

BUILDING BLOCKS FOR AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY  
MARK 3:13-15; LUKE 6:12-16

Introduction

*We believe that God has designed us to share our spiritual journey as a community of believers. We are better together. We were never intended to make it on our own. All of us are people in process, broken and needing healing in various ways. But each of us has been made in God's image, and with a unique shape. We believe that spiritual transformation happens best within the context of genuine sharing and face-to-face relationships in a small group. We desire to nurture relationships based on grace as well as truth in our leadership teams, our small groups and our homes.*

I. Journeying Together with Jesus

A. Prayerful Preparation

B. Visible Commitment

C. Twofold Purpose

1. Walking together

2. Working together

D. Reciprocal Love

• *John 13:34,35; 15:12-17*

II. Journeying Together in Grace Groups

A. Three Commitments

1. To Jesus Christ

2. To the Body of Christ

3. To the Work of Christ in the World

B. Four Basic Elements

1. Prayer

2. God's Word

3. Sharing

4. Outreach

C. Different Sizes of Groups

D. Three Kinds of Groups

1. Discovery Groups

2. Growth Groups

3. Service Groups

E. Organic Growth

F. A Call to Belong

DAILY BIBLE READINGS  
JANUARY 12-18

Follow-throughs

What does Paul tell the Philippian Christians about "walking together?" What does he tell them about "working together?" How does Paul's own example illustrate building blocks for authentic community? To what Grace Group(s) will you make a visible commitment in 2009? How can you contribute to the strengthening of your Grace Group?

**Monday**                      **Philippians 1**

**Tuesday**                     **Philippians 2**

**Wednesday**                **Philippians 3**

**Thursday**                    **Philippians 4**

Warm-ups

**Friday**                        **Genesis 12:1-3**

As God promises Abram a nation (the community of Israel as we see later), what is the point of this blessing of community? Do you view authentic community as a way to bless or witness to the world?

**Saturday**                    **John 13:31-35**

How does Jesus say that people will know that we are his disciples? What affects should this have on how we live in community?

**Sunday**                       **Leviticus 19:18**

Reread John 13:31-35 and think about how Jesus changes this commandment. Why is this important for us?