

April 10, 2011

Willow Park South Small Group Questions

“Significant Relationships”

Galatians 6:1-5

- Please read Galatians 6:1-5 together at the beginning of your meeting.

In Galatians 6:1-5, Paul illustrates what he means by the life of love in the Spirit, which he described in more general terms in the previous section. As a church community, we want to apply this principal by creating significant relationships. In order to create significant relationships we must ask two questions:

1. Is our church back door closed?

- Are new members connecting with our community? Or is it easy for people to slip out unnoticed?

Can you think of an example of someone in our church or in your life who has exemplified Christ by bearing an other's burden?

How has Christ set the ultimate example for us to bear one another's burdens?

- **Isaiah 53:4-6** (ESV)
*[4] Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.
[5] But he was wounded for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his stripes we are healed.
[6] All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.*

How does bearing each other's burdens create a small back door within our church?

2. Do we function as a church or as a crowd?

- Are we friendly but not connected? How do we develop significant relationships?

One of the mechanisms that will enable people to build significant relationships is our small group ministry.

How do small groups undercut the myth that we need to be at church or need a pastor in order to connect with and learn from God?

How do small groups provide significant ministry opportunities for the congregation?

- **Ephesians 4:11-12** (ESV) *“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ”*

Has being apart of a small group increased honesty and transparency between you and other church members? How does being honest with each other develop the sense that it is okay to not be okay?

- **Galatians 6:1-2** (ESV) *“Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. [2] Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”*
 - As we are honest, our struggles are supported more effectively.

How are commonly ignored spiritual disciplines such as prayer and Bible reading made a priority when we join a small group?

How does growing together in a small group create a powerful model for our children?

- The best gift we can give to our children are parents who are growing in Christ and are responding with ministry. Small groups allow parents to grow and to respond.

Our church goal is that **80%** of the congregation will be connected in a small group.

Can you think of people in the church who you could invite to your small group?