



Tonight I want to talk about WE OVER ME. Last week we talked about your HEART OVER HYPE, but tonight I want to talk about groups as we discover how to live a Jesus-over-everything life.

I love small groups. Like I really do. I think they are one of the most important things we can be doing right now. It is the epitome of a WE OVER ME mentality because you are choosing to be in a group of your peers, to be real, to talk about things of faith on purpose. They help you grow not only as a person, but as a Christ follower.

[I'm telling a story about when I was first introduced to small groups. Feel free to add yours here.]

I had one of the most unique introductions to small groups that I personally have heard from anyone. It was at a summer camp. I came up late and was placed into a cabin that I never met anyone, and they all had been in the same groups for years, like most of you.

So I walked up to the cabin. It was locked. I knocked on the door and from the other side of the door I heard, "We go shirtless in this group. Take off your shirt."

Now before I go any further, ladies, let me let you in on a secret. Guys, when all in the same room, are weird. You might be thinking, oh I wonder if they are talking about me. I mean I am his girlfriend and all. I wonder if he's talking to other girls.... blah blah blah.

Not at all. We get weird and super immature with the boys. Let me tell you what we are doing:

- All the dudes in the cabin are shirtless.
- We're putting the mattresses on the floor and having wrestling matches.

- We're playing "the floor is lava" in our boxers.
- We're trying to pop the huge blackhead on one of the guys' back.
- We're getting towel whipped with a wet towel by one of the leaders who just got out of the shower and it draws blood.

We ain't talking about you. HA!

All of that was what I walked into the first time at my first-ever small group when I was a sophomore in high school. Look at any dude here and most of them would be like, "Yeah, that's about right".

But it was amazing because over time as I got to know everyone I can tell you it got deep. We were able to be real. We were able to talk about real problems, struggles, doubts. We could be honest with each other, ask tough questions, and get tough answers back calling us out.

It was life changing in so many ways. Life didn't have to be just ME going through it, but it could WE going through it together.

I understand that if you are here tonight you are in a group, because that is how we are set up. But just because you are physically in a group doesn't mean that you are IN a small group. You might be physically here, but emotionally and spiritually you might as well not even be here because you are not being real with them. They don't KNOW you.

Like have you ever tried doing something by yourself that was supposed to be done with other people?

- Sing Karaoke?
- Give a hug?
- Play frisbee?
- Put a fitted sheet on your bed? No, you look ridiculous.

If it's so hard to do certain things that are supposed to be done in groups, why do we try to do life alone sometimes?

It's hard!

Especially after this last year, we need to get out of this ME mentality when it comes to life and faith and we desperately need to embrace the WE.

We over me is ALWAYS a better way to go.

In Scripture when people talk about community they always bring up Acts 2, and rightly so. This is what we desire.

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity — all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

Acts 2:42-47 NLT

Why are groups so important? Why do we make a big deal about them?

What we see in this passage – and this is our prayer for you – is what can come out of small groups this year.

Small groups are:

1) To encourage one another

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some,



1. Would you say you are someone who prefers to get things rather than to give things? Why or why not?
2. We live in a culture where we prefer to get instead of give. Would you agree with that statement? Why or why not?

Read Matthew 5:14-15.

3. How would being generous and giving more show that you are a light in our world?
4. How does the statement, “You might be the only light and experience of Jesus someone will ever have,” make you feel? How would you live differently if you took that seriously?

Read Acts 2:42-47

5. How is giving good for your relationships in your life?
6. How is being giving good for your relationship with God?
7. How does being GIVE OVER GET increase our faith?

Practical questions for you to answer:

8. Are you tithing right now? Why or why not?
9. Are you serving in church right now? Why or why not? If you were to serve somewhere, where would it be?
10. How different would your life be if you began to take GIVE OVER GET seriously?

Spend some time in prayer with your group.

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