

GET USED TO DIFFERENT! 2

*Maybe the different we need to get used to
has been there all along*

- Which Book of the O.T. do you think Jesus most quoted from?
- The first thing Moses did in his farewell discourse was to review Israel's past and remind the new generation who they were and how they got where they were (Deuteronomy 1:1-5)
- Deuteronomy 1:6-8 - A grasp of history is important to every generation because it gives a sense of identity. If you know who you are and where you came from, you will have an easier time discovering what you should be doing. **A generation without identity is like a person without a birth certificate, a name, an address, or a family. If we don't know our historic roots, we may become like tumbleweeds that are blown here and there and never arriving at our destination.**
- **What is the history of your spiritual journey?**

- Deuteronomy 1:9-18 - It wasn't easy for Moses to lead this great nation because he frequently had to solve new problems and listen to new complaints.
- God's answer to Moses' prayer was to give him seventy elders to assist him in managing the affairs of the camp.
- Moses was a great leader and a spiritual giant, but even he could do only so much.
- He and the elders organized the nation by thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens, with competent leaders in charge of each division. This created a chain of command between Moses and the people so that he didn't have to get involved in every minor dispute.
- (from The Bible Exposition Commentary: Old Testament © 2001-2004 by Warren W. Wiersbe.)

• Jesus Model of Effective Leadership

I. From Many to Twelve. Mark 3:13-15

- As a master teacher, Jesus taught thousands. As Scripture describes, He was not there as only a provider of information, but had compassion on them. He cared for, and loved, the people who came to Him.

2. From Twelve to Three

- Jesus did invest in the 12, but from that group He chose Peter, James and John.
- In Mark 5:35-41, Jesus displayed His authority and power over death to only these 3.
- In Mark 9:2-4, Jesus revealed part of His glory in the presence of these three. Why? There is greater intimacy in smaller groups.
- In Mark 14:32-34, Jesus pulled the 3 away from the rest of the disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane.

- **Obvious Impact:**

- “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14).
- 2 Peter 1:16-20 For we were not making up clever stories when we told you about the powerful coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We saw his majestic splendor with our own eyes 17 when he received honor and glory from God the Father. The voice from the majestic glory of God said to him, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy." 18 We ourselves heard that voice from heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain. 19 Because of that experience, we have even greater confidence in the message proclaimed by the prophets. You must pay close attention to what they wrote, for their words are like a lamp shining in a dark place—until the Day dawns, and Christ the Morning Star shines in your hearts. NLT
- And in Acts 12:2, James was killed for his faith in Christ.

- Scriptures such as Acts 1:15, 2:41,47, 4:4, 5:14, 28, 6:1,7, 21:20 record the amazing growth of the first church. It is believed that during its first 25 years the Jerusalem church grew from 120 people to over 50,000 people! Where did they put all those people? The answer is small groups. Acts 5:42 tells us that “they met day after day, in the Temple courts and from house to house...” **In the first church, it would appear, the small groups were the base for all ministry and fellowship.**

-Rick Warren

We seemed to be very focused on “In the Temple courts”; but very little on the house to house!

- **How many here were involved in some type of a home group as an important part of your spiritual formation?**
- What was the impact of meeting with a small group on your spiritual development when you became a Christian?
- What are the three most important take a ways from your home group?
- If you were to form a small group, what do you think are the most important components that you would incorporate?

• **Why LIFE Groups: Living in Fellowship Everyday**

1. Small groups are a powerful way to grow spiritually!

- **Acts 2:42** All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.
- Healthy Balance
- More than just a Bible Study
- Developing spiritual muscle
- **1 Timothy 4:8-9** Bodily exercise is all right, but spiritual exercise is much more important and is a tonic for all you do. So exercise yourself spiritually, and practice being a better Christian because that will help you not only now in this life, but in the next life too. 9-10 This is the truth and everyone should accept it. We work hard and suffer much in order that people will believe it, for our hope is in the living God who died for all, and particularly for those who have accepted his salvation. TLB

2. Secondly - Small groups are a powerful way to grow relationally

- Acts 2:44-47 And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. 45 They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. 46 They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— 47 all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. NLT
- A big difference between knowing someone and really knowing someone!
- People's needs were getting met!

A. What about accountability?

- We need to sign up!
- We need accountability!
- Doing something and doing it with purpose

- Galatians 6:1-3 Live creatively, friends. If someone falls into sin, forgivingly restore him, saving your critical comments for yourself. You might be needing forgiveness before the day's out. 2 Stoop down and reach out to those who are oppressed. Share their burdens, and so complete Christ's law. 3 If you think you are too good for that, you are badly deceived. The Message

B. The need for encouragement - You and I need encouragement. We need positive people in our lives.

- Hebrews 10:24-25 Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. 25 And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. NLT
- Key to the success of Alcoholics Anonymous

C. The need for ministry opportunities - You and I need opportunities to exercise our spiritual gifts. The small group is the best place to discover and develop our spiritual gifts.

- 1 Corinthians 12:7 A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. NLT
- 1 Corinthians 12:7 Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people! MSG

3. Small groups are a powerful way to grow numerically
 - a. Acts 2:47 all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.
 - b. And notice that the Lord added to their numbers daily...It does not say that the Lord added to their numbers every Sunday

Here is an undeniable truth: The larger the group in which we are participating, the shallower the interaction. This directly impacts the spiritual growth of the Lord's church.