



SERMON-BASED
SMALL GROUP
STUDY GUIDE
WINTER 2010



●●● **An Introduction Worth Reading**
A Lot Like Us: A Biblical Understanding of Christian Community

Dear SPC Small Group,

Congratulations on making the commitment to meet together for another season with your Small Group! I believe being in a Small Group like the one you are in is vital to growth as a follower of Jesus Christ. It allows us to study together, to be known by others who support us on this journey through life and faith, and fosters ties and relationships that bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to bear on our personal lives. Not to mention they can be a whole lot of fun!

This season in worship, our textbook will be Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. Paul teaches this young church a lot about what it looks like to be in authentic Christian relationships. The issues he discusses in his letter to the church are a lot like the issues we face in our life together. We can learn a lot from Paul and this "first century church" on what it means to be the church.

The study you are picking up is prayerful, thoughtful and insightful. Use it to continue the conversation we will have on Sundays as a larger church family in worship, and then bring it on home to your Small Group time. You will be blessed and we will grow in the process.

Welcome to the adventure!



Jeff Lincicome
Senior Pastor

Keys to Getting the Most out of this Study Guide:

Key #1 – The Study Guide Serves the Group; the Group Does Not Serve the Study Guide

Your group may meet for the better part of an evening or it may meet for just an hour. You may meet every week or you may meet a couple of times a month. Regardless of how frequently or how long you meet, it is unlikely that you will be able to work through every question in this study guide in great detail. That's ok. Find the questions and topics that resonate with your group and pursue them together. Don't feel a need to make it through every question or topic. The goal is to grow in your relationships with God and with one another and to mature together in faith. There may be a week you spend the whole of your time talking about the scripture passage, the sermon, your lives and praying for one another without ever touching the questions in the study guide. Be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit. As you will read in the passage for week #1, He has promised to be with you on this journey.

Key #2 – Be Willing To Wait

Some of the deepest and most significant thoughts and feelings can only be accessed after a period of reflection. If you engage a question or topic together and no one shares right away; be patient. Be thoughtful. Allow for times of fruitful silence as you and others in the group truly consider these scriptures and the discussion questions.

Key #3 – Be Willing To Risk

Our lives are filled with conversations without any real significance. It's easy to talk about sports, the weather, TV shows, and the things that keep us busy. There certainly is a place in life for those sorts of conversations and often these topics are a part of beginning relationships. But this study will invite you at times to participate in another sort of conversation. You will be invited to share together the things that lie below the surface. You may not be ready initially to engage in these kinds of conversations together and that's OK. But, when you are ready to do so, you are invited to risk sharing with the group the kinds of things you would share only with friends. You are invited to grow together by coming to know one another at a deeper level through Bible Study, prayer and authentic conversation. But that won't happen without your being willing to risk sharing with the group.





Sammamish Presbyterian Church
Sermon-Based Small Group Study Guide

Acts 18:1-18; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Sammamish Presbyterian Church Vision Statement

Knowing God, Growing Together, Doing Something About It.

Purpose of our Time Together

To live out together God's call for us to know Him, grow together, and serve in the name of Christ.

Scripture for the Week's Sermon

Acts 18:1-18 and 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

The Big Idea

Christian community means that we recognize the gift we have been to each other.

●●● FOR SMALL GROUPS

Entry Activity...

Describe 2 or 3 different communities you are a part of. What holds together these different communities? What divides them? What role(s) do you play in these communities (both officially and functionally)?

Knowing God

Have someone read aloud Acts 18:1-18

1. Acts 18:1-18 gives us a glimpse into Paul's life in Corinth. He is a focused "man with a mission!" What was Paul's message in Corinth? How did various people react to this message? How would you characterize Paul's time in Corinth? Was it a "successful" work?

2. In spite of operating in a culture very much interested in "spirituality, not religion," Paul draws support and strength from the community of Christ. Why were Aquila and Priscilla in Corinth? Why did Paul choose to stay with them? If you were Paul, would this have been how you would have chosen your roommates?

3. How and when did God show up in this passage? What did He say to Paul? What did God promise? Did God keep his promise to Paul?

Growing Together

Have someone read aloud I Corinthians 1:1-9

4. In Acts 18:17, Sosthenes is beaten by the Greeks when the Jews hauled Paul into court. Now in 1 Cor. 1:1, Paul addresses him specifically in his initial greeting. What happened?

How do you think his life has changed?

As we come face to face with Christ's transforming power, what changes occur in our lives?

5. As we consider our experiences in communities and how we are "gifts" to one another in Christian community, discuss the different communities mentioned in these scripture passages. What drew folks together? What separated them? What draws you into experiencing meaningful community?

Doing Something About It

6. In Acts 18: 9-10, Paul gets some encouraging words from God. Why might this have been just the right message at the right time for Paul?

Looking at this passage, what kind of responsibility does it seem God places on those of us in his community?

What specific ways do we live out those responsibilities to one another as a church community?

7. Aquila and Priscilla accompany Paul when he leaves Corinth, what seems to be important to them as they search for community? How were Paul, Aquilla and Priscilla "gifts" to one another?

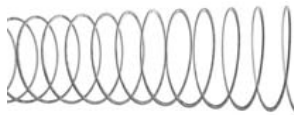
8. The Corinthian church had issues – so do we. It was made up of broken people transformed by grace, learning to live holy lives – just like us. Yet Paul rejoices that his testimony concerning Christ was confirmed in them and is bearing fruit!

Give some examples of how you feel Christ has been confirmed in your life. How about in the life of your small group? How about in your church community?

Who might represent Aquila, Priscilla, and/or Sosthenes in your life? Who has come alongside you while you were in danger or in need of support? Has a difficult person in your life helped you to grow? Describe that process.

9. God told Paul not to be afraid, not to be silent, and remember He is with him. He backed up his promise of protection with the assurance "I have many people in this city." (Acts 18:9-10) Do you believe that your church community "has your back?" What would it take to build that kind of caring community?

Think about someone who might need a word of encouragement or someone who might need another person to come alongside. Pray about that situation and see how God might want to use you.



Extension Ideas

for those who might want to read, consider, or discuss further, either individually or as a group...

For Consideration

Many small groups have discovered a desire to serve together in the name of Christ. Here are 2 upcoming opportunities to proclaim the love of Christ through action in mission:

January 16, February 20 – Habitat for Humanity build day in the Issaquah Highlands (3rd Saturday of each month)

January 17, February 21 – Teen Feed – serving food to homeless youth in Seattle (3rd Sunday of each month)

February 27 — Men in Mission An SPC day of service just for guys is coming Saturday, February 27 (sign up Sunday, February 14 or 21 at SPC or contact Bill Zabriskie at bzabriskie@centricsoftware.com or 425-868-1059.

