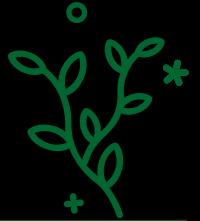


GARDENS & STORIES

WEEK #3



What's UP :-D

So, let's talk about SMALL GROUPS. As you've seen this year at Student Soul, we've worked to spread the weight of our life together across each week. Toastie Tuesday, Thursday night worship, Sunday expeditions. These are the rhythms of life that we're getting into the groove with.

You might think about small groups as "the engine room" that helps these weekly rhythms to really fly. The idea is to come together with a group of others who are like-minded in a willingness to grow. It's about unifying around a shared commitment to the spiritual life, to putting Jesus at the centre.

Small groups are about relationships first. As well as growth in fun, laughter, intimacy, prayer, encouragement, and trust, the community that forms is a solidifying agent in our walk with God.

How? 'Cos when we've shared together as a group, we then sort of "carry" that encounter with us as we go about our day and week. And we also are "bounded in" by the knowledge & expectation that we'll meet again soon. So small groups give us *boundaries*. Within these boundaries, our church rhythms, and our personal walk with Jesus take on increased strength and vitality.

So that's some background to the idea! If you'd like to link in with a group of others, please get in touch with Tiana or myself, or someone you know.

God bless.

TOM

READING

ACTS 13:4-12

The last two weeks we've covered Mary & Martha and the Saul's Damascus Rd encounter. Search "Student Soul / Sermon Archive" in your favourite podcast app, or find it on Youtube.

Here's some questions that have arisen for if you're looking to have a "Deep and Meaningful" spiritual conversation (DNM)

1. What's the balance in the life of discipleship between "conforming" & "breaking free"?
2. If you took seriously the definition of disciple as one who "calls on Jesus's name," what would be one thing you would change?
3. Jesus is looking for people who are willing and daring to trust him. What's your heart response to that?

MAY GOD'S LOVE GUARD ME.... FROM THOSE I PERCEIVE AS MY ENEMIES,
AND THOSE WHO WOULD TRULY DO ME HARM, DESERVED OR UNDESERVED.
HELP ME TO PRAY CONSTANTLY FOR THEM ALL.
~ FROM ST PATRICK'S LORICA. P. SCRIVEN ~

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