



Small Group Notes, Week of 9.10.17

Welcome! We are so glad to have your voice at the small group “table” this semester! We are in for some great discussions about diversity and unity in the church.

How would you describe your own ethnic background?

Opening prayer

Review of the “Our Small Group” statement and the group calendar (Be prepared to plan your “Play Together” at next week’s small group gathering!)

What are some questions, observations, or concerns when it comes to a multi-ethnic church?

Read Revelation 5:6-11 and 7:9-10

- This passage is written by John, to whom God gave a vision about heaven. The Lamb is understood to be Jesus.
- What does this passage tell us about God’s heart toward people, and about the picture of worship in heaven?
- Has your experience in the church been anything like this picture of worship in heaven? Explain.

Read Genesis 22:15-18

- Abraham is the father of the Hebrew people, also known as the Israelites or the Jews.
- How has God blessed all nations through Abraham?
- How have you experienced God’s blessing?

Read John 17:20-23

- Why do you think that the church is so divided along ethnic lines when Jesus’ prayer was for unity of all believers?
- What message does a segregated church send to the larger society? What message does a multiethnic church send? (*Multiethnic Conversations*, DeYmaz and Okuwobi, pg 45)
- In what way do you contribute to greater unity in the church?
- In what ways do you hinder greater unity?

Take time to pray together, using some of the phrases of Jesus’ prayer in John 17:20-23. As the Holy Spirit brings to mind points of disunity, confess them and acknowledge God’s forgiveness, and ask for His power to change. Invite His enabling to love others as He has loved us.