

iCARE

10.11.09

Community Life Group Study Guide i Church #5, "i-Care"

Getting Started

1. Think back to when you first gave your life to Jesus, to when you first fell "in love with Jesus." What was that like? Is there anything you did then spiritually, that you don't do now?

Digging Deeper

1. Read Revelation 2: 1 – 7. What good things characterized the church of Ephesus?

2. What was the one thing it had done wrong?

3. How might its strengths have been the cause of its failure?

4. In verse 5, what three things did Jesus tell this church to do? (The word repent in the Greek is "Metanoeo," and means "to repent with regret accompanied by a true change of heart toward God." Spiros Zodhiates) It means to, after having thought about it, to have a change of mind.)

Fellowship

1. In Acts 2 we have the beginning of the New Testament Church. The day began with a group of around 120 followers of Jesus gathered together in His name, then the Holy Spirit came, and the church was born. The day ended with Acts 2:41 which states "Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day." That would have been an exciting day! What was the most exciting event you have ever experienced with a group of believers?

2. Acts 2: 42 – 47 outlined all the things the early church began to do when they were first in love with Jesus. Jot down the things the early church did.

3. It's important to note that no one told the early church to do these things; they just did them out of an overflow of their hearts and as an expression of their love for Jesus and each other. How does this passage tie in with Revelation 2: 1- 7 and Jesus' command to the church to "do the things you did at first?" Would you say the church of Ephesus had a problem with "works" or with love?

4. How is your church fellowship like and unlike the fellowship here? How about your small group?

5. What aspect of life in the early church do you most desire for your church or your small group?

6. What needs do you have right now? How can this group pray for you?

Optional Study

1. Read 1 John 1: 3 – 7. Note how we can have fellowship (Koinonia in the Greek, meaning to fellowship with or participate in) both with the Father and with Jesus, (v. 3) as well as with one another (v. 7). What does it mean to "walk in darkness" (v. 6)?

2. How can we "walk in the light" (v. 7)?

3. If we "walk in the light" (v. 7) what is the result? Is this evident in your life?