

Small Group/Sermon Notes based on This Little Light 7

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- Make sure everyone knows each other's names. Have everyone share a little about themselves and how life is going right now.
- **This Little Light:** How do we let our light shine in an often hostile world?
- **Part 7: And who is my brother?**
 - A couple of weeks ago we talked about apathy being the greatest problem in the church.
 - Divisiveness may be an even greater problem! It's ickier too.
 - We as believers are better together than apart.
- Did you know that Jesus prayed for us? Check it out: **John 17:20-23.**
 - Believers in Jesus have been straining out gnats that make them swallow this camel for a long time.
 - People throw out **John 13:34-35** for the dumbest reasons.
 - What amazes me is that we are the ones who answer Jesus' prayer in John 17.
 - Many believers answer it with "no."
 - Let's answer Jesus' prayer with "yes."
- Pastor Mike talked about his personal experiences with being critical spirited and divisive. Have you ever dealt with that sort of thing?
- Discuss these two dynamics of divisiveness:
 - First, spiritual weakness and immaturity.
 - **Romans 14:1-15:7. (Read this out loud. Takes about 3 minutes.)**
 - Don't judge. Help.
 - Primary forms of immaturity: pride and self-centeredness.
 - Unity requires maturity.
 - Second, the devil's schemes.
 - **2 Corinthians 2:5-11.**
 - To not forgive is to be fooled by the Devil.
 - Unity requires wisdom and spiritual understanding.
- So, what is our unity based on?
 - Theology? Style? Class of people? Spiritual level of development?
 - We are unified under Christ by the love of God.
- Here is the key to being able to answer Jesus' prayer in John 17 with "yes."
 - **Mark 8:34-35.**
 - Don't make it about you. Make it about Jesus and the Gospel.
 - There is a wonderful promise here too!
- Pray for each other before you finish up!