

SMART TEAMS HELP FULFILL YOUR DREAMS

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, Acts 2:42-47

- **Today is *Life Group Connection Sunday*, when everyone is encouraged to connect with a Life Group that will help them to grow spiritually, get involved in ministering to others, and make SMART CHOICES in their lives.**
- **To experience success in our lives, we need good and godly people around us and close to us because "it takes a Team to fulfill the Dream."**
- *"All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. . . . They worshiped together at the Temple . . , met in homes . . . and shared their meals with great joy and generosity all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people."* (Acts 2:42, 46-47)
- **We all need people in our lives who are:**
    - **Models to us - who inspire us**
    - **Mentors to us - who coach and equip us**
    - **Partners with us - who share the dream and work with us**
    - **Friends to us - who love, pray for and encourage us**
- "If you want to run fast, do it by yourself; but if you want to run far, do it with other people." - African Proverb
- **We need a Team around us to: 1) make up for our weaknesses (Romans 1:12), 2) bring out the best in us (Proverbs 27:17), 3) get more done (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12), 4) help us get up when we stumble (Ecclesiastes 4:10), 5) help us resist attacks and criticism (Ecclesiastes 4:12).**
- *"Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. . . . A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken."* (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)
- ***What kind of "dream team" people do we need around us in our lives?***

We Need People Around Us Who:

LOVE AND SERVE <u>GOD</u>

- *"Don't team up with those who are unbelievers. How can righteousness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness?* (2 Corinthians 6:14)
- **We need people around us who are committed to loving the Lord and living for Him.**
- *"The godly give good advice to their friends; the wicked lead them astray."* (Proverbs 12:26)
- *"Don't be fooled by those who say such things, for 'bad company corrupts good character.'* (1 Corinthians 15:33)
- **The right friends will push us in the right direction but the wrong friends will pull us in the wrong direction.**
- *"Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. . . . Work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically."* (Romans 12:10-11)

We Need People Around Us Who:

VALUE GROWING IN <u>CHARACTER</u>

- *"As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend."* (Proverbs 27:17)
- **We need people in our lives who help us grow in *Integrity*.**
    - *"People with integrity have a firm footing, but those who follow crooked paths will slip and fall."* (Proverbs 10:9)
    - **Integrity is more than honesty - it also refers to the focus and direction of our lives.**
- **We need people in our lives who help us grow in *Humility*.**
    - *"The LORD mocks the mockers but is gracious to the humble."* (Proverbs 3:34)
    - **Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less.**
    - "Great people aren't impressed with themselves, and they're more focused on others than they are on themselves." - Rick Warren
- **We need people in our lives who help us grow in *Generosity*.**
    - *"Generous people will be blessed."* (Proverbs 22:9)
    - **We need to be generous with our affection, affirmation, appreciation, service and time as well as with our money.**

We Need People Around Us Who:

PURSUE ALWAYS DOING WHAT'S <u>RIGHT</u>

- *"If you are careful to obey whatever God commands, then you will be doing what is right and good in God's eyes. Then, he will help you, and your children to be successful."* (Deuteronomy 12:28)

- *"People who do what is right may have many problems, but the Lord will solve them all."* (Psalm 34:19)
- **God doesn't promise His people a problem-free life, but He does promise to help us when we live a godly life.**
- **We need people around us who are like the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37).**

We Need People Around Us Who:

HANDLE <u>CRITICISM</u> IN GODLY WAYS

- **Dealing with criticisms and critical people is a part of life; so we need to surround ourselves with people who know how to handle criticism.**
- Jesus - *"God will bless you when people insult you, or hurt you, or say all kinds of evil lies about you because of Me. Be happy and be glad because you will be given a great reward in heaven!"* (Matthew 5:11-13)

We Need People Around Us Who:

TAKE <u>FAITH</u> RISKS IN THEIR LIVES

- *"Along with Paul and Barnabas, we're sending some men who have risked their lives for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ."* (Acts 15:25-26)
- **We are now in a culture where we are giving first class allegiance to second class causes and those causes have betrayed us.**
- **To fulfill the purpose God made us for, we and the people around us are going to have to be really committed to living by faith in the Lord.**
- *"It is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to Him must believe that God exists and that He rewards those who sincerely seek Him."* (Hebrews 11:6)

- **The kind of people that we need around us are found in *Life Groups* at Celebration.**
- *"The eyes of the LORD search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him."* (2 Chronicles 16:9)