Information and registration on SPC website - <http://www.spconline.org/pages/Mission/MissionHome.html>.



1 Corinthians 1:18-25

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Scripture for the Week's Sermon

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

The Big Idea

Christian community means that we recognize regularly why we are together - Jesus Christ - and not be **distracted** by other less important details.

●●● FOR SMALL GROUPS

Entry Activity...

Individually determine your "Best 5 Movies of All Time" and share with the group. As a group, work to pare the list down to a mutually agreed upon "Top 3 Movies."

What did you learn about everyone's taste in movies?

How did personal preference play out in your search for unity?

When we talk about being a community, does unity mean finding the least common denominator, or does it mean something else?

Knowing God

Have someone read aloud 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

1. What qualities were most important to the Jews in making decisions of faith? What qualities were most important to Greek-thinking people in making decisions about faith and the world? How does Paul say "the cross" fits in to these two different kinds of demands?

2. When do we look for signs and/or wisdom? What is most convincing to you in shaping your view of the world?

3. What does Paul say God has done to the "wisdom" of the world? How does the cross demonstrate both wisdom and power?

4. Why is the cross foolishness to those who don't believe?

Growing Together

5. What is the absolute heart of the Christian message? Are you comfortable with so focused a message?

6. If the heart of the Christian message is the cross and the cross alone, what does that mean for divisions in the church?

Lark News is a satirical Christian website that exists to poke fun when the church takes itself too seriously. It is a “fake news” site, which extends right down to the following message when searching an archived article:

The page cannot be found

The page you are looking for might have been removed, had its name changed, or is temporarily unavailable.

- **Baptist explanation:** There must be sin in your life. Everyone else opened it fine.
- **Presbyterian explanation:** It's not God's will for you to open this link.
- **Word of Faith explanation:** You lack the faith to open this link. Your negative words have prevented you from realizing this link's fulfillment.
- **Charismatic explanation:** Thou art loosed! Be commanded to OPEN!
- **Unitarian explanation:** All links are equal, so if this link doesn't work for you, feel free to experiment with other links that might bring you joy and fulfillment.
- **Buddhist explanation:**
- **Christian Science explanation:** There really is no link.
- **Atheist explanation:** The only reason you think this link exists is because you needed to invent it.
- **Church counselor's explanation:** And what did you feel when the link would not open?

7. Looking at all these diverse “explanations” and opinions, how easy is it for us to lose our focus when we come to worship?

8. What distracts you the most from the message of the cross? Do you find yourself sometimes wanting to look away?

9. Where are you tempted to insist on your own way? How does the essential message of the Gospel bind us together?

Doing Something About It

10. Paul seems to say that the world is always going to be running after the "Next Big Thing," but we're called to focus on The Only Thing: Christ crucified, the power of God.

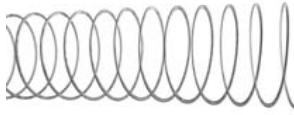
What does this look like in our own life? How do we as individuals retain our focus as a community in worship? How do we as individuals retain our focus as the church doing something about our faith?

11. How do we build bridges and find unity in Christ with Christians who are wildly different from us? How does unity in Christ give us freedom to be different?

12. List three things that most distract you from unity in Christ. Which three groups of Christians do you find it most difficult to be unified with?

What's at stake for you, in these things?

How can your group help you to love these brothers and sisters in Christ?



Extension Ideas

for those who might want to read, consider, or discuss further, either individually or as a group...

For Consideration

In his classic work entitled *The Screwtape Letters*, author C.S. Lewis describes in creative and powerful detail the impact of divisions within the church. You may want to grab a copy of this book to read as a group or perhaps listen to the audio version of this book, read by John Cleese of Monty Python fame.



1 Corinthians 3:1-11

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Scripture for the Week's Sermon

1 Corinthians 3:1-11

The Big Idea

Christian community means that we stop comparing ourselves to others and recognize our equal footing before Jesus Christ.

●●● FOR SMALL GROUPS

Entry Activity...

In a 6/18/2008 article in USA Today, we are told that in Sweden, Norway, and Finland, everyone's tax returns are published online.

1. What would happen if we did that in the US?
2. Aside from financial comparisons, on what basis do we compare ourselves with others?
3. At what age of life do you think we are most likely to compare ourselves with others?

Knowing God

Have someone read aloud 1 Corinthians 3:1-11

4. It seems like the church is sometimes tempted to elevate and celebrate (as in making into a celebrity) certain individuals and their gifts over others and other types of gifts.

What happens when we start to compare ourselves to others?

Is the result of comparing ourselves with others always the same?

5. In this passage, Paul uses the metaphors of gardeners and construction workers to differentiate between what WE do and what GOD does in the building of his community.

Is there a particular job that's most important? If so, whose? What is God's role?

Imagine that we, as a group, are given a plot of land on which to build a garden.

6. How would you see yourself as being involved in creating the garden?

7. Where would God be in the process? (v. 7)

8. According to v. 3, what gets us into trouble?

Growing Together

Because the Corinthians had lost their focus on Christ, their growth became stunted. Paul says they are still spiritual babies. He gave "milk" to some listeners and "solid food" to others, depending on their ability to digest it.

9. Where in your life does it feel like you are still drinking milk and where are you eating steak?

10. What are things that most often bait you into jealousy and quarrelling?

11. How does a church avoid following its leader, rather than following Christ?

Doing Something About It

12. Paul says that the most important step in God's construction company is laying a good foundation. How do we know if we're building on a good foundation?

According to Bob Vila, the plumb bob is a key to good building:
"The plumb bob or plumb line employs the law of gravity to establish what is "plumb," that is, what is exactly vertical, or true. Excavation and foundation contractors rely upon the plumb line, and constructing a chimney the plumb bob can indicate whether a flue is running true vertical or veering off plumb. As is so often the case, it isn't how fancy the tool is, but how well you use it."
(http://www.bobvila.com/HowTo_Library/The_Plumb_Bob-Hand_Tools-A2055.html)

13. Who or what is the "plumb bob" in your life? What is the standard of exactly vertical that you measure your actions against?

14. How can we help one another stay "true" to remembering our equality before God?

15. How will the quality of the community that is being built in our church be revealed over time?

16. Is there any correct or acceptable standard for comparison, and if so, how and when might we use it?

week **4**

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

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Scripture for the Week's Sermon

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

The Big Idea

Christian community means that I recognize what I do physically affects myself and others spiritually.

