

Thrive – Friendship Factor
Ross Parsley – January 29, 2017

Mark 12:28-31 (NIV) One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?” **29** “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. **30** Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ **31** The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

1. Make Jesus your first friend.

John 15:15 (NIV) I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

2. Learn the art of initiation.

Proverbs 18:24 (NKJV) A man who has friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

3. Develop the skill of listening.

James 2:19 (NIV) My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,

4. Unleash the power of encouragement.

Ephesians 4:29 (NLT) Don’t use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.

5. Live in the freedom of forgiveness.

Ephesians 4:32 (NIV) Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Community Groups

- 1. Share Leadership.** Three families, couples, individuals, or any combination committing together to sharing leadership that will facilitate the meetings, make the group successful, and ease the burden for all. And, no matter what, you’re already practicing community!
- 2. Live Nearby.** Ideally, we want people to “do” life together, and that means interacting with people near you, with everyday occurrences, overlapping experiences, and close proximity that will maximize your time for community and discipleship.
- 3. Meet Weekly.** Gathering consistently over food, prayer, and discussion, to create relational fabric and interpersonal equity for “life on life” communication and vulnerability. Lead a conversation from Sunday’s message, or the “Read Scripture” study guide.
- 4. Be On Mission Together.** Living out the gospel in our neighborhoods means being willing to own our responsibility to serve, love, and bless the communities where we live with consistent projects, events, and ongoing outreach.

The Group Leaders’ Role

- 1. Initiate Relationship.** Engage in relationships with people by expressing genuine interest, hearing their story, and interacting outside of the group meeting. Create text streams, a Facebook page, or the “GroupMe” App.
- 2. Pray Daily for each other.** Ask your group members how you can pray for them, specifically, by name every day. Write their needs down and share any thoughts you receive from the Lord about them.
- 3. Help each other move** from where we are to where God wants us to be. Go beyond social interactions, and prioritize spiritual conversations. Ask things like, “How is your spiritual temperature?” and watch for unique opportunities to encourage spiritual growth.
- 4. Attend one Welcome Party.** Each of the three leaders will commit to one “Welcome Party” per semester to potentially help new people connect, and to stay connected to the vision of mission in community at One Chapel.

Acts 2:42-47 “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”