



COVENANT CHURCH

From The Heart - Part 2

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Below is a devotional study guide for you to refer to and reflect during the week. You can watch the service online again, anytime, at www.covenantchurch.org/media or on the CovLive app.

If you do not have a physical Bible, we encourage you to download one to your device. YouVersion is available in the Apple Store or on Google Play for free. It contains hundreds of versions, is translated into several languages, and includes thousands of devotional studies available right at your fingertips.

If you are a part of a Small Group, be creative in ways to meet-up. This guide can be a useful tool to lead discussions, whether it be through email, a Facebook group, a Zoom call, etc. If you have not yet joined a Small Group, there's no better time! Go to www.covenantchurch.org/groups or Small Groups on the CovLive app to search for a group that interests you!

Main Idea

Relationships determine the trajectory of our future. Building lasting, accountable and loving relationship through Small Groups is God's idea for growth in Christ and finding freedom.

Introduction

Our Mission

- There is a direct connection between our mission as a church and your success in every area of life. We are connected.
- Our Mission:
 - Lost people saved
 - Saved people pastored
 - Pastored people trained
 - Trained people mobilized
 - **We exist to develop fully surrendered followers of Christ.**
- The 'How' - our discipleship path:
 - Know God - weekend service experience
 - Find Freedom - relationships that are developed through Small Groups
 - Discover Your Purpose - Growth Track - Next Steps
 - Make a Difference - connecting you with a Dream Team
 - These help us locate where we are in our journey to being a fully surrendered follower of Christ.
- Last week we discussed the role of coming to church in our life and how that helps you to KNOW GOD.
- The Next Step is finding freedom. - The best avenue we are focusing our direction is in relationships developed in SMALL GROUPS.

Discussion One

Relationships - good or bad, impact the trajectory of your life/future

- The relationships we develop in Small Groups:
 - Grow in relationship with Christ
 - Use God-given talents
 - Place to celebrate wins in life
 - Place to share heavy burdens
- The growth you experience through relationships could impact your job and life outside of church activity.
- Small Groups is God's idea. - God's way of helping us find freedom!
- Read Romans 12: 4-5:
 - The Body of Christ has many parts and each has a role to play, a job to do.
 - Each one matters to God - YOU matter to God and the church.
 - We belong to each other.
- Read Ephesians 4:11:
 - God gave gifts in the church to build up the Body of Christ.
- Practical Expression: Romans 12:6-8
 - In the house there are gifts for having vision, serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leading and showing mercy
 - All of us have at least one of these to use and grow to full maturity and do what God has called us to do.

Discussion Two

The Purpose of these Gifts

- Purpose of these gifts:
 - Make us ministers (Ephesians. 4:11)
 - For the common good (1 Corinthians 12:7)
 - Produce spiritual health (Ephesians 4:16)
- In exercising these gifts, God expects we will look out for one another - "**The One Another**"
 - Romans 12:10 - love and honor one another
 - Rom 15:7 - accept one another
 - Galatians 5:13 - serve one another
 - Ephesians - be kind and tender hearted towards one another
 - Colossians 3:9 - don't lie to one another
 - Colossians 3:13 - allow for faults and forgive one another
 - 1 Thessalonians 4:18 - encourage one another
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:13 - live peacefully with one another
- We cannot allow our difference to divide us & we must align with unity in God.
 - Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God.
- Unity is hinged on building relationship in **SMALL GROUPS**.
 - Read Hebrews 3:12 - Warning to the church to not be deceived or have a hard heart
 - In Small Groups:
 - We have people looking out for our blind side.
 - Where we find freedom and avoid bondage and having a hard heart.
 - They hold us accountable to the purpose of God.
 - Develop life-long relationships.

Discussion Three

The Value of the “One Another Mandates”

- Why are one another mandates important to practice?
 - We have a propensity to isolate when we are weak or hurting.
 - We can be hard-headed and stubborn about applying the Word of God in our life.
 - We need accountability to be the best version of ourselves.
 - We need friends.
- Where's the best place to practically apply these?
 - In relationships developed in Small Groups.
 - Dream With Me:
 - What would our world look like if we walked in freedom?
 - What would it look like if you were so satisfied?
 - What if you could speak freely without reprisal?
 - We'd be filled with peace and joy!
 - Worry can come but it won't stay!
 - We'd wake up with anticipation of a great day, no matter what we are facing!
 - We'd find the support of relationships carry us through!

Reflective Questions

For *From The Heart*

1. Why is being a part of a Small Group important?
2. How can your life (specifically) be improved by being in a Small Group? Do you see a need in your life for more accountability and support?
3. What is an example in your life where relationship made all the difference when you were either celebrating a victory or facing a major challenge?
4. If you aren't involved in a small group, we encourage you to find one or start one. Do life together.