

Circle Up 1 – Intimacy & Increase

- **GOALS & GUIDELINES:**
- **ICEBREAKER: Tell us something you are really into...**
- **AGREEMENT PRAYER**
- **PRAISE**
- **SCRIPTURE READ**

Welcome to the first week of our Circle Up series. Over the next few weeks we are going to push for better lives through community.

A circle is a group of people with shared experience. **Q-** Other than Church... What are some circles you have been a part of?

Circles are everywhere. School, family, neighborhoods, internet groups, boy scouts, bowling leagues, book clubs, co-workers... There are infinite opportunities for circles. But not all circles are equal... **Q-** What makes a circle a fulfilling experience?

There are many ways to answer that question. But we are willing to guess that most of our answers are connected. Circles are most fulfilling when they offer deep & genuine connection. Deep & genuine connection is not a given in our world however. **Q-** Why do you think some circles lack deep & genuine connection?

We all have different personalities. For example: some are more out-going, and some are more reserved. **Q-** Does this mean some people need connection and others do not? What do you think?

From the beginning God let us know that we need connection. He said in Genesis 2, “it is not good for man to be alone.” We need intimacy. God created a need inside us to be known by others and to know others. **Q-** Do you agree? And can you tell us of a time you felt disconnected and alone?

God wants intimacy for us. He wants us to experience a circular life of connection. God also desires to increase us. He commanded them in Genesis 1 to be fruitful & increase. **Q-** What do you think being fruitful & increasing looks like? (Is it just having babies or can it be something more?)

Increase requires intimacy. This is not just true in physical reproduction. It is true emotionally and spiritually. Our connect group can increase through intimacy. You career, dreams, skill, family, can increase through intimacy. Intimacy, deep & genuine connection, is God’s plan for growth. So we have to ask? Are we growing? Are we growing God’s kingdom? Are we growing this group? Are we growing personally? If we are lacking increase, it may be because we are lacking intimacy.

This past Sunday, Pastor Chris claimed that “circles are better than rows.” **Q-** What do you think he meant by that? And do you agree?

Circles are people centered around an experience, and rows often seem like people lined up to watch something. We believe God’s Kingdom is better lived in a circle than a row. **Q-** How can we make our Church experience more of an intimate circle than a non-intimate row? **Q-** How can we keep our Connect group from becoming another row or church program, and really make it a place for connection?

We are called to increase through intimacy. We need to choose the deep & genuine connection of a circle. As we consider this, let us read our Hebrews 10 verse again.

Q- Does anyone have something they would like to share about this subject of connection and intimacy?

Internal Question- Are you experiencing increase in your life? Do you have intimacy in your life? Are you living in a circle or a row? Are you ready to go deeper and be more genuine in your relationships? Do you know someone who needs to be right here in this circle? Will you invite them? Will you get them here? **{PRAY}**

VISION- Circle Up with someone from this group before next week.

Goals and Guidelines

1. Grow in relationship with each other

2. Grow in relationship with God

3. Grow in number and multiply

- This is a non-denominational meeting where everyone's thoughts, ideas, and opinions are to be respected. Everyone is welcome and we encourage all to share their feelings.
- We will not argue or debate!
- We place God's Word as the highest authority.
- We all share equally in the ownership of this Connect Group, therefore we will all participate in hosting meetings from house to house on a weekly basis.
- We will be committed to attendance and arriving on time.
- When sharing, we follow 3 simple rules...
 - Stay on subject, Keep it short & Keep all comments appropriate.
- We will build confidence and trust with each other and become transparent.
- What is said in here stays in here. No gossip!
- Last but not least... We will invite others to our Connect Group!

Hebrews 10:24-25(niv) And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Genesis 1:28(niv) God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number...

Genesis 2:18(niv) The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

VISION- Circle Up with someone from this group before next week.