



lyona bible church

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS – JANUARY 24, 2010

Announcements – Please read these to your group!

Please check your bulletin and the website (www.lyona.org) each week for additional information.

- **Join a Life Group:** Our Life Groups are a place of accountability, belonging, and care. We have made it easy for anyone and any couple to join a Life Group. Sunday January 10 marked the date that our current Life Groups will open to new families for 4 weeks. After the 4 weeks, groups will be “closed” for 5 months.

Marks of a Healthy Church: Accountability, Part 3 (Acts 2:42-47; Various)

Questions

1. What was the most interesting idea or principle about this Sunday’s message?
2. As the speaker introduced the principle of accountability, what was the first thing that came to your mind? Have you ever had an experience with accountability? Was that experience positive or negative?
3. How did the speaker define accountability? (See the notes below.) Why is relationship so important to accountability?
4. Have someone read Jeremiah 17:9. According to this passage why is accountability needed? Why do we have a tendency to kick against the idea of accountability? Why do we neglect accountability?
5. Have someone read Matthew 18:15-20 and Hebrews 10:23-25. Why is church discipline so important to the health of a local church? How should biblical accountability happen privately, personally, and publically?
6. Do you, after hearing the sermon this Sunday, need to confess anything or repent of anything? What in your life needs to change?
7. 7 Pastoral Prayers:
 - We would see that the greatest problem in the universe is not moral failure but failure to glorify God.
 - We would see that we live under mercy and not under God’s wrath.
 - We would recognize that God has purposefully placed us here for His glory.
 - We would wholly abandon ourselves to Christ and the Gospel (not to American Evangelicalism).
 - We would become an equipping body not an inward focused family.
 - We would seek unity under our purpose/mission and not preferences.
 - We would believe in the gifts of the Spirit and desire them earnestly.

Spend time together to pray through these prayers together. Imagine the impact that our church could have on our community if we would commit to pray these prayers over the next five weeks.

Prayer Requests

A place to write out your groups’ prayer requests

SERMON NOTES

Each header with sub-points is a slide used in Sunday morning's PowerPoint presentation.

Text: Acts 2:42-47; Various

Speaker: Michael Fraser

The early Church had an understanding of the implications of salvation or conversion.

- Confronted with the reality of who Jesus is.
- An acceptance of the Truth about Jesus.
- A change in direction or purpose for life.
- A change in thoughts, feelings and actions.
- Continued growth.
- *Conversion/Salvation in early Church was...*
 - Visible: It was seen
 - Vocal: It was heard
 - Vibrant: It was attractive

The early Church also had an understanding of the implications of the principle of Accountability.

- Accountability is simply being responsible for your own actions.
- Biblical Accountability is our responsibility to make sure that our actions are in line with biblical teaching and truth.
- Biblical Accountability is not about coercive tactics, bringing others under the weight of someone's taboos, legalism, and manipulation or dominating tactics.
- Biblical Accountability is developing a relationship with others that helps promote spiritual reality, honesty and obedience to God.
- Biblical Accountability is about relationships that help believers change by the Spirit of God and the truth of the Word of God.

Biblical Accountability is seen throughout the N.T. especially in the 'one another' commands

- "Submitting to one another"
- "Encourage one another and build up each other"
- "Admonish one another"
- "Bear one another's burdens"
- We need accountability because "our heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure" (Jer. 17:9)
- We deny, suppress or minimize what we know to be true about ourselves.
- We prettify ugly realities and sell ourselves the prettified versions.
- Cognitive Dissonance: The field of psychology that studies our limitless ability to rationalize everything.
- This is why we need relationships with others that help promote spiritual reality, honesty and obedience to God.

Levels of Accountability

- We are accountable to God: Hebrews 12:1-11/ Romans 14:7-12
- We are accountable to the Word: 2 Timothy 3:16,17
- We are to hold ourselves accountable: 1 Timothy 4:16
- Other Believers hold us accountable: Eph. 5:21/1 Thess. 5:11/1 Thess. 5:14-22/Matt. 18:15-20
- The Church Body holds us accountable: Heb. 10:23-25/Matt. 28:19,20/Heb. 13:17/Matt. 18:15-20

Discipline in the Church is:

- Private
- Personal
- Public
- Discipline in the Church is simply Biblical Accountability in Action.