



Part 1: Excuses, Excuses

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Not your average small group experience:

On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight. There were many lamps in the upstairs room where we were meeting. Seated in a window was a young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep as Paul talked on and on. When he was sound asleep, he fell to the ground from the third story and was picked up dead. Paul went down, threw himself on the young man and put his arms around him. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "He's alive!" Then he went upstairs again and broke bread and ate. After talking until daylight, he left. The people took the young man home alive and were greatly comforted. – Acts 20:7-12

A small group story we wish we all could tell:

I got to see a dead person raised to life.

Excuses, excuses...

I'm too busy so I don't have time

I just don't see the need

We have kids

I had a bad experience once

Why does CTK insist on making a big deal about small groups?

To be obedient to the model God gave us for biblical community

Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. – Acts 2:46-47

To be obedient to God's command to love

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." – John 13:34-35

To be obedient to God's command to serve

Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. – 1 Peter 4:9-10

How can I make this happen?

No small group can exist without a host. Hosting can be as simple as:

Have a heart for God

Open your home

Serve a snack

Turn on a DVD

Today's Action Step

I will investigate the possibility of partnering with God as a host.

Next Step

Go to the Meeting Place when Grant gives the opportunity. You are not making a commitment; you are simply investigating the opportunity.

Personal and Small Group Questions

- 1) Are you a part of a small group? Why or why not?
- 2) What other excuses would you add to Grant's list, and how would you respond to that excuse?
- 3) Read that story of Eutychus again. What is God saying to you through this small account from the book of Acts?
- 4) The biblical command to do life together is undeniable. Why do you believe our culture struggles with this level of commitment? How could we change that?
- 5) As believers, how might our love for one another attract others to Jesus? How can you experience that this week?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?