



## LIFE GROUP SERMON NOTES

### “Better Together”

Ps James Lowe – August 10, 2014

#### WARM-UP (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. *No right or wrong answers.*

1. Who is your best friend? How long have you been friends? Why can you say he/she is your best friend?
2. Do you consider yourself a social butterfly or a hermit? Why?
3. Are you very active in social media? What are the pros and cons of social media for you?

#### WORD (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at [bethelbrentwood.org/media](http://bethelbrentwood.org/media).

Acts 2:41-42 tells us what the first believers did.

They were devoted to the Word, fellowship, eating together, and praying together. The word “devoted” means that they were deeply committed to all four elements. As believers, we tend to think that as long as we have the Word and prayer, we will have the same results as the early church did. However, it is actually the combination of all four components that brings the power, prosperity, praise, and numerous salvations that we see experienced by the early church.

The early church from its birth gathered in small group settings. We cannot produce what the early church produced if we do not do what they did. The combination of the Word, fellowship, food, and prayer in a small group setting is what we at Bethel call a “life group”. It is in such an atmosphere that discipleship can happen.

The life of Moses, as recorded in Exodus 18:1-15, serves as a perfect example of the necessity, challenge, and importance of doing life in a smaller group setting.

1. **The Need:** To connect with people. *As great as big gatherings are, it is impossible to connect with everyone when in a larger setting. Moses had to learn that from his father-in-law, Jethro. We cannot do everything by ourselves; rather, we need the help of others.*
2. **The Challenge:** To overcome problems through connection. *When we connect with people there will be problems, but isolation is not the solution. Participating in a small group or gathering enables godly people to have access to our lives in order to help us overcome the problems that we face.*
3. **The Importance:** To establish a process for connection. *When Moses was trying to lead the Israelites in his own strength, his father-in-law Jethro saw that Moses needed a process for connecting people in smaller settings in order to have access to a wise word of the Lord.*

**If the Bible strongly emphasizes gathering in smaller settings, why do we avoid it so much today? Many times it is because of fear. We fear openness, control, and accountability. However, true discipleship does not involve control. Jesus invited the disciples to, “Come and follow Me” but then He let them make their own choice rather than try to control them. In life groups we do something similar; we help people follow Jesus without trying to control them. Your relationship with Jesus Christ does not take away your need to have healthy human relationships. Statistically, those who have a closer relationship with Jesus have better relationships with other people.**

### **PERSONAL APPLICATION (10-15 minutes)**

**Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related topic for discussion.**

1. Are you part of a life group? If yes, what is the greatest benefit that has come from it? If no, is there anything in particular that has kept you from joining one?
2. Who has access to your life to give you godly counsel?
3. Are you helping someone to follow Jesus? What are some practical things you feel you need to do in order to help that/those person(s)?

### **PRAYER (10-15 minutes)**

**Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.**

- Pray God will plug you into the right group of people that will help you grow in your walk with Christ.
- Pray that God will help you help others follow Him.
- Pray that many people will walk closer in their relationship with Christ during this next semester of life groups in the church.