



For Group Discussion

Answer these questions prior to your Small Group meeting this week.

Introduction

One of the major benefits of group life is that it is preventative. If group life is being done well it can help us when we fall, and often, keep us from falling in the first place. It is impossible to measure how many things never happen because people are connected together in a spiritual community where they are being encouraged, supported, and challenged to become more like Jesus.

Discussion Questions

1. We all understand the power of prevention. What are some things you do on a regular basis that are purely preventative in nature? Why do you make time in your busy life for these activities? What is your desired result?
2. Group life provides two forms of prevention – It can prevent things from getting worse after a fall, and it can prevent falls from happening in the first place. What are some ways that small group provides this type of prevention – how does this really work?

Share some personal examples for how the preventative nature of group may have worked in your life. What are some things that could have gotten worse (but didn't) and/or things that just never happened.

3. The preventative power of small group can be a powerful force in our lives, but it is doesn't happen automatically. Read Romans 12:9-13 and Hebrews 10:24-25. What are some of the obstacles noted in these passages that small groups of believers in the early church seemed to have faced? How are these obstacles the same or different today?

4. List some of the instructions given to these small groups of believers in the previous passages. What would it look like if our group lived out these instructions today? What can we expect to happen (or not happen) in this group if we care for each other at the level described in those passages?

What are some practical steps we can take to live out those instructions this week?

Small Group Questions Continued

OUTREACH: GROUPS IN ACTION

OUR CHURCH

The Children's Ministry provides exciting interactive environments for kids that include crafts, Bible storytelling, and worship. We have many opportunities to serve available for men and women as well as Middle School and High School students. Positions include classroom volunteers, buddies for children with special needs, check-in volunteers, storyteller/host/worship leaders, production volunteers for

audio/visual/lights, and setup and teardown help on Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoons. Contact Nicole Zieniewicz at nzieniewicz@eclife.org. for more info or visit eclife.org to register.

OUR COMMUNITY

Do you have any new or gently used shoes that you could donate? As a small group, ask your family and friends to donate and bring your donations to your campus during the weekend services. Shoes will be collected the weekends of August 27/28 & September 3/4. All shoes will be donated to a ministry that distributes them to people in need. For more information, email Kerry Jones at kjones@eclife.org.

OUR WORLD

A team from Emmanuel leaves for Nicaragua in October and is partnering with Hope Road Nicaragua. Consider going on this trip, sponsoring someone that is going, or providing prayer notes for the team who will go. For additional information, contact Kerry Jones at kjones@eclife.org.

Action Step

Fill in the blanks below for this upcoming week.

My action steps are _____

_____.

I'm accountable for _____, and their action steps are

_____.

My memory verse is _____.

This coming week, I'm praying for: