourage and build up one another and the church.

DISCUSS TOGETHER

In his message on Sunday, Bill Born gave an overview of how a small group can be a place where discipleship takes place in healthy relationships. This is an essential “shift” toward authentic relationships. Here is a brief overview of some of the elements he described.

- Leading with the gospel, the Word of God
- Leading out of relationship
- Leading as shepherds (both the leader and the people shepherding each other)
- Leading with vulnerability (“We cared so much . . . to share with you ...our own lives.”) They were honest, transparent, disclosed how God has met in the past and present. This is risky.
- Quote: “If we do not courageously open up, relationships remain shallow.” (Comer)

How are we doing? What is helpful to you and to us? Are there elements (above) to which we should give more attention? What will help us draw near to the Lord, to one another, and to help other people follow Jesus?

The focus is self-evaluation. We all need to do this so that we might make adjustments in our lives. As I listened, I heard many changes for myself and our group.

Self-evaluation is challenging and could make us feel like we are failing. Please be sure to focus on the good, why you are thankful. Please trust the Holy Spirit to speak through people. While this is hard for us shepherds, it is also helpful.

APPLY IT THIS WEEK

How are you doing as a brother or sister? Is God calling you to follow the example of drawing near, caring for others, being vulnerable and ready to team up to make the good news of God known? This means being vulnerable with God first. He will enlighten and empower you to love Him, His family, and those who do not yet know Christ.

PLEASE PRAY

- Please pray for your brothers and sisters who were sent out as our global partners. Many are lonely, challenged, and live in difficult circumstances. Consider how you can do something to encourage them this week.
- Please pray for “A Father’s Legacy” taking place on Friday evening and Saturday morning. Pray for the leaders and participants as they focus on how to help their kids follow Jesus as His disciples.
- Please pray for the widows and widowers in our church family. Ask God how we can love and support them.

This is a big week. May the Holy Spirit keep you strong and encouraged.

Grace to you,
Steve