●●● **FOR SMALL GROUPS**

Entry Activities...

1. If you could take a pill for all of your nourishment and never have to eat again, would you want to?

2. If you could only eat or only drink for the rest of your life, which would you choose?

3. As you grow older, which do you think will go first: your appetite for food, books or sex? Why?

Knowing God

4. In verses 12-13, who is Paul quoting: His own point of view or someone else's? Why do you think so?

5. In verses 13-17, what does Paul teach about the body? On what basis does Paul preclude sexual immorality for the Christian?

6. Paul tells us to "Flee" from sexual immorality. Does it feel like sexual immorality comes looking for us or like we go in search of it? How so?

7. Paul mentions specifically uniting with a prostitute as an example of sexual immorality. What other types of sexual decisions and actions ought we be fleeing from?

8. What thoughts from this passage and from the sermon this past week are particularly significant to you?

Growing Together

9. Sexual morals vary from culture to culture and generation to generation. Do you think Paul is calling Christians to live by the sexually morality of their particular context and culture, whatever that may be?

10. Why does Paul write about sexual morality to the Corinthians? Does it surprise you that the early church needed guidance and correction about sexual behavior?

11. In verse 13 Paul writes that the body is not meant for sexual immorality. What is the body meant for, sexually speaking? Do you think God dislikes Christians having sex?

12. Why do you think sexual purity is such a challenge for our society?

Doing Something About It

13. How does understanding that our bodies are temples where the Holy Spirit dwells and our bodies do not belong to us help you to battle sexual temptation?

14. In chapter 7 verse 5, Paul tells us that the sexual realm is a place where Satan tempts us, where we struggle to maintain self-control and (in verse 9) where we "burn with passion". Where in your life is sexual morality a challenge?

15. How can your small group help you to “not be mastered” by the temptations of sexually immorality?

16. How can we be people who help folks inside and outside the church who are being mastered by sexual sins and addictions?

For Consideration

Internet pornography is a \$10 billion US business. It has ensnared millions of men and women in addictive, destructive behavior. Yet remarkably, there are very few effective ways to get confidential, online help for Internet pornography addiction.

Here are 3 resources if you or someone you love would like some help:

- **www.xxxchurch.com**: XXXchurch is designed to bring awareness, openness and accountability to those affected by pornography. We are an online community that tours the world speaking at colleges, churches and community centers. XXXchurch.com exists to help those who are in over their heads with pornography, both consumers and those in the industry.
- **X3Pure project**: The primary objective of the X3Pure project is to enable a speedy and effective recovery for men and women dealing with Internet pornography and other sex-related addictions in the most confidential and professional manner possible. X3pure is the first online, confidential, streaming-video solution for dealing with pornography addiction. This powerful online workshop helps you take each important step toward recovery from your pornography addiction and is accessible from any Internet-connected computer at any time. X3pure includes a copy of Safe Eyes software that is good for up to 3 computers.
- **X3watch** is an accountability software program helping with online integrity. Whenever you browse the Internet and access a site, which may contain questionable material, the program will record the site name, time, and date the site was visited. A person of your choice (an accountability partner) will receive an email containing all possible questionable sites you may have visited within the month. This information is meant to encourage open and honest conversation between friends and help us all be more accountable.



1 Corinthians 8:1-13

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Scripture for the Week's Sermon

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

The Big Idea

Christian community means that the spiritual health of my neighbor is my responsibility.

●●● FOR SMALL GROUPS

Entry Activity...

Strolling along the high road together, Toad and his friends Mole and Rat are thrown into confusion and disarray by their first encounter with a passing motor car ("magnificent, immense, breath-catching"). Their horse rears and plunges and their cart is overturned. Mole and Rat are trying to recover and pull themselves and their cart together. Toad, on the other hand is entranced by what he has just discovered:

"Hi! Toad!" they cried. "Come and bear a hand, can't you!

Toad never answered a word or budged from his seat in the road....They found him in a sort of trance, a happy smile on his face, his eyes fixed on the dusty wake of their destroyer.

"Glorious, stirring sight!" murmured Toad, never offering to move. "The poetry of motion! The *real* way to travel! The *only* way to travel! And to think I never *knew!* ... All those wasted years that lie behind me, I never knew, never even *dreamt!* But *now*—but now that I know, now that I fully realize! Oh what a flowery track lies spread before me, henceforth! What dust-clouds shall spring up behind me as I speed on my reckless way! What carts I shall fling carelessly into the ditch in the wake of my magnificent onset!" (Kenneth Grahame, *The Wind in the Willows*, pp, 35-36)

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1. How does Toad's new-found knowledge affect his relationship with his friends and his view of himself?
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2. How can knowledge captivate us and tempt us to speed on our reckless way, flinging others carelessly into the ditch? Can it cause us to disregard the thoughts and feelings of other people?
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3. Have you ever had a time when some new-found knowledge has given you a significant advantage over others?

Knowing God

Read together 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

4. As you reflect on this passage and related sermon, were any key points especially meaningful to you?

In Corinth most of the meat that was available even in the marketplace had been sacrificed to an idol in a pagan temple. These temples not only were centers for ritual sacrifices and cultic meals, but also served as restaurants and community centers. Some Christians refused to eat any meat because they did not want to be involved even in a remote way in the worship of idols. Others argued that they were free to eat this meat and might even attend meals in pagan temples because Christians had special, insider knowledge of the truth—after all, they knew that “no idol in the world really exists,” that “there is no God but one,” and that “food will not bring us closer to God.” Rather than giving quick answers to their arguments, Paul addressed the greater problem, which was their attitude. The people of Corinth highly valued knowledge and many believed that their knowledge or insight gave them the right to act as they wished.

5. After introducing the topic of meat offered to idols, Paul immediately turns to the contrast between the effects of knowledge and of love. "Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up." What images come into your mind as you read this statement?

6. What may happen to us as individuals when we exalt knowledge as the primary basis for our conduct? How can knowledge cause us to sin?

7. What happens to us as individuals when love for God and others motivates our lives? What happens for those around us?

8. Paul warns that exercising our liberty (or "rights") can become a stumbling block to the weak. Who are the weak? Why does Paul refer to them as weak? What does it mean to be a stumbling block?

9. What may happen to those around us when we base our conduct on our knowledge and on our rights? How do verses 10 and 11 speak to our understanding of individual rights?

