

SERMON NOTES:

Hear something interesting today?
Write it down

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State of the Church: Small Groups Edition

Action Steps

Come. Join our small group ministry next year if you're not already in it.

Commit. It's easy to treat small groups as extra-curricular stuff but the truth is our small groups are the cells of the body. It's here that we can fulfill the 59 "One another" verses of the Bible. It's here where each person can be known and loved and cared for. Consider 1 Peter 4:10 "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." The Holy Spirit recognizes that you and I are to be stewards of God's grace in order to serve others. Meaning that when we don't participate – it's at the expense of other people receiving and experiencing God's grace that's meant to come through you. God's given us grace for the purpose of serving others with it. We can't do that if we don't show up.

Contribute. Don't just be a consumer of your small group. Contribute. Consider 1 Corinthians 12:26: "What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up." The Holy Spirit expects that we would all contribute and bring something. Before small groups starts ask yourself, "What am I bringing?"

Care. Care for each other. Pray for each other. Listen to one another. Love one another. Serve one another. Bear one another's burdens. Check in with one another. Encourage one another. Spend time with one another.

Celebrate Change. There are going to be some changes that come our way. Some of you may not be able to stay in your current small group. It's not awesome to have worked on a community for the last year only to find out that that community will get disrupted or dissolved but the truth is – God uses diasporas all the time to grow his church. We can expect it to happen on a smaller scale and maybe even celebrate when it does.

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