

BUILDING HROCK THROUGH LIFE GROUPS (SMALL GROUPS) KINGDOM COME SERIES

Dr. Ché Ahn

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TEXT: Acts 2:46-47 “Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

PURPOSE: To call people to commitment to the church and to the Life Groups.

7 REASONS WHY WE BUILD HROCK THROUGH LIFE GROUPS

I. BUILDING THE CHURCH THROUGH LIFE GROUPS WE ARE FOLLOWING THE BIBLICAL MODEL

A. BIBLICAL BASIS FOR THE CHURCH TO MEET IN SMALLER GROUPS

- 1. Acts 5:42 “Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.”**
- 2. Acts 20:20 “You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house...”**
- 3. Romans 16:5 “Greet the church that meets at their (Priscilla and Aquila) house.”**
4. It wasn't until the 4th century that under Constantine that the church started to construct church buildings.
5. Small groups don't bring revival, but they accommodate the revival. It is the infrastructure to take care of God's people. It is the net for the harvest. i.e., China

II. BUILDING THE CHURCH THROUGH LIFE GROUPS WE HOST THE HOLY SPIRIT

A. Matthew 18: 20 “For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”

1. One will put a thousand to flight, two ten thousand.



2. All of you are carriers of the glory of God, but there is more power when we come together in unity and community e.g. One Accord

III. BUILDING THE CHURCH THROUGH LIFE GROUPS WE RECEIVE AND CARE FOR THE COMING HARVEST OF PEOPLE

A. Prophetic words concerning the harvest both on September 2, 1982 and October 2017

1. Bob Jones' word on the billion-soul harvest.
2. During the Jesus Movement, many people were not incorporated into the church body.
3. I remember over a decade ago Russia was in dire need of grain. The harvest was ready, but they didn't have the infrastructure to steward the harvest. Grain sat on the docks rotting. Eventually, they pulled their soldiers to distribute food.
4. We are the Joseph generation that will be given extraordinary leadership to steward the harvest.
5. But many of us are just going through the motions of Christianity, treating life like business as usual. There must be a sense of urgency that people are dying and going to hell.
6. We believe a massive harvest is coming. **Matthew 13:39** "The harvest is at the end of the age..."
7. **John 4:35** "Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest."
8. We need nets that can retain the harvest, and the Life Groups are our nets.

IV. BUILDING THE CHURCH THROUGH LIFE GROUPS WE BUILD COMMUNITY

A. Develop friendships, fellowship, and a sense of community.

1. People need a sense of belonging, and a sense of family
2. **Ephesians 2:19 (NLT)** "You are members of God's family."
3. **John Wesley** said in response to criticism to his class meetings: "Many now happily experience that Christian fellowship which they had not so much as an idea before. They began to bear one another's burden's and naturally to care for each other."
4. We cannot guarantee community. We will help facilitate community, but we have to make it happen.
5. The number one reason why people will stay in a church is relationships.
6. There are over 50 "one another's" that you can do on a Sunday.



V. BUILDING THE CHURCH THROUGH LIFE GROUPS WE EFFEC- TIVELY SERVE AND CARE FOR MORE PEOPLE

A. Biblical pattern to pastor the harvest

1. At HRC, we generally pastor people through Life Groups. The pastors are to equip the saints for the work of ministry Ephesians 4:11.
2. Exodus 18:13-20 “The next day Moses took his seat to serve as judge for the people, and they stood around him from morning till evening. **14** When his father-in-law saw all that Moses was doing for the people, he said, “What is this you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit as judge, while all these people stand around you from morning till evening?” ...Ex. 18:17 Moses’ father-in-law replied, “What you are doing is not good. **18** You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone. **19** Listen now to me and I will give you some advice, and may God be with you. You must be the people’s representative before God and bring their disputes to him. **20** Teach them the decrees and laws, and show them the way to live and the duties they are to perform.” **21 But select capable men from all the people—men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain—and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. 22 Have them serve as judges for the people at all times, but have them bring every difficult case to you; the simple cases they can decide themselves. That will make your load lighter, because they will share it with you.”**
3. This was the way 600,000 men (2-3 million including children) were pastored by Moses.
4. Jesus called the apostles in Matthew 9-10.
5. Pastor David Cho, in 1964, had 3,000 members. His church was successful, but one day he collapsed from a nervous breakdown. While in bed, he studied scriptures and from that he asked his deacons to start cell groups. They said no. So, he raised up women lay leaders. They said yes. At their peak, his church had 32,000 cell groups, most of them led by women.
6. Best way to impact and saturate a city or a community.
7. Infrastructure for service and communication. Honor people's birthdays but also do practical acts of service like bringing a meal for a new mom.
8. There is no limitation to growth.
9. Sue and I will be leading Life Groups.

VI. BUILDING THE CHURCH THROUGH LIFE GROUPS WE EFFEC- TIVELY RAISE UP MATURE LEADERS

- ### A. On the job training for leaders.



1. We will also have a leadership tract on Sunday mornings.
2. Online courses to be available for you to view at your convenience.
3. They are one of the best ways to develop gifts and to release people into ministry.
4. Character is developed through relationships.
5. **Proverbs 27:17 (NIV) “As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.”**

VII. BUILDING THE CHURCH THROUGH LIFE GROUPS WE PULL DOWN STRONGHOLDS IN THIS CITY

A. COMING IN THE OPPOSITE SPIRIT

1. **There is an independent, covenant breaking spirit in L.A. We need to come in the opposite spirit, which is covenant, commitment in the family, and in the church.**
2. We can fulfill the call to covenant through Life Groups.
3. We can provide pastoral covering and protection from the evil one through cell groups.

CHARACTERISTICS OF HROCK LIFE GROUPS- AN ADDITIONAL MODEL 8 FACTS THAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

1. **EXISTING LIFE GROUPS WILL CONTINUE AS IS**
2. **GROUP LEADER AND FIVE OTHERS- TOTAL OF SIX PEOPLE**
3. **MEN’S LIFE GROUPS AND WOMEN’S LIFE GROUPS-** Parents can take turns watching their children.
4. **MEET AT LEAST TWICE A MONTH**
5. **CAN MEET ANYWHERE AT ANYTIME** e.g. after a Bridge Meeting
6. **MEETING FOR ONE HOUR** You can meet longer but at least meet for one hour
7. **A TIME TO PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER-Matthew 18:19 (The Message)** “When two of you get together on anything at all on earth and make a prayer of it, my Father in heaven goes into action.”
8. **ALL LIFE GROUP MEMBERS ARE TO START THEIR OWN GROUP OF FIVE** Invite any person who is attending HRC but is not involved with any Life Group

