

Winter 2010

SMALL GROUP SERIES:

# Let There Be Light

## Genesis: The Story Begins

Discussion Guide  
Week #2

## Let There Be Light Genesis: The Story Begins

### Week #2: Created for Community

#### **Acts 2:43-47 (NLT)**

A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped the Lord together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity- all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

#### **Genesis 2:18 (NLT)**

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him."

#### **Philippians 2:3-5 (NLT)**

Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

## Facilitator's Guide

### Facilitator's Tips

**Transforming Community:** Our SG's are focused on being in a community where transformation is the natural byproduct. Our groups are not primarily about being social, although it's through community that the Holy Spirit often reveals himself. Our groups study scripture, but they're not primarily study groups. We're intensely focused on inspiring transformational community and becoming apprentices to Jesus.

- *What commitments can you make as a leader, and what commitments can your group make to ensure that transformation is the premier value?*

**Externally Focused:** North Coast Church, Vista, CA (<http://www.northcoastchurch.com>) has a strong small group culture. "Once a person visits the church, the main message they hear after the gospel is to join a small group," says Casey Yorman, community ministry pastor. And people at North Coast have gotten that message. Since 1985, North Coast has seen weekly attendance in their small groups equal eighty percent of the weekend attendance. Casey has also found that setting clear goals and expectations of group leaders is a great way to get them involved in serving. North Coast has an ambitious goal of performing well over one service project every day, on average, in their community; and small groups are key to reaching it. "We ask each small group to do two service projects during the year," says Casey. If every group does that, they will easily attain that goal. They first communicated this "project-a-day" idea to small group leaders at their kick-off meeting in the fall of 2006. So far they have seen good response and are exceeding their goal. Small groups and individuals completed 120 community service projects in only 100 days during the fall of 2006.

Adapted from 'Externally Focused Small Groups', Leadership Network

- *Serving the community together is an excellent way to be meaningful to the community and grow your Small Group. Is there a project your group could take on for this series?*

## **START IT**

- What is hard about being alone?
- Why, do you think, are people made for community?

## **STUDY IT**

- Read Acts 2:43-47. What practices do the early Jesus followers put in place to communicate their commitment to one another?
- In what ways might the early followers of Jesus have lived out the spirit of Jesus?
- Read Genesis 2:18. Why do you think God creates a companion for Adam?
- What does God's creation of a partner for Adam say about what he values for us?
- Read Philippians 2:3-5. What is difficult about living in community?
- What attitudes and habits might a newly forming community adopt?
- Why is humility important for a community?
- What might God advise for a growing community reaching its growing pains?

## **LIVE IT**

- What stage is your group at? Give examples.
- What might your group commit to before reaching the growing pains stage?
- What might you commit to for 2010 to grow in community?
- What can your group do differently to celebrate God's activity in your lives?

## **PRAY IT**

- That your habits and attitude would build relationships and develop authentic community.
- For God's protection for maturity and grace when disagreements and conflict arise.
- For those in the church who are without close, authentic community.