

Home Group Leaders Notes  
Focus on Partnership - Week #8  
Week of October 29, 2017

### **Share it**

We practice forms of trust every day (for example when we drive). Partnership is more intentional and strategic. What are some intentional partnerships that you have experienced?

**NOTES TO LEADERS: Trust is the foundation of partnership. While we must exercise trust in many places, partnership is strategic with a purpose. For me, partnerships have occurred in military, school, business, family (husband and wife), church, and mission teams. Try to let people share what they experienced including what was effective/successful.**

### **Study the Bible**

Jesus taught us to trust and partner together in our great mission. Notice some of the aspects of partnering in the good news that Jesus and His followers modeled for us.

John 6:37-38; 8:42 - **NOTES TO LEADERS: Jesus' partnership with the Father was strategic with roles**

Luke 10:1-2 - **NOTES TO LEADERS: Jesus' partnership with the early disciples included their role to prepare for Jesus' tour and partnered with them in pairs.**

Acts 4:32 - **NOTES TO LEADERS: People shared resources to do life and mission together**

Acts 6:2-5 - **NOTES TO LEADERS: The church needed people to specialize in roles and duties for the sake of having healthy relationships, meeting needs, and focusing on mission.**

Acts 15:1-2, 6-11 - **NOTES TO LEADERS: The early church apostles and leaders collaborated on mission and theology to make sure they were following Jesus' desire for His people. They were intentional about the 'who' and 'how' of ministry and who should be making decisions.**

Philippians 1:27 - **NOTES TO LEADERS: In Philippians, Paul referred to their partnership in the gospel (participation, fellowship) and this included the how, the funding, and the roles of people. Their desire was to make Jesus known (the good news about Jesus).**

Philippians 4:1-3 - **NOTES TO LEADERS: Paul spoke directly to two people because of their partnership in the gospel. For the sake of the cause of the gospel, they needed to change their behavior to act like partners.**

1 Timothy 2:1-4 - **NOTES TO LEADERS: We are called to a life of strategic prayer for the sake of our life and mission. We are called to a partnership of prayer that others may "be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth."**

1 Peter 5:1-3 - **NOTES TO LEADERS: Overseers have a specific role in the church to shepherd the flock as under-shepherds of Jesus. They partner with the church to provide care and oversight.**

### **Discuss Together**

This week, we said that "Trinity is committed to the partnership of helping you live a rooted and reaching life." Let's consider some aspects of our mission together.

Reread Acts 15:19. What are some things that make it difficult for people who are turning to God? (These things could be past or present.)

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** Through the years, the church has sometimes given the impression that you must look, act, and think like a disciple before you are welcome in the congregation. Examples for today:

- making matters complicated
- expecting people to know before they arrive
- talking church-ese
- insider talk
- expectations
- shaming
- guilt trips

What might be some aspects of Trinity that might be hindrances for 'not yet followers' to connect with the Trinity family or the good news?

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** This could be interesting for two reasons: (1 ) if they can't think of anything, perhaps they aren't thinking about outsiders, or, (2) some of the things they do think of.

What can we do to be a safe place for people to consider following Jesus (e.g. those with questions)?

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** As Todd will share on Sunday, having safe and available places for people to take next steps is important. All of these require US to be available to help people into and through next steps.

What can we do to help people take 'next steps' toward following Jesus or grow in faith?

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** These should be specific. Todd will mention several on Sunday. Perhaps some will be repeated here.

Some Christians think that unbelievers should be able to "belong before they believe." Is this a healthy thing? Should we also practice this?

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** This could be an interesting discussion. To "belong" could mean to be treated as an insider, as a valued person. To "belong" could also mean that we allow unbelievers to serve in all places. Try to help people discuss this question – it has long range importance to our mission.

Thankful for your partnership in the gospel,

Steve