

WE HAVE THIS

HOPE

AS AN

ANCHOR

FOR OUR SOULS

FIRM & SECURE.

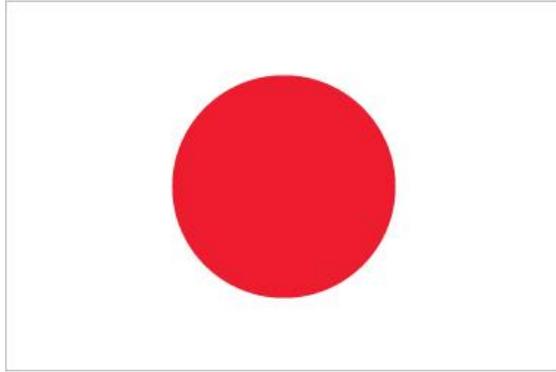
-HEBREWS 6:19

Forging your Anchor: Finding and Developing your Spiritual Community

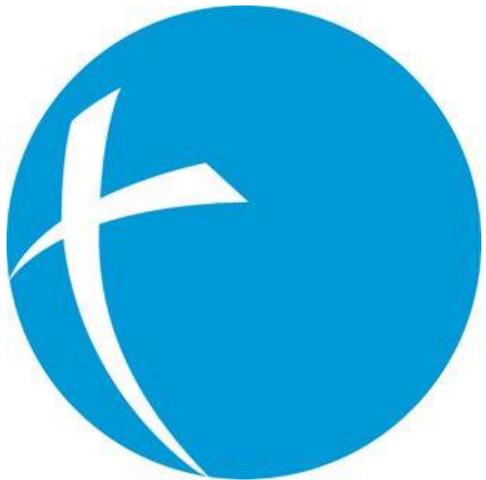
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International Man of...?



Meeting Jesus and Growing with Him



Christian
Veterinary
Mission™



TUSKEGEE
UNIVERSITY

THE
ANIMAL HOSPITAL

The logo for The Ark Animal Hospital, featuring the word 'Ark' in a large, brown, stylized font with a blue silhouette of a cat jumping over the letter 'A'.

Hebrews 6:17-20

¹⁷ So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, ¹⁸ so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. ¹⁹ **We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain,** ²⁰ where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.



https://static1.squarespace.com/static/53de8123e4b0f52a5ebb35a4/540c7e38e4b0b42412d5e04a/540c7e3be4b08308f413062d/1410104892843/1MM_4151.jpg?format=750w



Faith and Hope are Developed from Community

- Church
- Small Group
- Fellowship
- Accountability Groups



“Small Groups” in the Bible

Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.

Proverbs 27:17



<http://peopleofcolorintech.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/iron-sharpens-iron.jpg>



“Small Groups” in the Bible

But he replied to the man who told him, “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?” And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”

Matthew 12:48-50



“Small Groups” in the Bible



<http://crosspoint.reachrightstudios.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/25/2016/06/young-adults-6x4.jpg>

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. **And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people.** And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Acts 2:42,46

“Small Groups” in the Bible



²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Hebrews 10:23-25



“Ideal” Small Groups

- Intentional time (Hebrews 10:24-25, Matthew 12:50)
 - Being committed and having the same expectation
- Practicing mercy and grace (Proverbs 27:17)
 - Foster a safe space to come with their imperfections
- Prayer (Acts 2:42)
 - Coming to God communally
- Studying the Word (Acts 2:42)
 - Spiritual food
- Food and Hospitality (Acts 2:46)
 - Physical food and needs



What is it about food?

In her book *Eating Together*, Alice Julier argues that dining together can radically shift people's perspectives: **It reduces people's perceptions of inequality, and diners tend to view those of different races, genders, and socioeconomic backgrounds as more equal than they would in other social scenarios.**



https://farm1.staticflickr.com/442/17653299413_4bd43b1132_b.jpg

Cody Delistraty, *The Importance of Eating Together in The Atlantic*



What is it about food?

“A shared meal is the activity most closely tied to the reality of God’s kingdom, just as it is the most basic expression of hospitality.”

Christine Pohl,
*Making Room: Recovering
Hospitality as a Christian tradition*



<https://lisarobinsonsportfolio.files.wordpress.com/2013/11/friends-eating-chocolate.jpg>



Caveat:
There is no perfect solution!
There is no magic formula!



My Small Group Journey



Break out Rules

Make a group of 2-4.

At least half of your group must be strangers.

Have a discussion! Be open and vulnerable.



1. How do you currently practice your walk (faith)?

- Do you study the Word?
- Do you pray?
- Work through devotionals?
- Worship/ church – attend a physical one, watch online sermon?
- Etc.?



2. Have you ever had a spiritual community? Do you currently have a spiritual community?

- Intentional time
- Practicing mercy and grace
- Prayer
- Studying the Word
- Food and Hospitality



3. If you are currently lacking in a spiritual community right now, what needs to change?

- What pressures are you experiencing?
- Has something prevented you from joining a small group? If so, what?
- Do you have immediate people that you can reach out to?

Conclusion: the Importance of the Small Group Community

- Understand mercy and grace – confession, repentance, worship
- Living with intention – practice, practice, practice
- Practice requires others
- The time to practice is NOW



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