



## desert breeze community church

### Teaching Notes:

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The desire for community is everywhere in all cultures because it is embedded into how we've been created (Ecc 3:11). From the local coffee shop, to the internet, country clubs, and sports, we all have an innate desire to belong. The question is not, "Will we engage in community?" it is, "What type of community will we engage in?" the dream at DBCC is that everyone would find a small group of people to do life with, not to fight against the church, but fight with the church, A community in which to know and be known, to love and be loved.

The city of Ephesus, in the first century was a great example of this. (Acts 18-19)

Ephesians 4:1-6

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, <sup>2</sup>with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup>eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup>There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

### What are small groups? (V.1)

Small groups are the method by which we live out the gospel.

- It is a smaller community within a bigger community (Acts 2:42-47)
- It is a gospel centered community (Eph 1:6, 2:8-10, 3:6)
- It is a committed community (Hebrews 3:13-14)

### How do we do small groups? (V.2)

Small groups are like a green house, which puts the church in the best possible position for wholeness.

- Humility in all things. (Is 66:2)
- Gentleness (2 Tim 2:22-25)
- Patience (Eph 5:6)

### Why do we do small groups? (V.3-6)

- It is the very nature of the one we love. The Trinity is found all over the Bible (Matt 28:19, 2 Cor. 13:14, Heb. 9:14)
- It is a gift (Is 56:5, Is 43:1 )



# Growing

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- 1) If you feel comfortable, talk about a time when you were cut off from someone very dear to you through death, moving, or conflict? What was a favorite memory of them? How long and how well did you know them?
  
- 2) Jesus was in deep community with the Father and the Holy Spirit for all of eternity. What do you think when you read that Jesus was cut off from the community he had for his church? (Mt. 22:32, Is. 53:8, Matt 27:46)
  
- 3) Why is commitment in a community so important?
  
- 4) Have you had conflict in small group before? Were you surprised by it? Did you want to go back? How does Humility help you deal with confrontation or conflict?
  
- 5) Do you think the world needs this kind of gospel centered community? Why? Do you desire this kind of community? Why? Pray Ephesians 4:1-6