

Welcome the interruption

As we enter into week three of welcoming this Interruption, we want to focus in on the idea of the importance of communities during this time. The Bible states many times that community is necessary to the spiritual health of an individual. It provides a place of accountability and encouragement for individuals, which allows for depth in relationships and security (Psalms 133: 1-3, Proverbs 27:7, Matthew 18:20, Hebrews 10:24-25, Romans 12:4-5, etc).

Communities can take various forms and shapes, from families to church bodies to friendships. In every one of these communities, when there is a common mission and focus, there is a depth that is created, one that is perfect fertilizer for impact and growth personally and communally.

In your small group communities, what are you choosing to focus on? Most small groups are focused on building relationships with each other and to encourage each other in the faith. This is vital. But it also lacks a key component to your group growth: mission and service. Because of God's design, His desire is that we not only choose to do one-time, transactional service and mission, but to serve in such a way that engages people relationally; and that this would be consistent over time. When small group consistently serve on mission together in ways that truly "love our neighbor", that common mission will greatly deepen the friendships you have, deepen your faith and dependence on God and provide the opportunity for God to grow your group with the neighbors you are loving well.

This week we want to invite those in you small group communities to engage in a common mission together, serving those that are hurting and vulnerable in these uncertain times. Galatians 6:10 (ESV) encourages to create such a mission, stating "...as we have opportunity let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith". As your small group meets virtually during this time, you have the opportunity to collectively pray, discuss, decide and prepare for how your group can be on mission with Safe Families.

There are many families in distress due to COVID-19, who need to be loved and supported during these times. Romans 12:13 (ESV) encourages us to "contribute to the needs of saints and seek to show hospitality".

As communities centered around Christ, let us extend our hand to those who are hurting, and help how we can.

Week 3 Resource Links

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lc4tsw3kCok>

<https://gravityleadership.com/small-groups-missional-communities/>

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Training/Post/Preview/34007>

<https://churchleaders.com/smallgroups/small-group-articles/139651-externally-focused-small-groups.html>