



### SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

#### WEEK 2

1. Pastor Rick said in his message that just as physical pain may signal that something is wrong with us physically; emotional pain may be indicating that something is wrong in which area of our lives? Do you agree with this? Why? Can you think of an example of this?

**Answer for Leader** – He said that emotional pain can be an indicator that there is something wrong with our spiritual health, that emotional pain can have a spiritual cause.

2. One of the points in this weekend's message, based on Genesis 2:18, was that it is not good for us to be alone. Do you think this is true? Why do you think it is not good for a person to be alone? What negative affect can being alone have on a person? Has there been a time during the Covid 19 shutdowns where you felt alone? What is God's solution when we feel lonely as a Christian?

3. If someone were to say to you, "I don't need anyone but God, as long as I have Him on my side, I don't need anyone else". What would you say to this person in response to this statement?

**Answer for leader** – There are many reasons why this statement is a warped way of looking at the Christian experience. While it is true that at times we may have to "go it alone with God", that is not what the Bible says should be normal. The main thing to understand is that most times God does not personally intervene in our lives to meet many of our needs, He uses our fellowship with other believers as the primary way to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs we have. If we do not have fellowship with other Christians, we are being disobedient to God and will not have many of our needs met.

4. Discuss how living together in community as believers is God's answer to:

- a. loneliness,
- b. despair,
- c. defeat,
- d. physical, mental or spiritual fatigue, and
- e. fear.

If you prayed to God to help you with one of these issues, how do you think He might answer?

5. If God uses other Christians in our lives to meet our physical, emotional and spiritual needs, what must we do to ensure that our needs are met? What keeps us from doing this? At Grace church what avenue do we use to help facilitate this?

**Answer for leader** - We must be willing to be transparent and willing to share these needs with other believers. If we are not, no one will even know how they can help us. There are many reasons why people are not willing to do this: pride, embarrassment, thinking we can handle everything ourselves, fear that we will be judged. The way to overcome these obstacles at Grace is to do what you are doing now; join a small group of believers that you can develop friendships with and therefore trust them with information that you would not share with strangers. We all need people in our lives that we can share our struggles with and know that information will not be held against us or used against us.

**Suggestion** – This would be a good time for you as a leader to teach your members some of the values of a good small group. What is said in small group stays in small group and is not shared with others. The only exception to this is when a member has a need that a Pastor at the church should know about or if a person in the group could be a danger to the physical or spiritual safety of someone else. What a person shares in small group will not be judged by the members of the group or used against them in any way.