Growing Together

10. Paul reminds the Corinthians that the weaker believers are their brothers and sisters for whom Christ died. How might this reminder change our attitudes about our rights and the way we treat others?

11. Against whom are the Corinthians (and we) sinning when they (and we) sin against one another? How is this convicting? What does this say to us about our individual rights?

12. Paul concludes that if what he eats causes others to fall into sin, he will never eat meat again. How does his conclusion differ from those of the teachers in Corinth? What should we do if we realize that our behavior is a stumbling block to others even when the behavior seems perfectly harmless to us?

13. Is Paul suggesting that the most narrow-minded, intolerant individuals should prevent the rest of the church from doing things that are harmless, but which these individuals may find offensive? Is this a lesson about

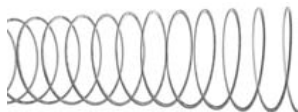
Doing Something About It

14. Can we today find ourselves unwittingly eating at the temple of idols? What are some things we pay homage to in our culture? How might these examples become a stumbling block to others?

15. If the Bible is saying that the law of love supersedes our individual freedom and we are to live lives of obedience, how does this work itself out in our everyday lives?

16. What are some tangible ways we can live out our responsibility to protect the spiritual health of our brothers and sisters in Christ?

17. *For personal reflection:* Is there something in my life that I am holding onto as my right, which God may be asking me to give up out of love for God and others?



Extension Ideas

for those who might want to read, consider, or discuss further, either individually or as a group...

Related Resources

N.T. Wright, *Paul for Everyone—1 Corinthians*
Gordon Fee, *The First Epistle to the Corinthians*
Bruce N Fisk, *First Corinthians*

...Paul's "first concern is with the incorrect ethical basis of their argument. The problem is primarily attitudinal. They think Christian conduct is predicated on *gnosis* (knowledge) and that knowledge gives them *exousia* (rights/freedom) to act as they will in this matter. Paul has another view: The content of their knowledge is only partially correct; but more importantly, *gnosis* is not the ground of Christian behavior, love is. ...True (knowledge) consists not in the accumulation of so much data, nor even in the correctness of one's theology, but in the fact that one has learned to live in love toward all."

—Gordon Fee, *The First Epistle to the Corinthians*

"The tyranny of 'knowledge' as the basis of Christian ethics has a long and unfortunate history in the church....Once one's theology is properly in hand, it is especially tempting to use it as a club on others. And in this case, it happens from the theological right as well as from the left. This does not mean that knowledge is either irrelevant or unimportant, but it does mean that it cannot serve as the primary basis of Christian behavior. In Christian ethics knowledge must always lead to love. In the Christian faith 'knowledge' or 'insight' is never an end in itself; it is only a means to a greater end, the building up of others."

—Gordon Fee, *The First Epistle to the Corinthians*

* "Unfortunately a little word in verse 13 has generated more than its share of confusion in recent years. According to the King James Version, Paul says, 'If meat makes my brother to *offend*, I will eat no meat while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to *offend*.' In Shakespeare's day, 'offend' was a solid translation of the Greek *skandalizo*, a verb meaning something like 'cause to stumble,' or 'cause to sin.' The problem is that for us today 'offend' means something like 'displease,' 'annoy'...."

—Bruce N Fisk, *First Corinthians*

* "Sometimes people from a very narrow background, full of rules and restrictions which have nothing to do with the gospel itself and everything to do with a particular social subculture, try to insist that all other Christians should join them in their tight little world. But in a case like that the rule-bound Christians are in no danger of having their consciences damaged. They are not being 'led astray.' They are quite sure of their own correctness. Paul is dealing with a very different case."

—N.T. Wright, *Paul for Everyone—1 Corinthians*



1 Corinthians 9:19-27

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Scripture for the Week's Sermon

1 Corinthians 9:19-27

The Big Idea

Ultimately, the purpose of Christian community is the advancement of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

●●● FOR SMALL GROUPS

Entry Activity...

What was your favorite sporting event in the recent Olympic Winter Games? Which events seem to require the most self-discipline or the most self-sacrifice? Were there events that did not seem to be worth the effort? Why or why not?

Knowing God

Read together 1 Corinthians 9:19-27

1. As you reflect on this passage and related sermon, were any key points especially meaningful to you?

2. Paul writes, "For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all...." What do you think he means by this? What does one give up when becoming a slave?

3. Paul lists four illustrations of his voluntary enslavement in verses 20-22. What is he prepared to do in each of these situations? What is his purpose in becoming a slave to everyone?

4. Paul says he is "not under the law," but is "under Christ's law"? What does it mean to be under Christ's law? What example has Christ set for Paul and for us? (See Philippians 2:3-11.)

Growing Together

5. Do you think it is more challenging to be under the Old Testament Law of the Jews or to be under Christ's law?

6. In short, verses 19-23 declare that Paul is free from people to live for people. What does it mean to be free *from* people? What does it mean to be free *for* people? What is the purpose of Christian freedom?

7. Paul writes, "I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some." Was Paul merely a pragmatist or spin doctor, twisting his message every which way to suit different audiences? Does his message change? What does change? What is constant?

8. How do Paul's athletic metaphors illustrate what he is saying about living for the sake of the gospel? What does athletic excellence require? What does the gospel require of us? How else is the Christian life like training for and competing in an athletic competition?

9. Paul urges us to run in a way that we may win the prize, not a perishable wreath, but imperishable. What is the prize for which we strive? Does Paul actually mean that one can fail to win the prize? Why or why not?

Doing Something About It

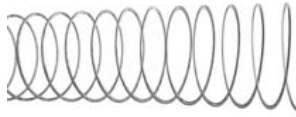
N.T. Wright says that Paul does not want us to end up "like people in a boxing ring who are simply waving their arms around. Far too much Christianity is like that today, and Paul saw the danger already: people making a lot of fuss about some things but not doing the hard and demanding moral (or for that matter intellectual) work that would actually advance the gospel in their own lives and in the world."

10. What must we do in order to advance the gospel in our own lives and in the world?

11. How would we behave differently if we were less concerned about our own rights and freedom (or our own reputation, success, etc.) and more compelled by the cause of Christ?

Are there any persons in your life who need you to come alongside them and be to them as they are—for example, to become weak to one who is weak, for the sake of the gospel? How might you do that? How can we pray for you in this?

Reminder of an upcoming Mission Opportunity: Just for the Guys!
Men in Mission – an SPC day of service is coming on February 27 (sign up Sunday, February 14 or 21 at SPC or contact Bill Zabriskie at bzabriskie@centricsoftware.com or 425-868-1059.



