

Musings from your pastor

I just taught a series on our *ministry strategy*, where you learned that as a church, we would invite people to **explore** and **follow** Jesus, create space for people to be **transformed** by Jesus, and facilitate avenues for people to **participate** in the mission of Jesus.

As a church, we will be figuring out how best to do these things for the years to come. That said, I want to offer a few thoughts about where we might need to move next to utilize this strategy better.

I want to talk about creating space for people to be **transformed** by Jesus. Our primary tool for this step is our Sunday morning church service, which we talked about during week two of the series *Looking Forward* (if you missed it, you can catch up on our website). We are transformed through and by a habit of gathering, as a church, to worship.

But I also believe that **life change** happens in **Small Groups**.

Small Groups are groups of people ranging in size between 3 and 15 people. Worship is essential and formative, but everything necessary can't happen on Sunday morning. In **Small Groups**, we are *creating space* for you to know others and be known by others, grow in your faith with others, pray for others, encourage others, and care for others in your group. All these things lead to **transformed** lives.

There are many ways to have and host **Small Groups**, so I want to talk about how Elizabeth and I have previously hosted Small Groups. We opened our home to our small group and shared a meal every week for eight weeks (we ran our groups on a semester: fall, winter, and spring). After our dinner, we would discuss the previous Sunday's teaching. This was a great time to go deeper into an idea or passage we mentioned on Sunday. Last, we would pray for one another. In this smaller setting, people in the group were cared for in ways that were hard to accomplish outside of a small group. It is easy for someone to fall between the cracks in a group of 100 plus people but less so in a group of 3 to 15.

Our Women's Bible Study is an excellent example of what a **Small Group** looks like that differs from how we hosted ours. But the similarities can't be missed. There is an intimacy and group dynamic that does not exist in a Sunday morning worship gathering. Gathering to worship is essential and formative, and I believe breaking down into smaller groups outside of worship is just as necessary for us to be **transformed** by Jesus.

If this has perked your interest, please let me know.

Praying for you,
Pastor Zac