

TRUE VINE TIMES

Pass It On *by Henry Burton*

~submitted by Arlene Snyder

4 reasons small groups are vital to the church's health

1. Personal Discovery

First, personal discovery happens in small groups better than large groups for a number of reasons. You can learn, ask questions, involve yourself in the lives of others, and generally make yourself vulnerable among other people who are doing the same in small groups.

2. Smaller Communities Are More Effective

Second and closely related to the first, smaller communities act more like, well, *communities*. That may seem like a given, but the bigger the group is, the less like community it feels. You simply cannot know everyone beyond a certain point, and you certainly will not open up about your struggles and sins in a large group of people you don't know.

Have you ever had a kindness shown? Pass it on!
 Twas not given for you alone. Pass it on! Let it travel
 down the years. Let it wipe another's tears. Till in
 heaven the deed appears. Pass it on! Did you hear a
 loving word? Pass it on! Like the singing of a bird?
 Pass it on! Let its music live and grow. Let it cheer
 another's woe. You have reaped what others sow.
 Pass it on! Twas the sunshine of a smile. Pass it on!
 Staying but a little while? Pass it on! April beam, the
 little thing, Still it wakes the flowers of spring. Makes
 the silent birds to sing. Pass it on! Love demands a
 loving deed. Pass it on! Look upon your brother's
 needs. Pass it on! Live for self, you live in vain.
 Live for Christ, you live again. Live for Him and
 with Him reign. Pass it on!

TEACH ME TO LISTEN *by Sandi Meyers*

Help my ears to hear and not to fear

What your Spirit has to say

To me each and every day.

Help me to listen. Teach me my mission.

Speak to me Lord thru your Word (OR)

Whatever medium that you choose

I am willing to listen for I cannot lose.

3. Deeper Friendships

With that in mind, the third factor is that small groups deliver deeper friendships that double as accountability. When people know you, really know you, your life becomes far more transparent, including your sin.

4. Maximum Participation

Finally, small groups deliver maximum participation. There are opportunities to discuss the issues with others in the church. Church life issues can be discussed openly among trusted friends.

from Christianity today

Update from Ellen Frey

Ellen has been home from the hospital for a week and feeling much better this time around. Her daughter Becky will be home to go with her to upcoming doctor appointments. Ellen expressed deep appreciation to the church family for keeping her in prayer.

Pictures from Fall Bazaar 2014