Extension Ideas

for those who might want to read, consider, or discuss further, either individually or as a group...

Related Resources

N.T. Wright, *Paul for Everyone—1 Corinthians*

N.T. Wright, *What St. Paul Really Said*

Lesslie Newbigin, *The Gospel in a Pluralist Society*

Quotes to Consider

On Christian Freedom:

“Christian freedom is not freedom to do what you like, but freedom *from* all the things that stop you from being the person God really wants you to be, which is freedom *for* the service of God and the gospel. Freedom is important, but in Christian terms it is never the freedom of a sub-atomic particle, to whiz around in all directions in an apparently random fashion. It is always freedom *for*: for the Messiah, for God’s people, for those who need the gospel.”

—N.T. Wright, *Paul for Everyone—1 Corinthians*

On the prize or the imperishable wreath, 1 Cor. 9:25:

“Here we see emerging from Paul’s argument one of the major thrusts of the whole letter...: athletes, he says, go into training to win a corruptible wreath, but we do it to attain an incorruptible one. He has his sights on nothing less than the renewal of all creation, the conquest and abolition of death itself. The Christian is called to live in the present as someone who will inherit that incorruptible, deathless new body when God makes the whole world new.”

—N.T. Wright, *Paul for Everyone—1 Corinthians*

On 1 Corinthians 9:27:

“Paul, who is certain that nothing can separate him from the love of God in Christ Jesus, also tells his friends that he has to exercise severe self-discipline ‘lest having preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.’ The Christian life, lived in the magnetic field between the two poles of the amazing grace of God and the appalling sin in which I share, has a corresponding synthesis of a godly confidence and a godly fear. The fear is lest I should put my trust in anything other than God’s grace in Jesus Christ; the confidence is in the infinite abundance of his grace to me and to every one of his creatures.”

—Lesslie Newbigin, *The Gospel in a Pluralist Society*



1 Corinthians 12: 1-11

Sammamish Presbyterian Church Vision Statement

Knowing God, Growing Together, Doing Something About It.

Purpose of our Time Together

To live out together God's call for us to know Him, grow together, and serve in the name of Christ.

Scripture for the Week's Sermon

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

The Big Idea

Christian community means that we recognize and celebrate each other's spiritual gifts.

●●● FOR SMALL GROUPS

Entry Activity...

What is the best gift you have ever been given?
Have you ever longed for a talent or ability that others have but you don't have in the same way?

Knowing God

Have someone read aloud 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

(If possible, read the same passage aloud in Eugene Peterson's contemporary translation, The Message.)

God's various gifts are handed out everywhere; but they all originate in God's Spirit. God's various ministries are carried out everywhere, but they all originate in God's Spirit. God's various expressions of power are in action everywhere; but God himself is behind it all. Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people!

1. As you reflect on this passage and this week's sermon, are there any key points which were meaningful to you?

2. What do you think Paul means when he says that there are different kinds of gifts but the same Spirit?

3. According to this passage, to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. What does this say about the nature and purpose of spiritual gifts?

4. What are some of the gifts described in the passage? Are they some of the same gifts you see today? Is this list exhaustive?

5. How are "gifts" distinct from "service" in verses 4-6? From "working"? What is the same in each case? What is the point here?

6. If we look through the lens of Jesus and what we know of him, how does this scripture give us a better understanding of God's character and our relationship to Him?

7. What moves you? How is the Holy Spirit calling to you? When you hear that still small quiet voice, how do you respond? Your gifts are within those promptings—can you hear what He is asking of you?

Growing Together

8. According to Peterson, God gives each person something to do that shows who God is and everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. Have you had this experience personally? How did it benefit others?

9. What are some of the ways you personally have served out your giftedness as a response to God?

10. If we are called by God to receive his gifts and encourage one another in their giftedness how can we support one another as we discover our specific giftedness and encourage one another to grow in those areas?

Doing Something About It

11. How can we encourage one other to identify and share our gifts for the common good, as described by Paul in this passage?

12. How can we develop confidence about our own call from God? How can we test out sharing our gifts?

13. What do you think are some of the significant gifts and duties within the body of Christ?

14. Relationships are a gift... and living authentically within our relationships requires us to know (or at least be willing to get to know) ourselves and share our gifts with others.

Are you willing to take that risk?

Can you recognize how God has equipped you?

How are you receiving your gifts?

Do you treat them like a beautifully wrapped present from a dear friend or do they more often get cast aside because we are filled with doubt or caught up in the "busy-ness" of life?

Related Scripture

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

—Ephesians 4:11-13

Even so, let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in Heaven.

—Matthew 5:16

God has given gifts to each of you from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Manage them well so that God's generosity can flow through you.

—NLT- 1 Peter 4:10



1 Corinthians 13

Sammamish Presbyterian Church Vision Statement

Knowing God, Growing Together, Doing Something About It.

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To live out together God's call for us to know Him, grow together, and serve in the name of Christ.

Scripture for the Week's Sermon

1 Corinthians 13

The Big Idea

Christian community means that we are ruled by the law of Love.

●●● **FOR SMALL GROUPS**

Entry Activities...

Read aloud I Corinthians 13

(If possible, read it out of Eugene Peterson's The Message.)

N.T. Wright, in Surprised by Hope, says about I Corinthians 13: "The poem doesn't just celebrate the fact that love is the greatest thing in God's world. It doesn't just explain what love will mean in hard-edged practice (patient, kind, not jealous or boastful, and so on). It isn't, in other words, a poetic way of giving us simply a rule of life, another goal in the struggle for obedience or even Christlikeness. The poem does much, much more: it yearns over the fact that our experience of love, as of everything else that matters, is decidedly incomplete. The way we are now, seen against the way we shall be in God's design, is only partly what it is meant to be and emphatically partly what it is not meant to be. But Paul is urging that *we should live in the present as people who are to be made complete in the future*. And the sign of that completeness, that future wholeness, the bridge from one reality to the other, is love...The point of I Corinthians is that love is not our duty; it is our destiny".

1. In what ways are you becoming more and more the person God has intended you to be? Where are you growing right now?

Knowing God

2. What do you think Paul means in this passage when he says love is the greatest of all the gifts?

3. As you reflect upon 1 Corinthians 13 and this week's sermon, what ideas are particularly significant to you?

4. 1 Corinthians demonstrates to us that the Christians in Corinth were dealing with division and disorder within the Christian community. According to this passage, what should their overarching attitude have been toward one another? In what ways does today's church face similar challenges?

