

TAKING IT HOME

1. How would you respond if God led Edgewater to start a new church in the future?

Would you be one of the ones to help start that new church? Why or why not?

2. Does it encourage or discourage you that the new church in Corinth had so many problems? Explain why.

One of the benefits of reading 1 Corinthians is that God deals with real people with real struggles. This gives us freedom to know that we can be real with God and other believers about our own struggles. Pray that your Growth Group becomes a place those authentic relationships develop.

Prayer is an important part of being in a Growth Group. We've found that group prayer goes better when we follow three simple guidelines:

WE PRAY FOR ONE TOPIC AT A TIME - Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request either before prayer begins or during the prayer time. Once a topic is introduced, the group focuses on that request alone. Once it's covered, the group moves on to the next topic.

PRAY MORE THAN ONCE - Because the group is focusing on one topic at a time, each person is encouraged to pray several times during the prayer time for those topics they feel most led to pray about. No one is required to pray.

WE KEEP OUR PRAYERS SHORT AND SIMPLE - Group prayer goes better when members keep their prayers short and to the point. When someone prays for a long time, it's hard for the other members to stay focused and long prayers tend to intimidate those who are just learning to pray out loud in a group. No one's required to pray out loud.

HOW AND WHY GOD STARTS NEW CHURCHES

HOW THE STORY BEGINS (Acts 9:19b-30, Acts 11:19-26, Acts 13:1-3)

HOW GOD STARTS NEW CHURCHES (Acts 18:1-22)

1. God focuses on reaching a _____
2. God calls a group of _____
3. God starts with people of “_____”
4. It takes _____
5. The focus of the church is _____

WHY GOD STARTS NEW CHURCHES...

- ... to reach _____
- ... to bring you _____ to Him
- ... to give you new and deeper _____

3 IMPLICATIONS FOR US TODAY

1. Be open to _____ people from our church
2. Be realistic about the _____
3. Learn from other churches' _____

Growth Group Homework

For the Week of September 25, 2011

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Would you rather...
 - ⇒ Work at ...Disneyland or Six Flags Discovery Kingdom?
 - ⇒ Go to a ...concert or full service day spa?
 - ⇒ Live as a ...dog or a cat?
 - ⇒ Sleep ...under the stars or in a four star resort?
2. Who was your most memorable teacher in elementary school and why?
3. Looking back at your notes from this Sunday's teaching, was there a particular point, verse or comment that caught your attention, challenged you or raised a question?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read **Luke 15:1-7**. What is Jesus trying to teach his disciples?

How does this show God's heart?

How does this apply to the kind of heart God would want you to have toward people who are far from God?

2. Paul was a master church planter. He started many churches all over the known world then. Read **Romans 1:14-17**. What do you see about Paul's heart for telling people about the good news of Jesus?

What are his motivations?

3. Read **Romans 1:8-12, and 16:1-16**. What do you notice about Paul's relationship with the Roman believers?

How do you imagine their friendships began?

How do you imagine they were strengthened?

Do you have new significant relationships because of God starting Edgewater? Explain.

How would your life be different if God hadn't started a new church in Pittsburg?