



Compass

March, 2010
Issue 3

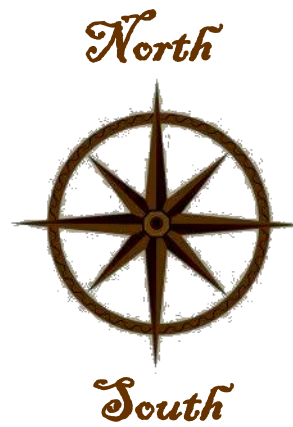
Welcome to Compass!

Our Newsletter for Leaders at Highfield Baptist Church.

Here is more Insight from the Willow Creek “Group Life” simulcast.

Don't forget to check out our calendar of events...

Blessings,
Pastor Troy



“Group Life” Willow Creek Simulcast

“Real Transformation for Real People”

By David Johnson

SUMMARY

By David Tipper Sr.

David Johnson is the senior pastor at Church of the Open Door in Maple Grove, Minnesota. He wants people to see the transformation power they have because of God’s life in them, to be more like Him and change the world.

Johnson began by asking the question, “Do people change as Christians? Really change?” Some do, some don’t.

We are not playing church. Philippians 2:12,13 says “Just as you have always obeyed, work out into your living the life of God because the living God lives in you.” Transformation is possible “because it is God who is at work in you...” and because “...we are to appear as lights in the world (v15b).”

Small groups can help people change, but we need three things: we have to be authentic, courageous, and have a grace environment. If there is no grace, people will never find the courage to be authentic. Johnson reminded us of Galatians 6:12 “Those who desire to make a good showing in the flesh” hinder grace.

We are called to be authentic. “Blessed are the poor in spirit...”, “Blessed are those who mourn...” (Matthew 5:3,4) Those who mourn are externally expressing what is going on inside to authentically expose motives, fears, sin, shame and weakness. This requires courage. Johnson emphasized that people who live like this will change. Again, there has to be grace because it gives courage.

The session revolved around this: Work out our salvation with authenticity, courage and grace. Let us be Christ to one another.

Follow-Up Exercise

We concluded with an exercise. We broke up in pairs or threes and asked, which of these three do we think we need the most: grace, courage or authenticity?



“Flawed is the New Perfect”

By Heather Zempel

SUMMARY

By Anne Tate

Heather Zempel is the discipleship pastor at National Community Church in Washington, DC.

Heather asked us to reflect on the lives and circumstances of the people in our small group. How might God use their painful circumstances for His purpose?

Community is “messy.” Everyone in a small group has issues – we call this “mess”. Messes do not always resolve and have happy endings. Some mess is caused by sin, some is relational mess between people, and other mess is life mess.

We must remember, however, that mess is not all bad. Mess can come from growth. Mess can turn to good. Messiness is a growth opportunity.

How do we deal with mess? First, we need to acknowledge mess when it happens. There is no use denying it.

We must take the right perspective on it. There is always something to learn from mess.

The goal of community and small groups is growth. Always start with a biblical perspective. Create a “safe” environment for members to open up.

We need to model grace as leaders. The group will watch our reaction to messes and imitate it.

Heather reminded us that “We are not finding disciples, we are making disciples.” We need to be committed to the process of helping people to grow through their messes.

Making the Most of Mess Heather Zempel

- Acknowledge mess when it happens
- Identify the kind of mess
 - Sin - confess and repent
 - Relational - help navigate
 - Life - tend and care for
- Take the right perspective on mess. Mess can be a by-product or a catalyst for growth. Mess or masterpiece?
- Ask good questions. What do we know? What is reality? What are guesses? Assumptions?
- Talk to the right people. Do not gossip. Get good advice from trusted people.
- Remember the biblical goal. Messes don't always have happy or quick endings, but someone grows and God gets the glory.

Commit to the process.

Fight for community and don't give up.

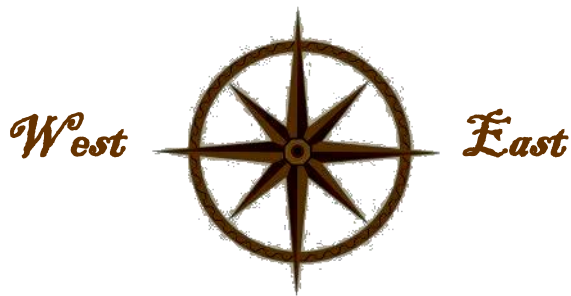
Remember: We make disciples, we don't find them.



Resources

Free Small Group videos and articles from Small Group Exchange at www.smallgrouptrader.com

Catalogues and curriculum resources are in a box outside of Pastor Troy's office marked, "Catalogues." This is where we put all of the catalogues, flyers and advertisements for resources.



Reflection Questions

Leaders may find it helpful to ask their groups the same question that David Johnson asked: "Which of these three do we think we need the most: grace, courage or authenticity?" It is important to listen as people respond. The need for grace will show up if people feel hurt but don't know if it is safe to share. The need for courage will show up as people struggle with whether they should share something personal. Authenticity will show up if the group has trouble getting past "information" (weather, sports, minor details of life) or if people over-spiritualize their lives and circumstances.

Read 1 Timothy 4:15. How comfortable are you to let the members of your small group see your "progress" as a work in process? What specific things help you lead the way in authenticity?

Reflect on the lives of the people in your group or ministry. How might God use these painful circumstances for His purposes? How might you pray into their chaos?

Calendar



Evening Worship - Sundays 6pm

Sermon series on aspects of the cross, leading up to Easter

Easter Events

Palm Sunday and Baptism - Sunday March 28, 11am

Passover Seder - Monday March 29, 5pm - This is the Christian version of the traditional Jewish Passover, and explains why Jesus fulfills the Law. A great way to help us tie together the Old Testament with the New.

Good Friday Worship - April 2, 10am

Easter Sunrise - Riverview Bandstand

Easter - April 4, 11am. Communion Service 6pm

Honduras Mission

Honduras Mission - **May 15-25** (approx.) - email Pastor Troy for more info and application form. Cost will be \$2000-2400.

Check www.highfieldbaptist.com for more information and events

Compass - a leadership newsletter for leaders of Highfield Baptist Church incorporating teaching from seminars recently attended by staff and leaders of Highfield Baptist, 290 St. George, Moncton NB Canada.



Edited by Rev. Troy Dennis, Pastor of Family Ministries

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