

Core-Groups: Going Primitive with our Discipleship

Greetings in the Name of the Lord Jesus! Please begin by reading Matthew 4.18-22.

You are holding this paper in your hands because you have had the Lord Jesus pass by and issue a call for you to leave everything you have known and follow Him. This beckoning is similar to one made 2,000 years ago by the sea of Galilee. The call went out to four fisherman who were faithfully casting and mending the nets of their families fishing businesses. While the ancient call had the background noise of lapping water and the smell of marina rope and tackle, your modern day call in Prineville competes with the roar of a diesel engine, the glow of an LCD television, and the crack of a ball against a bat in the fourth family little league game of the week, the call is the same and the cost is identical; *All or Nothing*. Peter, Andrew, James and John battled the pull from their father's expression of "What? You're leaving me now? You only brought in a third of a day's quota, and these nets will take me all night to mend. Who else is going to do it?" In modern day America we have pressures of mortgage payments, career deadlines, school activities, recreational pastimes, family commitments and who can forget, *NBC's* weekly lineup. Sadly, in the midst of all of the modern day pressures the first thing to go is our commitment to excavating a deep relationship with the creator of Heaven and Earth, serving the people He shed His blood for, being taught by the one's He has appointed to oversee us, and pouring instruction into the ones who have lesser maturity in the faith than ourselves. This needs to change.

God has recharged a passion in the hearts of our leadership to get back to Biblical discipleship, the way Jesus did it...organic, relational, costly, you might even say...primitive. The model we have from Jesus with His chosen men is the first and earliest model we have within the church and therefore it is the structure we are called to follow in the 21st Century.

Rolling out the Plan...

Beginning in about a week, you will be assigned to a discipleship "**Core-Group**". This group will consist of around 3-5 men and will have a group leader who is in a **Core-Group** of his own with the other Core-leaders. The purpose of your group is to build relationships with one another and to enter each one's world. Within these **Core-Groups** each member will find accountability, encouragement, equipping in the Faith, and training to be leading his own **Core-Group** within one year. That's right, we expect you to be leading your own **Core-Group** within a year's time! While each group will do a weekly Bible Study, members of the group will be more than once-a-week study partners. You will become family with each other, inviting each other into your homes, placing each other on speed-dial, going to each other's special events, asking each other hard questions, bearing one another's burdens and rejoicing in one another's high points. You will be spurring one another on to be living for the expansion of the kingdom, and calling each other on the carpet when compromise or slacking off in the Faith seems to be lurking on the horizon. As Jesus walked, talked, lived, interacted and was with the disciples through the highs, lows and teachable moments, so will you be with each other. We will not be asking for a laid-back commitment from you to meet with your new home-boys when you feel like it, but strongly urging that you push the limit and go all out in committing with reckless abandon to be disciples, missing no more than one group meeting in a row and going no longer than one week without communication with one of your group members.

Please Remove this Questionnaire from the letter above and return to Calvary Chapel by Sunday, May 29.

Name (first, middle, last): _____
Birthday: _____ Approximate Spiritual Birthday: _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
Email Address: _____
Home Address: _____

Read the following scriptures and answer the questions that follow:

I. Matthew 4.18-22 *Congrats, you've already read this!*
Please write with your own hand verses 20 and 22 below:

II. Luke 5.1-11

What was the result of Peter's obedient answer to Jesus' command?

Please write out verse 11 with your own hand.

III. Luke 9.57-62

What type of lifestyle marks our Lord Jesus?

What is Jesus' response toward delayed following of Him?

IV. Luke 14.25-33

What does Jesus mean by requiring such a love for him that would look like hatred in comparison to all that we have previously loved?

- ***With our spouse?***
- ***With our kids?***
- ***With our extended family?***
- ***With our hobbies?***
- ***With our career?***

A disciple of Christ's needs to count the cost of following Him. What are you sensing the cost is going to be in your life?

What are you the most reluctant to give up?

V. John 6.53-69

What does Jesus mean by telling the crowd that they need to consume Him?

In vs. 60 and 66, the multitude had a difficult time swallowing Jesus' deep charge to discipleship. What is your response?

In Vs 67-69 Peter declares why He is willing to count the cost, forsake all things and consume Jesus and be consumed by Jesus. Why is Jesus worth more to Peter than this life's pursuits?

Why do you want to be a disciple?

We see Jesus didn't sugar-coat the gospel, nor did He add fluff when telling people what they are signing up for. We won't either. Please discuss the time commitment with your spouse (if you have one). ***What was their response?***

Please Check below if you are hearing the Holy Spirit's call to a life of action for the kingdom and if you...

- I understand the cost and commitment to be a primitive disciple in a ***Core-Group?***
- Commit to being in a core group, allowing others into your life to encourage you, pray for you, exhort you, correct you and train you.