

Small Group Ministry – December 2007

Someone is looking for you!

"As iron sharpens iron so one man sharpens another." Proverbs 27:13

"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another and all the more as you see the Day approaching."
Hebrews 10:25

Who is that someone looking for you? That is a fellow Christian who wants to grow in their faith and can help you do the same. Whether one is looking for accountability or wants to know someone else will be looking for them at church or missing them at the next meeting, what they are looking for is a small group of fellow Christians.

"Small Group Christians share challenges, confront those challenges with prayer, hear God speak and offer ongoing support to one another," says task force member, Lanny Anderson. "They make families stronger, create new families in a torn world and become a defining force in their Churches."

How does one go about sharing their life struggles? "Not by sitting in church alongside a few hundred or a couple thousand other folks," per Charles Swindoll in his book, *Day by Day* with Charles Swindoll. "What he needs most is to be involved in an adult fellowship in a small-group setting, a place where there is person-to-person caring and the opportunity for authentic sharing. Where he will feel free, without embarrassment or shame, to tell his secret or state his struggle; where someone will listen, help him unload, and give him fresh strength."

Pastor Hogenson recently reported in his weekly e-newsletter that Willow Creek, one of the largest churches in North America, just completed a study of the effectiveness of their ministry over the last 30 years. They found that while they have had extraordinary programs of ministry, what produced the greatest increase in a person's faith were the daily disciplines of reading the Bible and praying at home. A small group Bible study will help you get in the practice of making these disciples of faith a part of your daily life.

Are you struggling on your own, carrying what feels like too much to bear? Someone is looking for you!