



WHY?

By Pastor Jeff

Most believers may not consciously ask, “*WHY should I participate in a weekly CARE group?*”, but many have asked that question subconsciously. I would like to suggest ten reasons WHY participating in CARE group is the best investment of your time during the week:

Reason #1 – Belonging - In our culture we are growing less and less personal and more and more digital. Yet, God wired us to be connected with others. Dr. Elmer Towns, from Liberty University, teaches that once a church reaches 59 in Sunday attendance then everyone no longer knows each other. The answer is NOT to start a new church every time we reach 59 in attendance, but rather to have a dynamic small group ministry where everyone is known and accepted.

Reason #2 – Loving - Tied closely to a sense of belonging is love. The Lord Jesus said that our love for each other would be the mark of His disciples (John 13:34). Surely, we express great love as we gather on Sunday morning, but a deeper expression of love can be given and received in a smaller group.

Reason #3 - Sharing – When a person experiences a sense of belonging and love, they feel safe. Only then will real needs be shared that brings about true New Testament community.

Reason #4 - Bearing – When others know your need they can help you. When you learn needs of others you can more fully enter into their lives and really make a difference. (Gal 6:2)

Reason #5 - Praying – Prayer in a large group for general needs and the big goals of the church can be impactful. But for prayer to move beyond the general to the personal needs that truly empower our life in Christ, we need the sense of love and belonging that only comes in small groups.

Reason # 6 - Encouraging – We are directed many times in the New Testament to “encourage one another.” In a large gathering, encouragement is powerful but limited. Only in a small group can believers truly come along side one another to support, strengthen and cheer each other on in life!

Reason #7 - Edifying – When the New Testament church gathers, your edification is a major focus. (I Cor. 14:26). But in addition to being build up personally, we are also urged to build up one another. (I Thes 5:11). Mutual edification happens best in small group. .

Reason # 8 - Equipping - Ephesians 4:12, teaches that God desires believers to be equipped for life and ministry. Large group preaching is great at communicating the “what and why” of Christian life and ministry, but not great at conveying the “how.” The “how” of life and ministry happens best in a small group! When Jesus sought to equip the disciples, he moved away from large group preaching to a small group of 12. As the disciples lived and studied together in their small group, they were equipped by Jesus and they edified one another.

Reason #9 - Evangelizing – Most believers find it hard to share their faith. But small groups are the best tool for being equipped to share our faith and staying encouraged to do so.

Reason #10 - Rejoicing – When believers meet in love to grow, care for, encourage, build up and support one another, there is simply GREAT joy in each life. (Acts 2:46)

I hope that you will really let these ten reasons sink in to your heart. New groups are forming right now as we begin our new fall series, “*Spiritual Fitness.*” There is so much to be gained by being a part of a CARE group, so please consider adjusting your scheduled and making a great investment in yourself.

Please call me if I can help you find the best CARE group for you.

In His Love,
Pastor Jeff