

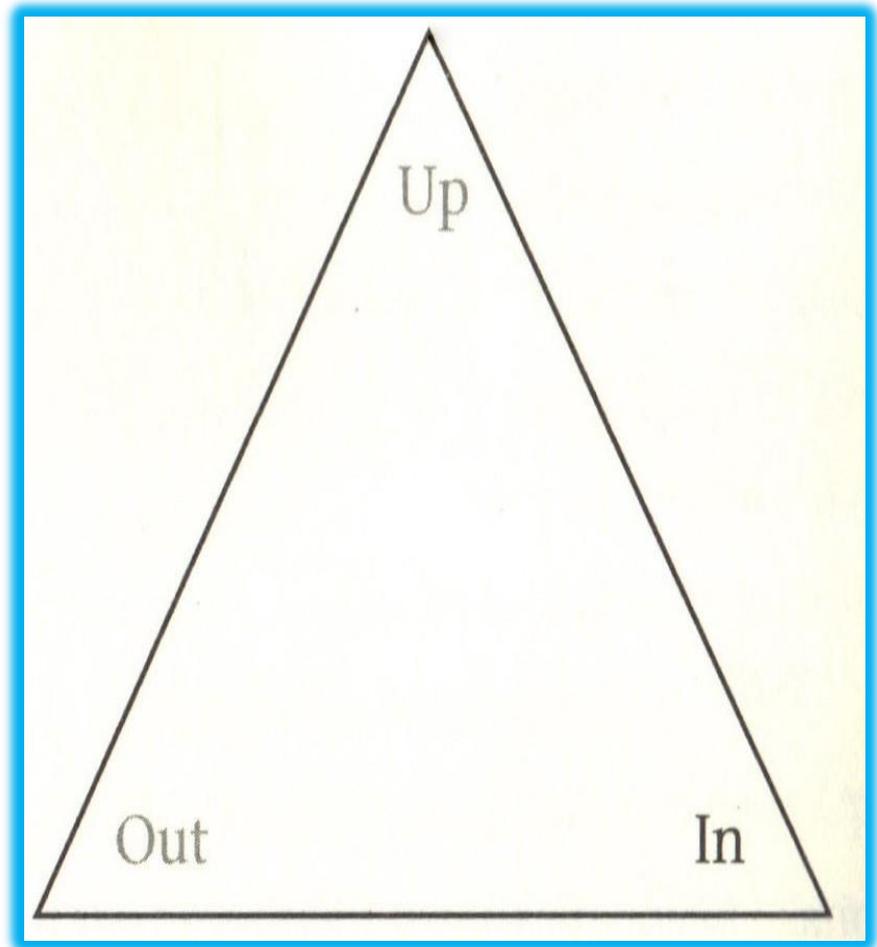
LIFE

Living

In

Fellowship

Everyday



- ▶ What does it mean to live life in the Lord?
 - ▶ What does it mean to live life together?
 - How well do we really know one another?
 - What constitutes fellowship?
 - Growing problem of isolation!
 - ▶ Good intentions, when it comes to our OUT but little follow through or impact.
 - ▶ Life Groups or Connect Groups proposed back in 2016
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▶ **Small Groups and living in a world that is so counter culture to our Christian Values?**

▶ **Book of Daniel – Friendship, Sticking together, etc.**

- Daniel 1:11-17 Daniel spoke with the attendant who had been appointed by the chief of staff to look after Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. 12 "Please test us for ten days on a diet of vegetables and water," Daniel said. 13 "At the end of the ten days, see how we look compared to the other young men who are eating the king's food. Then make your decision in light of what you see." 14 The attendant agreed to Daniel's suggestion and tested them for ten days. 15 At the end of the ten days, Daniel and his three friends looked healthier and better nourished than the young men who had been eating the food assigned by the king. 16 So after that, the attendant fed them only vegetables instead of the food and wine provided for the others. 17 God gave these four young men an unusual aptitude for understanding every aspect of literature and wisdom. And God gave Daniel the special ability to interpret the meanings of visions and dreams.

- **Daniel 2:17–19** Then Daniel went home and told his friends Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah what had happened. 18 He urged them to ask the God of heaven to show them his mercy by telling them the secret, so they would not be executed along with the other wise men of Babylon. 19 That night the secret was revealed to Daniel in a vision.
- **Daniel 3:16–18** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you. 17 If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty. 18 But even if he doesn't, we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up."
- **We need each other more than what we realize!**

- ▶ **How do we get connected or what draws us to a group:**
 - ▶ **Similar interest:**
 - The Chosen/video series
 - The Purpose Driven Life
 - Sermon discussions
 - Bible Studies
 - Foundation Series
 - Dinner and a movie night.
 - Prayer
 - ??????
 - ▶ **Stage of life!**
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▶ Relational Connectivity!

- You can't build community by way of programming, but you can use a program to create a pathway through which community can happen.
- Programs do not make community; however, programs can create a pathway, the opportunity for birthing healthy community.
- I find that a lot of Christian discipleship deals with **what you need to know not who you need to be with!**

▶ 11 Great reasons to be involved in small groups

- ▶ 1. Community
- ▶ 2. Fellowship
- ▶ 3. Friendships
- ▶ 4. Comfort and Help
- ▶ 5. Overcoming
- ▶ 6. Encouragement
- ▶ 7. Christian living
- ▶ 8. One another: There are 50 “one another” in the New Testament.
- ▶ 9. Openness
- ▶ 10. Love
- ▶ 11. Meeting with Jesus

(8 Reasons Small Groups Are So Important to Jesus, Dr. Roger Barrier)

▶ Fluidity of Groups

- ▶ BiOY has been going for 4 years now.
 - ▶ Prayer group has been meeting for several years
 - ▶ Some groups depending on the purpose of the group will be for a set amount of time.
 - ▶ Flexibility for people to be involved in different groups.
 - ▶ Build relationships and see who you are connected to!
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▶ Leadership of groups

- ▶ Effective leadership = Effective group
 - ▶ What do you have vision or passion to try and do or lead?
 - ▶ Have a heart for people in the group.
 - ▶ Meet periodically with us as leaders to brainstorm our, UP, IN and OUT
 - ▶ We need to ask the Lord to give us strategies and boldness to reach out to those around us!
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