




Message by Pastor Jeff 9-11-16
Message Based Questions to help your personal Study & LifeGroup Discussions

CONNECTING:

Connecting to one another (Group Activity): (spend 30 seconds to several minutes on an “ice breaker”)

This is meant to “break the ice” and to encourage your group members to share their thought and ideas in order to get to know one another a little better. It can be worship, serious, funny, light hearted or deep, etc...

Who is the 1st person you are going to look up when you get to heaven? Why?

 **EXPLORING IT:** (Inward Focus)(spend the next 15 to 45 minutes drawing your thought's or your group's attention to the word of God through briefly reviewing the Sermon or by opening with the main passage from the Message)

The Wow! What is the Mission of the Church? Northlake exists to lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

The How! What are our Core Values? The following are the guiding principles that dictate—or drive—all our behavior and action as a Church.

- 1. Biblically Centered—2 Timothy 3:16-17**
- 2. Authentic Community—Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 10:24-25; Romans 12:10**
Life Groups- exist to connect people in Biblical Community so that no one stands alone

If you did not grow up in Church—what were some of your thoughts and ideas about Church before coming?

If you did grow up in Church—what surprises you most when you hear someone say _____?(Fill in the Blank)

What kind of love are we commanded to have for God?

What does it mean to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength?

In which aspect—your heart, soul, or mind—do you find it most difficult to love God? Why?

Think of a time when you witnessed a loving deed. What impressed you most about the situation?

If you were appointed as an ambassador, where would you like to be sent? Why?

In what ways are you fulfilling the Great Commission in the context of your family? Work? Community?
What are two things that you learned that you would like to work on this coming week? Can we pray for you and ask you about it next week?

In what ways can you live out the core values of being Biblically Centered and creating Authentic community?

How can we pray for you this coming week?



PRAY IT: (Outward Focus) Now that you and your group members have connected and grew together it is important to remember that Jesus came to Serve and to not be served and when he connects with a believer or a group of believers, those believers will grow and then Jesus will be able to use them to fulfill the Great Commission ... THROUGH US! Our hope is that You and your LifeGroup members will turn the funnels from facing inwardly to pointing the funnels outwardly in order to serve and pour ministry into others.

Whose job is it?

Most believers are convinced that it is the pastor's responsibility to bring people into the church as well as into the kingdom of God. Nothing could be further from the truth. The Scripture is clear on this point. Pastors were given by God to the church to equip the people to do the work.... Sermons are not God's primary method for reaching people. People are His method for reaching people. What kind of people? Men and women whose lives and life-styles have been deeply affected by the truths of Scripture, people who have discovered the wonderful Spirit-filled life.

God is looking for imperfect men and women who have learned to walk in moment-by-moment dependence on the Holy Spirit. Christians who have come to terms with their inadequacies, fears, and failures. Believers who have become discontent with "surviving" and have taken the time to investigate everything God has to offer in this life.

God's method for reaching this generation, and every generation, is not preachers and sermons. It is Christians whose life-styles are empowered and directed by the Holy Spirit. People are the key to reaching people! – The Wonderful Spirit-Filled Life by Charles Stanley

Churches do not reap the harvest because they have small groups. They reap the harvest because they have harvest workers. Churches that have no plan to develop leaders have, by default, planned to lose the harvest."
—Joel Comiskey

It is impossible for a pastor to provide attention, discipleship, and care needed for large groups of people. No one has the time and energy to shepherd a flock of 80 or 200 or 500 people. As pastor Jeff has shared in the past, each and every one of us have been called to be ambassadors for Christ and I believe that the Kingdom of God advances one life at a time. Our calling as the body of Christ is to demonstrate by our lives the character and the power of Jesus Christ who lives within each of us. (Eph. 3:20-4:1) .

"[Christ] works on us in all sorts of ways... But above all, He works on us through each other. Men are mirrors, or "carriers" of Christ to other men... Usually it is those who know Him that bring Him to others. That is why the Church, the whole body of Christians showing Him to one another, is so important... It is easy to think that the Church has a lot of different objects— education, building, missions, holding services... The Church exists for no other purpose but to draw men into Christ, to make them little Christs. If they are not doing that, all the cathedrals, clergy, missions, sermons, even the Bible itself, are simply a waste of time. God became Man for no other purpose. It is even doubtful, you know, whether the whole universe was created for any other purpose."
-C.S. Lewis

Keep Pressing On!

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