

CELL GROUP DISCUSSION STARTERS

OPENING QUESTION

1. How much are you affected by the individualistic culture in which we live ('entertain me' culture)?

CONTENT EXPLANATION

2. What do you learn about community from each of the four pictures used in the sermon (flock, building, body, family)? Reviews the verses used.
3. Discuss: When I become a Christian I belong to God AND I belong to my brothers and sisters. It is not: I belong to God and then I choose or decide to join a local church.¹
4. Contrast how Christians are initiated into community verses the way people in the world are initiated into community

Hint: Christians enter into community by grace and receive an identity from God based in what Jesus has done for them and not what they have achieved or accomplished. In the world you prove you worth, earn your identity, determine you value by what you do and what you have!

5. How does the gospel turn the pattern of the world on its head?

Hint: It does not matter how rich you are, how brilliant you are, how powerful you are, how accomplished you are, how influential you are – you're still a bankrupt sinner dependent on the mercy of God. CEO or rubbish collector or lecturer, or shop attendant or actuary or student...the things the world uses to assign value mean nothing in the Kingdom Community!

CONTENT APPLICATION

6. How has the gospel community helped you grow in your own character (knocking off the rough edges)? Read some of the 'one another' verses.
7. How have you grown as you served (and were stretched) in the Christian community?
8. Have you got an accountability partner?
 - a. If not why not?
 - b. Why is this so important?
 - c. Why does it appear to be so much more difficult for guys that for girls?
 - d. What are you going to do about that guys?!?!

¹ Tim Chester and Steve Timmis, Total Church, pg 39