

SMALL GROUPS MATERIAL

February 28, 2011

WELCOME

As your members are coming in, make sure that you have some sort of music going or as welcoming of an environment that you can create. People need to feel like they have a place to come in and be themselves. Everyone should be greeted warmly and with a smile. Food is always a plus!

Part of welcoming is making sure that people are networked together. If you see that certain people are sitting by themselves, join them in with other conversations! Make sure that everyone that comes through the door is greeted.

WORSHIP

This week, use the word “intentional” a lot when referring to worship. We have kicked off a new sermon series entitled: “WORSHIP: A Living Sacrifice,” where we will INTENTIONALLY focus on worship.

Option 1:

If you have someone who can play guitar or piano or another instrument, have him or her play a few songs to focus everyone’s attention on The Lord. Make sure you have a way for people to view the words.

Option 2:

A great way to intentionally worship God is to ask people in your small group to point to The Father in every aspect of their week. Try this:

Ask your group to POINT TO THE FATHER in the following areas:

- Comfort from God’s Word (How have you seen God in His Word this week?)
- Answers to prayers (Name an answer to a prayer you’ve had recently or seek to find God’s response during the waiting)
- Opportunities for evangelism (How have you seen God open up doors of opportunities for you to minister this week?)
- Help during temptation (Point to The Father in some spiritual victories you have experienced this week)
- Trials you have experienced this week (Encourage your group to find God’s hand in a trial or stress they are incurring. If they can’t see one, have people in your group step up to show how they see God’s hand in it.)

Remember, this is not a time to “catch up on the week.” INTENTIONALLY give glory to God, The Father, for how He has been ACTIVE in your life this week! If people can’t find ways, help them find ways. You will see just how many opportunities we miss to point ourselves and other people to God.

WORD

Today, we will be getting a little deeper into the idea of intentional, experiential worship. Keep in mind that this is not a church or sermon critique. Make sure that everyone's focus is on The One on The Throne, not the one behind the pulpit. Take a look at the 3 points from Sunday's message and discuss the questions aloud.

1. Worshipping God and giving thanks (Psalm 34:1-3)

Question:

Why is Worship like Agape Love?

Read Isaiah 6

2. Worship is seeking God with all your heart (Psalm 34:4-7)

Question:

How is worship like a mystery and a miracle?

Question:

After you worship, how are you different?

3. Worship is experiencing God personally (Psalm 34:8-9)

Question:

Why is worship difficult to define?

Why is worship different for different people?

How is worship similar or different from the Model Prayer in Luke 11?

Close your group in prayer. As you close, ask your group to pray as a sacrifice of worship. Challenge one another to worship through prayer, not just offer up a quick, meaningless sentence or two.

WITNESS

Continue to identify names of members in our church who need to be reached out to and brought into a fellowship. Also, by now, you should be identifying people outside of the church that you can invite to the group.

WORKS

Think of activities within the church that you can help or serve. Go around and let people discuss how they are involved in the church and how they are currently, actively serving. Then, talk about how your group as a whole can serve within the church.

Also, this is a great time to begin distributing responsibility of the 5 W's to other group members. Have other members sign up for duties next week as a way to serve one another.