Small Groups

LifeGroup Lesson Vital Signs Sermon Series – January 25, 2015 Hebrews 10:19-25

OPENING PRAYER:

Let us open our hearts and minds to the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. May God's Spirit be here, leading us toward a more mature faith, nurturing our hope and embracing us in love. Lord, remind us that the Scriptures proclaim to us of God's abiding and forgiving love. Remind us, Lord, that You have called us to be peacemakers. Our world is so divided and troubled. Now we need Your great and worthy guidance to take up the message and practice of Biblical peacemaking. May we be persons of redeeming love and reconciling peace; in the name of Jesus, our risen Lord and Savior. Amen.

BREAKING THE ICE:

- What did you agree or disagree with in the sermon this week?
- When was a time that you felt totally supported by another Christian?

WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:¹

There were 12 Disciples – a small group that Jesus mentored in the faith. Today we study the importance of growing with other believers in small groups. Read Hebrews 10:19-25.

- What does each of the 'let us' statements mean in vs. 22-25?
- In what ways can you spur another Christian toward love and good deeds?
- How have you been spurred on by others? In your life? In this group?
- Is there someone in your life who you know needs this group/a group?
- How can you perpetuate true Christian community in your church?

MORE TO PONDER:

About twenty people sat in a large circle in the lovely fenced-in garden. I tried to explain the mystery of the Trinity by saying that all human relationships are reflections of the relationships within God. God is the Lover, the Beloved, and the Love that binds us in unity. God invites us to be part of that inner movement of love so that we can truly become sons and daughters of the Father, sisters and brothers of the Son, and spouses of the Holy Spirit. Thus, all our human relationships can be lived in God, and as witness to God's divine presence in our lives.

- ---Henri Nouwen, Sabbatical Journey
- What strikes you about this passage?
- How do you see the interaction of the Trinity? What does it say to you about our interactions as a Christian community?
- What does it mean to you to be a son/daughter of the true Father?
- What relationship in your life do you need to see more as a witness of God's divine presence? Explain.

CLOSING POSSIBILITIES:

- How will your life be different based upon what you have learned in this week's scripture, lesson and/or LifeTalk?
- How can the group pray for you this week?

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Holy God, again and again we need to be reminded of our true home. The world continually tugs at us to believe that we belong here, that this is all there is, that hope and fulfillment can be found in what the world offers. We know the truth, Lord, but we forget. We know that You are the source of our life and breath. We know that every good gift we have comes from You. We know that in You we have redemption and forgiveness and are fully known and completely loved. Our true home is in You. Help us to remember. Help us to trust. Thank You for Your grace and compassion that continually draw us back home. For the sake of Christ, we pray. Amen.

¹Adapted from *The Serendipity Bible* (Zondervan: Grand Rapids, 1998)