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SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAKING ROOM CELEBRATION | 03.24.2019

Making Room Celebration

Landing Point | God is a God of celebration and the celebration is all about Him.

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In the Old Testament, God revealed His desire for His people to take time to celebrate weekly, monthly and annually. We learn in Leviticus 23 that there were seven annual celebrations lasting one day up to seven days. Three times a year, everybody came together to celebrate.

Exodus 23:14, "Three times a year you shall celebrate a feast to Me."

Who was the celebration about? It was about God! ("...you shall celebrate a feast *to Me*.") The celebration centered around God, what he had done and how faithful he had been. The celebration was not about the people and how they provided for themselves. They celebrated, but the focus was on God who had been more than enough for them. They were unified as they came together as a people to celebrate that they all were under God's common blessing.

Three purposes:

Thanksgiving: these were times to look back and give thanks to God for all He had done in saving them, providing for them, protecting and directing them.

Offerings: because they recognized and remembered God's faithfulness to give and provide, they were motivated to return what He had given back to Him through offerings. It was a way of blessing God and worshipping God. Some of their offerings were a way of staying in right fellowship with the One who had done all things for them.

Recommitment to God: celebrating prompted a response that said, "God, you have more for me." Celebrating is a reminder that there is yet more of the Kingdom of God over me, in me and through me.

Q: How can our celebrations easily become about what we have done rather than what God has done?

Q: Which of the three purposes (Thanksgiving, Offerings or Recommitment) is more difficult for you to live out? Why?



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When we move toward God, God moves toward us. We live a life of celebration by making room in our vision, heart and finances for the name of Jesus to be known to all people.

Vision: *Making room in your vision helps you see your ability to influence others for God's kingdom.*

Acts 1:8- But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.

Heart: *Making room in your heart means seeing your relationships as a mission field for God's kingdom.*

John 1:46, " ... Philip said to him (Nathaniel), "Come and see (Jesus)."

Finances: *Making room in your finances means you freely and joyfully give for the sake of others and God's kingdom.*

Proverbs 3:9-10- Honor the LORD from your wealth and from the first of all your produce; so your barns will be filled with plenty and your vats will overflow with new wine.

Q: *What is the most meaningful celebration you have ever experienced in your lifetime that was not about you? What made it meaningful?*

Q: *What has God done in your life over the past two years that is worth celebrating? How have you grown?*

Q: *Where is God moving toward you as you move toward him in your vision? In your heart? In your finances?*



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We all need to shift more toward making room to celebrate God's faithfulness and goodness in our individual lives and in our lives as a faith family. One of the most tangible ways to do this is to serve others and live a life of availability to those around us. To do this requires that we practically make room in our lives so that we have margin for people in our communities who do not know Jesus or have a faith family.

Q: What's one thing you can do to create margin in your life so that you can make room to live a lifestyle of availability for someone who is far from Jesus?

Q: What is one way your small group can make room for someone who does not have a small group?

PRAY

Thank God for his faithfulness and goodness demonstrated in the stories of life change in your life and in your small group. Take time to praise God that He chose you to be part of His kingdom plan to make room for others. Lead your group to voice prayers to celebrate the name of Jesus and how he is making room in your hearts for more of himself. Ask the Father to lead your group to take active steps to make room for those who are not here yet and that need to experience the love of Jesus.