Small Group/Sermon Notes based on Valentine's Day 2016

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.
- **Love and Respect**
  - Oh relationships!! These can be the greatest blessings of life or horrible soul crushing disasters!
- Discuss the Big Error in Christian marriage.
  - Big Error: That the husbands job is to be the bully of the home.
    - That is simply false, and it has fallen out of fashion in most circles.
  - Big Overreaction: That the husband is the wimpy fool of the home.
    - That is also simply false, but it is more fashionable than the Big Error.
  - Let's try to find the truth. How? Look at Scripture rather than react to the false.
- Love and Respect: **Ephesians 5:21-33**
  - If the husbands could read the husband part and the wives the wife part that would be fantastic! Usually people do the opposite and ignore their part!
  - So, what do we see? Three main things: Love, Respect, and Leadership.
    - How do you define these three things? Love, Respect, and Leadership?
- Leadership: **Ephesians 5:23**
  - When you read that does the Big Error come into your mind? Time for mind renewal!
  - Servant Leadership: **Mark 10:42-45.**
    - Jesus destroys the Big Error with this one! Leadership isn't bullying!
  - Responsibility: **Hebrews 13:17.**
    - Every husband and every father will give an account to God for their spiritual leadership of the home. Understand that.
- Love: **Ephesians 5:25**
  - Love your wife with an epic love. She needs that! God made her that way! That is ok.
  - Respect too, (v21) but love is higher up on the list!
- Respect: **Ephesians 5:33**
  - The wife's job is to respect her husband. He needs that! God made him that way! That is ok.
  - Love too, but respect is higher up on the list!
- These relationships are not 50/50, they are 100/100! Anything less and it doesn't work.
  - How does it turn out if both people are primarily needy?
  - How about if one gives but the other just takes?
  - Both giving 100% is where it is at. We all know that, but…
- How do you get that to happen? Discuss these three things:
  - Learn to love others and respect others in the appropriate ways in all environments.
    - Don't make everything about you. You are the only one who thinks things are about you.
  - Be respectable and lovable! Give them something to work with!
    - Be growing in who you are! When you stop self evaluating but just expect the other to get better you are sunk.
  - Pick someone you can love and respect. Not everyone can function at 100/100.
    - Set yourself up for success at the beginning! Fixing it is hard!
- The most important relationship we have is with God.
  - One thing we haven't talked about yet is forgiveness.
  - That is a huge deal because we all mess up.
  - No relationship gets past the superficial without forgiveness.
  - Same with God. He has paid the price for you. If you are holding something against him now is the time to let it go by faith.
- Pray for each other before you finish up!