

Applying It In My Life.....Group time - 25 minutes

1. Most people have far more challenges and controls in their life than they want. When it comes to living with stress, what third element is crucial to a healthy and balanced life? What benefits does this third element contribute to your life?

2. Pastor Rob said, "We all need five kinds of relationships on our team." Look at the list below.

Vision Casters _____ *Soul Sharpeners* _____

Models and Mentors _____ *Heart Healers* _____

Tail Kickers _____

Describe the importance of each of these kinds of friendships in our lives? Write a name in each blank. Share with the group how one or two of these people are important to your life. Which of these people would you like to reach out and thank for his or her friendship and support in your life?

3. What changes have you seen in the last two decades that have impacted our ability to build great relationships? Which of those changes most significantly impacts your ability to invest in supportive relationships? What steps could you take in the next couple of months to build more hopeful relationships in your life?

Prayer Time.....Group time - 15 minutes

Praise God that He has made us in such a way that we need others for support and growth. Thank God for the people He has put in your life to give you hope – some who are right here in this group. Ask God to help you see each day the importance of building relationships.

Finish your prayer time by praying for the needs of those in your *Growth Group*. Take a few minutes to share prayer requests. Ask someone in the group to record your prayers so that in future weeks you can see how God is answering your prayers.

UNLEASHING HOPE
Refuse To Go It Alone

- Close friendships provide ENCOURAGEMENT to grow spiritually.
- Close friendships provide SUPPORT during tough times.
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

- Close friendships provide ACCOUNTABILITY. Proverbs 27:17

Importance of Building Great Relationships **Luke 10:1-9**

- There is too much work to be done to go it ALONE. (2)

Your Team

- Vision Caster _____
- Soul Sharpener _____
- Models and Mentors _____ 1 Corinthians 11:1
- Heart Healers _____ 1 Samuel 20:17
- Tail Kickers _____ Proverbs 27:6

- To go at it alone is always DANGEROUS. (3)
- Pursue INTERDEPENDENCE over independence and codependence. (4)
- Stay put and build deeper CONNECTIONS. (7)
- God honoring faith joined with great relationships enables MIRACULOUS works (9).

GROWTH GROUP HOMEWORK

Week of May 11-16

Getting Started.....Group time - 15 minutes

1. Describe a time when you were in a difficult and challenging situation and a friend was there to support and encourage you. In what ways did this friend support you? How did it feel to know a friend was there when you needed one most?

FOR GROWTH GROUP TIME

Getting Into God's Word.....Group time - 35 minutes

Read Luke 10:1-9 (In preparation to answer questions)

1. What change in Jesus' ministry strategy do we see in this passage? Read Luke 9:1-6. How is this passage, where Jesus commissions the twelve, similar to what we read in Jesus' commissioning of the seventy-two? Where else does Jesus command His followers to "go" and do the ministry of the gospel?

2. Why did Jesus send the disciples and the seventy-two out in pairs to do ministry? Read Deuteronomy 19:15 and Acts 13:2-3. What specifically was provided for by this formula in those situations? What other benefits did going out two-by-two provide for?
3. As Jesus sent out the seventy-two to do ministry in towns across Judea He prescribed several "limitations." What were some of the limitations? What was the significance of each of these limitations? How do these limitations apply to building healthy connections within a church family?
4. Jesus instructed those who He sent out "not to go from house to house." What about that instruction was important to the disciples' ministry? How does that instruction apply to the building of deeper relationships in our lives?
5. Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12. Why are friendships so important? How do close friendships provide you support during tough times? What are some specific ways you have seen friendships contribute to your health, happiness and holiness? How are friendships the best investment you will make in your future health, happiness and holiness?