



The Third Sacrament

What churches should prioritize:

1. The week is more important than the _____
2. Training is more important than _____
3. Transformation is more important than _____
4. Community is more important than _____

Churches with small group ministries reflect these priorities. ↗

Are Small Groups Biblical?

- The Trinity is a small group
- Being made in the image of God means being made to exist in community
- "It's not good for man to be alone."
- Jesus' disciples were a small group.... Really?

Two ancient Jewish concepts shed light on the idea of Jesus' disciples as a small group.

1.) Yeshiva

A group of disciples who were wrestling over the _____ of a text and trying to determine how to _____ it out.

Not curriculum based.

- Need to _____ moments
- Need to _____ moments

Jesus wants disciples not converts.

When Jesus' disciples are gathered together in his name, their Rabbi is with them.

2.) Havurah

Origin: a specific group of friends and family eating a _____ meal together.

Definintion: Group, Assembly, Gathering

Usage during Jesus' time: a small group of Jewish friends who worshipped God and studied His word together. Usually nonclergy.

3.) _____

Definition: Group, Assembly, Gathering

New Testament Usage: The Christian Church

The Jewish word for small group means the same thing as the Greek word for church.

For the first _____ years of Christianity the church met in homes and during persecution they kept their meetings purposefully small to avoid detection.

NT Small Group Examples:

- Acts 2 (Meeting in Homes)
- Acts _____ (Meeting at Lydia's home)
- Priscilla and Aquilla (tentmakers who had a house church)
- Colossians 4:15

59 _____ verses in the New Testament

- "Wash one another's feet." - "Forgive one another."
- "Be Devoted to one another." - "Submit to one another."
- "Instruct One another." - "Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs."
- "When you come together to eat, wait for one another." - "Spur one another on towards love and good deeds."
- "Serve one another in love." - "Confess your sins to each other."
- "Carry one another's burdens." - "Offer hospitality to one another."
- "Be Patient with one another."

You cannot live out the New Testament expectations for believers in community if all you do is come on Sunday morning.