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Leadership 105 Lesson #6 “What Now?” Pg. 264

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Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 MSG “It’s better to have a partner than to go it alone. Share the work, share the wealth. And if one falls down, the other helps, But if there’s no one to help, tough!...By yourself you’re unprotected. With a friend you can face the worst. Can you round up a third? A three-stranded rope isn’t easily snapped.”

The New Testament truly captures the idea of Godly camaraderie and effective small group counsel and help through this verse. To have someone roll up their sleeves and get dirty to get in the trenches with you speaks of the highest form of agape love there is. I have been privileged to partake and enjoy the benefits of good Christian community through my former church, Echoes of Love. It was a much smaller ministry than The Way. Everyone knew everyone’s name there. If you missed a Sunday your absence was felt, and there was always someone to reach out to make sure everything was alright. If someone in our body was struggling we had members of the body we could go to, as well as members of the leadership team. Recently the Lord has directed our steps out of that ministry and into new waters at The Way via Leadership University. It’s a huge paradigm shift in that we went from a very small congregation of 100-120 on a good day to almost 600-700 people in one service. That has definitely taken some getting used to. We have yet to get linked in with a P12 group that gathers regularly due to this recent transfer of churches. We are looking forward to pursuing this so that there can be meaningful relationships that are built. I believe one of the most effective ways to shift your church and take better advantage of the power of the body of Christ to encourage, support, strengthen, and heal itself is through the smaller groups, better known at The Way as P12 groups. From what I have gathered about P12 groups, they are like powerful hubs that meet regularly to study the word and have healthy fellowship with other believers. The groups can become bigger via recruiting more people to join the P12’s or recruiting others to begin their own P12 and have them recruit. The P12’s seem like they would be one of the ideal ways to uphold the call in 1 Thessalonians 5:11,14. In these verses we are encouraged to comfort each other and edify one another. We’re also exhorted to warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, and be patient with all. We can establish more intimate connections with the brethren becoming involved with their lives and sewing into and imparting in them through small groups such as the P12’s. I feel taking the leaders of the small groups through courses such as “Freedom” as well as inner healing and deliverance courses would be a great component to the leader’s ability to help guide and or counsel and individual in their group through something. I also think it would be highly beneficial for each P12 leader to go through Leadership University to learn the 4 main courses taught there so that the leaders can be built up in order to build up! These courses along with life’s experiences are a huge asset to the small group leaders. To be able to have life throw you a curve ball and not get knocked to your knees by the pitch, but rather knock it out of the park offers a solid experience of a mature Christian that can be passed on to the small groups. This truly enables us to love in deed and truth not just in words. We become a living example of the goodness, grace, and mercy of God that can make impact in the small group.