5. In verses 4-7 Paul lists the 15 characteristics of Christian love. We can see these characteristics realized in the life of Christ. Is it possible for us to also live our lives based on these characteristics? If so, how?

6. Which 2 of these 15 characteristics of love are most challenging for you to live out? Which 2 do you value most? What, in this very familiar passage, is new learning for the Christians in Corinth and/or for you?

Growing Together

7. Thinking back to last week's study, why is it that our spiritual gifts are pointless without love?

8. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, in *Life Together*, says: "Human love is directed to the other person for his own sake, spiritual love loves him for Christ's sake."

In this passage, Paul is saying that love provides a more excellent way for us to live. Have there been times in your life when you have been loved in this way by others? Have you had opportunities to love others for Christ's sake?

In verse 12, Paul says that in this present life we only have partial knowledge, but in the future our knowledge will be complete. Verse 13 goes on to say there are three things in this life that point us to the future, faith, hope and love. He ends by saying the greatest of these is love.

9. Why does Paul insist that love is the vital ingredient in the church's relationships?

10. What is the relationship between faith, hope and love? Does any one of these precede another?

Doing Something About It

11. How can knowing that love endures into eternity transform our lives in Christian community?

12. What are some ways we can carry out these attributes of love outside of our Christian community?

13. How differently might the church be viewed by the outside world if they could see us living these characteristics in our community?

14. What are some things we can do to avoid living like a “noisy gong” or a “clanging cymbal”?

15. As you think about your small group, what will it look like to embody “always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres” in your fellowship together?



I Corinthians 14:26-33

Sammamish Presbyterian Church Vision Statement

Knowing God, Growing Together, Doing Something About It.

Purpose of our Time Together

To live out together God's call for us to know Him, grow together, and serve in the name of Christ.

Scripture for the Week's Sermon

I Corinthians 14:26-33

The Big Idea

Life together means that I come to worship not to meet my needs, but to look out for the needs of others.

●●● FOR SMALL GROUPS

Entry Activity...

Spend time in your group writing one or two words of affirmation for each person in your group. It may be something you appreciate or admire about that person, it may be something they have taught you or something they have done that has had a positive impact on you.

Once you have all written down something for each person, start with one person and have everyone share his or her affirmation of that person. Continue until each person has received what you have to offer them.

1. How did it feel to *give* affirmations? How did it feel to *receive* affirmations?

Knowing God

Read aloud I Corinthians 14:26-33

2. As you reflect upon this scripture passage and the sermon from this past week, what ideas are particularly significant to you?

3. In verse 26, Paul talks about different aspects of worship. What does Paul say about the purpose of the different components of worship?

4. Who – besides God - are we to think about as we participate in worship? Why? What does God want for us to experience in worship?

Growing Together

Paul says that all aspects of worship ought to strengthen the church
(v. 26b.)

5. What do you expect to happen when you come to worship?

6. What difference does it make when we know that God's desire for us is to experience peace and not confusion when we come to worship?

7. What difference does it make when we know that God's desire for our neighbors is for them also to experience peace and not confusion when they come to worship?

8. God has called us in Christ to peace and unity, but sometimes that's easier in theory than in practice. How and when is worship supportive of unity? How can it be divisive?

Doing Something About It

9. What can you personally do to ensure that worship is a peaceful, uplifting and unifying thing for all involved?

10. Pastor Bruce Larson used to say that Sunday worship is for equipping us for ministry so we can be change agents in the world during the week. How have you felt renewed or equipped on Sunday mornings? What sort of equipping do you most desire in order to live your life of faith?

11. How do you respond when there's something you don't like about the worship service? How might we be more sensitive to others around us in worship?

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12. What sorts of things can you do prior to and during worship to strengthen the church and bring peace?

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13. When was the last time you hugged Don Dilley?

Reminder of 2 Upcoming Opportunities to serve with your small group:

- March 20: Habitat for Humanity Service Day in Issaquah Highlands
- March 21: Teen Feed – provide a meal for homeless youth in Seattle

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Register for these opportunities or find out more at: <http://www.spconline.org/pages/Mission/MissionFieldsOther.html>



1 Corinthians 15:12-28

Sammamish Presbyterian Church Vision Statement

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Scripture for the Week's Sermon

1 Corinthians 15:12-28

The Big Idea

Christian community exudes an aroma of hope because of the resurrection of the dead.

●●● FOR SMALL GROUPS

Entry Activities...

Scientists tell us that smell, more than any other sense, is closely linked to the limbic system, the parts of the brain that process emotion, associative learning and memory. What are some of your favorite aromas? What memories do they call to mind? What feelings and hopes do they elicit?

Reflect on a time when you had great hope for something to happen in your life. How did this hope affect the way you lived and the way you looked at the world? Did this hope come true? If so, how did you feel when this hope was fulfilled? If not, how did you feel when it was not fulfilled?

Knowing God

Read together 1 Corinthians 15:12-28

1. As you reflect on this passage and related sermon, were any key points especially meaningful to you?

For Paul (and the Corinthians) there was no doubt that Jesus Christ had been truly resurrected from the dead. After his death, Jesus had appeared, not only to the disciples and other followers, but to more than 500 people, most of whom were still living when Paul wrote this letter. Finally He appeared to Paul himself. Paul's disagreement with the Corinthians arose because some were teaching that there is no resurrection of the dead.

2. Trace the logic of Paul's argument in verses 12-19 as he seeks to show the Corinthians what would follow if there were no resurrection.

3. In verse 17 Paul points out the link between sin and death. If death has not been defeated, where does that leave us?

4. What is the hope for all believers that Paul presents in verses 20-28?

Growing Together

5. What light does this passage shed on the kingdom of God, Christ's kingly rule, now and in the future? What is Christ's role? What is His ultimate victory?

6. According to Paul, what difference would it make for us if Jesus Christ had not been raised from the dead? Conversely, what difference does it make in your life to know that Jesus Christ has, in fact, been raised from the dead?

7. In raising Christ from the dead, God is declaring that Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the true King over the world even now. How does the kingly reign of Christ change the way we live? How does it transform our life together as a church and as a small group?

8. How does the truth of the resurrection give us reason to pour ourselves out for the needs of the world?

9. Have you ever felt that your faith was futile and life was without hope? How did this affect your attitude and your actions?

Doing Something About It

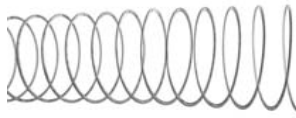
10. How does an understanding of the life that is to come after the resurrection of the dead affect the way that you live your life today?

11. Who do you think in this life is “to be pitied more than all men” and what can you individually and as a small group do for them?

12. What are some tangible ways we can bring hope to those around us? To the world? How can we share our hope with others?

13. Is there someone in your life who needs to know the reality of the resurrection and new life in Christ? Has this study given you any insight into how you might help that person understand this reality? How will you pray for this person? How can we pray with and for you?

14. How can we share the hope we have in Christ with others without being unpleasant or manipulative?



Extension Ideas

for those who might want to read, discuss further, either individually or as a group...

Related Resources

N.T. Wright, *Paul for Everyone—1 Corinthians*

N.T. Wright, *Surprised by Hope*

Timothy Keller, *The Reason for God*

Quotes to Consider

“Paul wants to be clear that the resurrection is rock-bottom reality for the Christian. It isn’t a strange idea that he has dreamed up. He and all the others tell the same story; it’s already become a carefully guarded tradition (verses 1, 3, 11). The story, in fact, forms the gospel, the announcement of the good news of Jesus the Messiah. This was the message that Paul announced wherever he went, and it was this message that carried God’s power and brought people, by the spirit, into a living knowledge and love of him, into the rule of the Messiah, into the kingdom of God. The only point in being a Christian at all is if this message continues to be the solid ground on which we stand.”

—N.T. Wright, *Paul for Everyone—1 Corinthians*

“The early Christians did not invent the empty tomb and the meetings or sightings of the risen Jesus.... Nobody was expecting this kind of thing; no kind of conversion experience would have invented it, no matter how guilty (or how forgiven) they felt, no matter how many hours they poured over the scriptures. To suggest otherwise is to stop doing history and enter into a fantasy world of our own.”

—N.T. Wright, *The Resurrection of the Son of God*, (quoted in Timothy Keller, *The Reason for God*)

“The message of the resurrection is that this world matters! That the injustices and pains of this present world must now be addressed with the news that healing, justice and love have won.... If Easter means Jesus Christ is raised only in a spiritual sense—(then) it is only about me, and finding a new dimension in my personal spiritual life. But if Jesus Christ is truly risen from the dead, Christianity becomes good news for the whole world—news which warms our hearts precisely because it

isn't just about warming hearts. Easter means that in a world where injustice, violence and degradation are endemic, God is not prepared to tolerate such things—and we will work and plan, with all the energy of God, to implement victory of Jesus over them all.

—N.T. Wright, *For All God's Worth: True Worship and the Calling of the Church*, (quoted in Timothy Keller, *The Reason for God*)



1 Corinthians 16:1-10

Sammamish Presbyterian Church Vision Statement

Knowing God, Growing Together, Doing Something About It.

Purpose of our Time Together

To live out together God's call for us to know Him, grow together, and serve in the name of Christ.

Scripture for the Week's Sermon

1Corinthians 16:1-10

The Big Idea

Christian community understands that we are part of a larger Christian community around the globe for which we are also responsible.

●●● FOR SMALL GROUPS

Entry Activities...

Have you ever been asked to care for someone else's kids, pets, plants or fantasy football team? Do you tend to feel honored by the responsibility and being found trustworthy or burdened by the sacrifice it asks you to make?

What sort of characteristics do you look for when choosing someone to care for people or things that are important to you?

Knowing God

Have someone read aloud I Corinthians 16: 1-10

1. As you reflect on this passage and on Sunday's sermon, are there any key points which were meaningful to you?

"Christian community means community through Jesus Christ and in Jesus Christ. No Christian community is more or less than this. Whether it is a brief, single encounter or the daily fellowship of years, Christian community is only this. We belong to one another through and in Jesus Christ. What does this mean? It means first, that a Christian needs others because of Jesus Christ. It means second, that a Christian comes to others only through Jesus Christ. It means third, that in Jesus Christ we have been chosen from eternity, accepted in time, and united for eternity."
Life Together by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

2. How can knowing that we are united to one another for eternity transform our thinking about being in community?

3. Do you find it more encouraging or challenging to know we are united with Christians around the world?

Paul was demonstrating the unity of the church by calling on them to take a collection to give to the poorer churches, including both Jewish and Gentile believers. He was teaching that Christians are members not only of local congregations, but members of the larger church as the body of Christ. As members of this faith community, Paul was giving them "a way of putting into effect the practical teaching of Christianity. By arranging this collection Paul was providing his converts with an opportunity of translating into action the teaching of Christ on the virtue of love." Quoted from *The Letters to the Corinthians* by William Barclay.

4. In light of Paul's discussion on such weighty topics as divisions, disorder, spiritual gifts and resurrection of the body in previous chapters, why do you think he suddenly turns to such a pragmatic concern as collecting money for poor churches?

5. What is Paul teaching them about the responsibilities that come with being a part of the church?

6. What is Paul teaching us about our unity with other Christians in the midst of diversity (i.e. Jewish and Gentile believers)?

7. How does our identity in Christ call us to a wider understanding of our responsibility to reach beyond the walls of Sammamish Presbyterian Church?

Growing Together

8. Do you find it easy or difficult to be financially generous with people different from you and/or people you don't even know? Why or why not?

9. What criteria do you use for gift giving? What criteria does Paul appear to use?

10. Have you seen your gifts to others as an expression of your unity with them? Have you ever thought of these gifts as the agent for the recipient to express their thanksgiving to God?

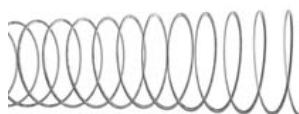
11. Have you ever had the miracle of generosity happen to you? In what spirit did you receive this gift?

Doing Something About It

12. Have there been times in your life when you have responded to a plea for generosity as a spiritual offering to God rather than out of mere obligation to fill a need? Why would this be an important distinction in your gift giving? Or would it?

13. If we believe that living in community means living in the context of others, and the way we interact with them can and does open the door for God's love to be lived out, what are some tangible ways for us as a church, a small group, or as an individual to spread this "one-anothering" love of God?

14. Where in our world are there God's people who are in need of our support?



Extension Ideas

One way our church supports Christians in other parts of the world is through the Agros ministry. Here are a couple of things you could do right now to support the effort to come alongside God's people in Santa Fe Ajke, Mexico.

- Donate and item or create a theme basket for the SPC Agros Auction May 22, 2010: auction@spconline.org
- Volunteer to serve on SPC Agros Auction Ministry Team: auction@spconline.org



Appendix 1- Chartering Your Small Group

Getting Started

At the beginning of your first small group meeting, it is a good idea to create a group covenant or charter. This can be a physical document or simply a conversation that arrives at a consensus. As a group you will want to discuss what you are hoping to get out of the group and, just as importantly, what you are willing to commit to together in order to get there.

