

Loving One Another

We need one another! It's not good to be alone (Genesis 2:18), we need help when we fall (Ecclesiastes 4:10), and together we display a witness of Christ to the world (John 13:35). Our Bible studies provide a way for women to connect with others in our local church, but sometimes it's hard to jump into or stay in such groups. Check out this list of "small group myths" from a recent article at www.thegospelcoalition.org:

Myth 1. Small groups should focus only on Bible study, not sharing sins (or needs) or engaging in outreach.

Small groups focused on Christ and his Word will inevitably get to how the gospel changes us (sin, parenting, marriage, singleness, work, etc.) and to how we can share our faith. It may be tempting to "hide" behind Bible study to avoid talking about the deeper heart issues that the gospel aims to address. In reality, our challenges are opportunities to apply the gospel of Christ.

Truth: Small groups focus on how the gospel of Jesus Christ transforms us as his disciples who grow in holiness and as witnesses of his truth.

Myth 2. Trust and transparency take many years to cultivate in a small group.

After mere weeks together, the new believers of Acts 2 had all things in common, making sure none was in need (Acts 2). So, perhaps time together is not the only way to build trust and transparency. The gospel invites us to be open and honest about our shame, struggles, and sin --- because all of us experience the trials of this life.

Truth: Trust and transparency are fruits of recognizing we are all recipients of God's abundant grace for the forgiveness of sins.

Myth 3. Small group members should become best friends.

Remember, friendship is not what binds us. The blood of Christ unites Jew and Gentile, slave and free, Republican and Democrat, coffee and tea drinker, Jayhawk and Wildcat, etc. Because we share the name CHRISTIAN, we are committed to loving and encouraging one another.

Truth: Small groups are united by the blood of Christ and members of one body.

Myth 4. A successful small group will not be relationally messy.

We are nice women, aren't we? Nobody gets off topic or talks too much, right? Our surprise over relational tensions reveals that we expect church won't ever be "messy." Some of us show up with relational skills, gifts from our families and friendships, but we all need a learning laboratory for love! Life together includes both failure and forgiveness.

Truth: Small groups are where the grace of God overcomes all types of relational messiness through the blood of Jesus.

If you're not connected, check out one of our Bible studies... <http://gepc.org/event/1046230-2018-02-20-womens-bible-study-spring-2018/>

You can read "Five Myths of Small Groups" in its entirety at:

www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/five-common-small-group-myths-and-the-truth-to-help-transform-your-group/