



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

September 23, 2010

Hi, Friends!

I hope your life group kickoff was successful this week! Our group was full to overflowing with a great study, fellowship, and time of prayer.

This week is the concluding study in our series on community. Pastor Glen will address the importance of saying “please” and “thank you.” “Please” refers to the importance of letting others know our needs and giving them a chance to help us. “Thank you” refers to the importance of appreciating what others add to our lives. To sharpen your thinking and prepare you for this week’s discussion, we’ve downloaded a message by Pastor John Piper on how small groups enable us to minister to one another in a close and personal way. I’m sure you’ll enjoy it.

The coaching tip, on the other hand, provides some helpful advice for those of you whose groups are growing larger and larger. The upside is that people want to be there. However, the danger is that when a group exceeds 10 or 12 people in number, it becomes more and more difficult for open and intimate sharing to take place. Groups are often advised at that point to divide and become two groups. While that is a valid option, this week’s coaching tip suggests an alternative, so you can continue to enjoy the friendships you’ve made with the other members of your life group without losing the intimacy of a small group. Be sure to take time to read it. It’s filled with practical and helpful suggestions.

Finally, don’t forget to pray regularly for the members of your small group. That’ll make up for a score of problems that arise. It was Hudson Taylor, the missionary, who used to remind his students, “It is possible to move men through prayer by God alone.” We are praying for you!

Pastors Gary and Glen