

## Quotes & Thoughts To Ponder

“For the first 300 years, the church didn’t *have* small groups - it *was* small groups.”  
-from a Willow brochure about upcoming small group conference

“Where are the spiritual leaders, the shepherds of the flock, the elders of God’s people? Why are one or two official Christian leaders assigned the job of pastor and expected to carry a burden that belongs on many shoulders? Where are the people who can listen well and guide us through our problems to the Father’s heart and who regard it as their calling to do so? Whatever became of the idea that all believers are priests?”  
-Larry Crabb, *Connecting*

“Transformation-focused group members never allow each other to pursue life unchanged.”  
-Donahue & Robinson, *Building a Church of Small Groups*

“This concern for the survival of the church down through the ages provides the explanation for the anguished tones of Jesus’ prayer. He knew that if the church should fail to demonstrate community to the world, it would fail to accomplish its mission, because the world would have reason to disbelieve the gospel (vv. 21, 23 of John 17). According to that prayer, the most convincing proof of the truth of the gospel is the perceptible oneness of his followers.”  
-Gilbert Belezikian, *Community 101*

“Ah-ha! You don’t *dabble* with small groups. You do whatever is necessary to make them a functioning reality in your church.”  
-Gilbert Belezikian, when he asked me (LM) about our small groups in our youth ministry structure and I mentioned that they’ve never been that successful...but we have *dabbled* in small groups for years

“Christian brotherhood is not an ideal which we must realize; it is rather a reality created by God in Christ in which we may participate.”  
-Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*

“Forty years ago a revolution began in the church...After centuries of institutionalization the church is returning to the homes and lives of its people...Small group ministry is sweeping the church and writing another chapter in its rich heritage.”  
-Jeff Arnold, *Starting Small Groups*

“Jesus invested 90 percent of his time with twelve Jewish men so that he could reach all Americans.”  
-Eugene Peterson quote from a sermon (it was preached in America...)