

DIGDEEPER

July 3, 2016

We Will Grow Together by Dr. Richard Rogers

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 ([Listen Online](#))

THE BIG IDEA

If we want to be a church of people who live outward focused lives, we must be a church who care for one another in small groups. After all, the church is a living body of interconnected members. It is in small groups of believers that we have opportunity to apply the truth of Scripture and practice the habit of caring for others. It's in small groups where we are healed, energized, strengthened, and have our efforts multiplied.

START A CONVERSATION (Use this to begin a Conversation that Matters with your kids, co-workers, spouse, or someone in line at the grocery store. Then, [tell us about it.](#))

- Who are the people you rely on most in everyday life?

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- Studies prove that we are increasingly more connected and yet more isolated as a society. What in your own life tends to push you away from others and into isolation? What effect does this isolation have on your life in the church?
- In discussing small groups, we mentioned the importance of church unity that Paul writes about in Ephesians 4. How can small groups contribute to unity in our church? Are there any ways they might harm efforts at unity?
- If someone asked you to explain the difference between a small group of Christian believers and a social organization focused on a shared interest (like the Rotary Club or Boy Scouts), what would you say?
- Think about Richard's own story of needing help at the top of that mountain. When have you been in great need and had that need met by a community of fellow believers? Who do you know that is in need of gospel-centered community right now?

GO DEEPER

- Rick Warren helps us address the question of [why we should join a small group](#) by looking at the Bible and asking us to examine our own lives.
- John Piper helps us see [how small groups are directly connected to preaching](#). In a healthy church, the two will go hand in hand.
- On an episode of the White Horse Inn podcast, Christine Pohl helps us think deeply about [the necessity of and marks of authentic Christian community](#).
- Marshall Segal reminds us of [the Christ-centered rhythm of life we find in the early church](#) and how small groups help facilitate that rhythm.

LIVE IN LOVE THIS WEEK

This summer, we're encouraging you to find five people you can discuss the sermon with each week. These can be your friends, coworkers, family, or current small group members. Just use this document as a discussion guide, and get talking. We'd love to see photos of your five. Post them online using the hashtag, #FindYourFive.