Sample Covenant

The covenant is designed to stipulate the expectations and responsibilities of the group members. This list is only a suggestion, you are welcome to create your own covenant or add to this one.

Meeting Day: _____

Meeting Time: _____

Location of meeting: (The meeting does not always need to be at one house.) _____

Refreshments: (This can also be more than one person.)

Length of meeting: _____

Frequency of meetings: _____

Group Facilitator(s): _____

We agree to the following:

1. ____ To come to the Bible study prepared to participate and discuss. For some groups this may mean studying the passage and questions ahead of your meeting time. For others, it will simply mean coming to the group ready to learn, share and grow.
2. ____ To participate in the discussions. This includes participating by listening to others, and helping all members have the opportunity to discuss and share.
3. ____ To respect the confidentiality of the group, keeping personal information shared within the group.
4. ____ To care for one another by listening, affirming, asking questions of, encouraging, protecting and praying for one another.
5. ____ To be open with one another by sharing feelings, joys, struggles and hurts; acknowledging that reaching the goal of authentic relationships begins by being open with one another.
6. ____ To collaborate with one another to create a healthy group by being honest, sharing in the creating of the vision for what the group ought to be and pursuing our objectives together.
7. ____ Any other key commitments we would like to make to one another (*examples might include: to grow the group numerically, to serve together, to be available to one another outside of group times, to communicate freely and frequently about how the group is going, etc.*).

Creating a Vision Statement

Some groups have found it helpful to craft a Vision Statement for the group which they can refer back to as well as edit and add to over time. If you decide this would be helpful to your group, you will want to think about a concise couple of sentences that expresses a clear, easily communicated reason for your being a group.

Your group does not have to create a Vision Statement. But every member of the group should have a good idea of why it is that you are meeting. And every member of the group should be committed to working together to pursue those goals.

If you are having trouble getting started on a Vision Statement, you may want to think together about what you want your group to look like six months from now and then articulate some action steps for getting you there.

A Word on the Personality of a Small Group

Your group does not need to look like other groups. This one is yours. It is as unique as you are. Don't feel pressure to behave like another group or to make use of any one particular group formation tool (i.e. vision statement, group covenant, etc.).

The important thing is that you are together pursuing intentional, authentic, Christ-centered relationships. All healthy small groups will share some important characteristics and values. Some examples of these are things like:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Commitment to meeting | Safety |
| Commitment to one another | Availability |
| Affirmation | Confidentiality |
| Openness | Sensitivity |
| Prayer | Accountability |
| Honesty | Joy |

But the path you will walk to a place where you share together in true spiritual friendship will be as distinctive as the people in your group. If you are committed to walking alongside one another as you seek to follow Jesus Christ, and if you are committed to asking God to help you become together an authentic, Christ-centered community; you will get there.

May God bless your journey of faith together.

Appendix 2 — Serving with your Small Group

Our studies of the scriptures and our relationships with one another help us to grow. We grow as people, we grow in the depth of our relationships, we grow in Christ-likeness and we grow in our desire to serve the world that God loves. Many small groups have found that their time in Bible Study and fellowship have led them to a desire to serve together in the name of Christ. And many who serve together in the name of Christ have found their relationships deepened and their faith nourished. Serving with your small group can be as easy as making the decision to serve together and finding a place of shared passion. Below are a number of ready-made opportunities to join with your small group, living out Christ's call to serve together.

Responding to the call to serve

Mission at SPC is organic. If you don't find a mission opportunity on our list that fits your small group's passion, do not hesitate to create your own. SPC's Mission Leadership Team is excited to hear about what you create. Contact our Mission Elders at mission@spconline.org.

Information & Registration on SPC Website

<http://www.spconline.org/pages/Mission/MissionFieldsOther.html>

Habitat for Humanity Service Day in Issaquah Highlands –

3rd Saturday of every month (Jan 16, Feb 20, March 20, April 17, May 15)

Teen Feed – provide a meal for the youth of Seattle – 3rd Sunday of every month (Jan 17, Feb 21, Mar 21, April 18, May 16)

MOPS – volunteer for childcare 1st & 3rd Mondays, mornings (Jan 4 & 18, Feb 1 & 15, Mar 1 & 15)

Ongoing Opportunities

Faith in Action – provide support to the elderly of Sammamish and surrounding areas

VOICE – sign up to mentor a student one-hour per week

Hopelink – volunteer with food programs, housing services, family development programs or adult education (follow link to Hopelink from SPC website)

Issaquah Food Bank – donate food or serve at our local food bank

Opportunities in the Works

- Donate and item or create a theme basket for the SPC Agros Auction May 22, 2010 – auction@spconline.org
- Volunteer to serve on SPC Agros Auction Ministry Team – auction@spconline.org
- Seek Justice Challenge – contact John Wall at car-guynw1@comcast.net
- Men in Mission – February 27th (sign up Sunday, February 14 or 21 at SPC or contact Bill Zabriskie at bzabriskie@centricsoftware.com or 425-868-1059
- 30 Hour Famine – March 5-6 – support our youth by volunteering as a leader or providing support to the leadership team – contact Amber Slate at amberslate@spconline.org

Create Your Own Opportunity

Contact shellivlastelica@spconline.org.

- Support a SPC missionary – provide prayer or family support for SPC mission trips:
 - Agros – April
 - Youth – summer
 - Africa – tentatively planned for fall 2010
- Create & mail care packages to our college students
- Volunteer to serve at a World Vision Event in 2010
- Plan and lead a father/son or mother/daughter mission trip to build or work in Africa or Mexico
- Lead SPC volunteer partnership with Lifelong AIDS Alliance
- Issaquah Sammamish Interfaith Coalition: be the liaison person who will serve on the committee regarding Eastside homelessness.
- Volunteer at Evergreen or Overlake Hospitals
- Certify your dog for nursing home and shut-in visits (requires a small amount of training)
- Volunteer at Christmas time to ring Salvation Army bells
- Read to shut-ins or nursing home residents
- Support an international missionary or organization with letters of encouragement (*information on each missionary found on the SPC website*)
 - Orphanage in Thailand – Mercy House
 - Wild Hope in Tanzania – The Bordens
 - Teen Orphanage in Russia – Safe Haven International
 - Narnia Center in Russia – Andrew Kharitonov
 - Jason and Lisa Carter – Equatorial Guinea
 - Melissa and Dave Vanderwath – South Africa



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