

Spiritual Intimacy Groups – by Thailer Jimerson

As you'll see in this morning's lesson in which we hope to understand better the story of David's unmasking before Nathan, and even God Himself, we're hoping to push genuine spiritual intimacy among our numbers similar to that between David and Nathan. In order to do this, we have adapted a few ideas – or question-starters, if you will - that are meant to get the ball rolling when we start meeting with our closest friends and fellow Christians to increase our spiritual intimacy.

We know that salvation is a community project in many ways. We need each other on this long marathon. **So here's the goal:** If you're interested in deepening your relationship with other Christians and enhancing spiritual intimacy with others, find a few friends in this church who will meet with you on a consistent basis – at home, for coffee, etc. – and be willing to discuss your faith and struggles with them. Pray for each other. And offer accountability to each other. Please use the questions below to help you in your endeavor.

QUESTIONS TO GUIDE SPIRITUAL INTIMACY GROUPS

It would be wise to expect prospective members of our group to be able to answer the following questions in the affirmative, all in order to insure that every member is participating for the right reasons:

1. Are you seeking God with all your heart?
2. Are you willing to take rebukes and instructions from others?
3. Will you refrain from repeating the confidential things we discuss?
4. Are you willing to use your spiritual gifts to edify others in the group?
5. Are you resolved to forsake your idols and inordinate loves?

And the following are questions that will serve as idea-starters in order to spark spiritual discussion in the group:

1. Do you have spiritual assurance of your standing in Christ? How clear and vivid is it?
2. How does the Holy Spirit bear witness with your spirit that you are his child? Are you conscious of a growing spiritual light within, revealing more of the purity of the law, the holiness of God, the evil of sin, etc.?
3. Is your love for Christians growing? Do you find yourself having less of a judgmental spirit towards struggling Christians? Have you been cold toward anyone?

4. Is your conscience growing tenderer to convict you of the very first motions of sin in the mind, such as the onset of resentment; worry, pride, or jealousy, etc.? Are you more familiar with the various sins of the tongue?
5. Do you see signs of growth in the fruit of the Spirit? Can you give examples in which you responded in a new way – with love, joy, peace, etc. – in a situation that a year or two ago you would not have?
6. Are you growing to discern the true motivations behind your good works, whether they are done for praise or truly for God?
7. Are you seeing new ways to be better stewards of the talents, gifts, relationships, wealth and other assets that God has given you?
8. Are you getting answers from prayers and refreshment from reading the Word?

[All questions were adapted from an insert on experience meetings in Timothy Keller's book *Center Church* (2012, p.75-76)].