

Small Group Notes based on Vision 1 Fall 2014

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.
- Vision Statement: Reach Up, Rise Up, Reach Out
 - Why a vision statement? This is our compass.
 - When people work together things get done. When they all do their own thing, it's busy, but nothing much gets done.
 - Do you want to work together as part of a team? Then let's do it.
- Pastor Mike said, "I don't think people need to be told about Jesus, I think they need to be shown."
 - What do you think of that statement? What would it mean to show people Jesus?
 - What were the Pharisees doing wrong in **Matthew 23:13**?
 - What effect did the Pharisees have on others?
 - Said another way: **Matthew 15:8-9**
 - To avoid these types of problems we need to constantly "Reach Up" to God.
- Where does this all start? Read the greatest commandment: **Mark 12:28-31**.
 - This is Reach Up: to love God with all that you have.
- Let's talk about God's love languages.
 - Are you familiar with Gary Chapman's 5 love languages: Words of Affirmation, Acts of Service, Gifts, Quality Time, and Physical Touch?
 - If you are familiar with these ideas, how have they affected your relationships?
- What do you think God's love languages are? Dig into that a little bit.
- Do you want to follow the greatest commandment? Then you must express love the ways that God receives love. Here are some of the love languages that Pastor Mike felt applied to God:
 - Worship/Honor
 - **John 4:23-24**
 - Prayer and fasting
 - This is kind of a combination of Quality Time and Words of Affirmation. God wants to spend time with you.
 - Giving
 - God likes gifts too! Does He need gifts? Why would He respond to them?
 - Acts of Service
 - The Lord has purposeful things for you to do.
 - Faith: God's primary love language.
 - Our God loves to be trusted when things don't make sense.
 - When we say, "I don't see it, but I know You do...I don't have the strength, but I know You do...I'm afraid, but I'll trust in You," we express love to God.
- How can you more effectively love God?
- Pray for each other before you finish up!