

DISCOVERING THE BIBLE

LESSON 56

SMALL GROUPS

“... Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved

Acts 2:41-47

1. How would you cope with 3000 people suddenly arriving at church?
2. Describe their attitudes and reactions
3. Would you say that church was a single day experience?
4. Do you recognize that part of the growth came from the developing relationships?
5. Now where did the Apostles get this idea from?

“...The next day Moses took his seat to serve as judge for the people, and they stood around him from morning till evening. When his father-in-law saw all that Moses was doing for the people, he said, “What is this you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit as judge, while all these people stand around you from morning till evening?”

Moses answered him, “Because the people come to me to seek God’s will. Whenever they have a dispute, it is brought to me, and I decide between the

parties and inform them of God's decrees and instructions."

Moses' father-in-law replied, "What you are doing is not good. You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone. ...

Moses listened to his father-in-law and did everything he said. He chose capable men from all Israel and made them leaders of the people, officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. They served as judges for the people at all times. The difficult cases they brought to Moses, but the simple ones they decided themselves.

Then Moses sent his father-in-law on his way, and Jethro returned to his own country."

Exodus 18:13-18 and 24-27 ...

- 1. Moses was a judge for his people. What was he trying to do?*
- 2. How does Jethro react?*
- 3. What kind of divisions did Moses create?*
- 4. What was the smallest division?*
- 5. How many people did Jesus choose to work with? Why?*

"Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach and to have authority to drive out demons.

Mark 3:13-15

- 1. What is happening here?*
- 2. Can you think of other examples of how God realized his relationship limitations, perhaps in Genesis?*
- 3. Suggest how many people we should include in a Small Group?*

"The formation of small companies as a basis of Christian effort has been presented to me by One who cannot err. If there is a large number in the church, let the members be formed into small companies, to work not only for the church-members, but for unbelievers. If in one place there are only two or three who know the truth, let them form themselves into a band of workers. Let them keep their bond of union unbroken, pressing together in love and unity, encouraging one another to advance, each gaining courage and strength from the assistance of the other."

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 7 p.21,22

- 1. This is not a text from Scripture. Is it possible that God guided the writer in these words when recommending Small Groups?*
- 2. What is to happen in these groups?*
- 3. Does this match the teaching we have had in our 40 days of prayer?*
- 4. What would you like to see in our Small Group?*

"Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines. Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ."

1 Corinthians 12:7-12

- 1. Is this a picture of what you want to see in our Small Group?*