



Sermon Based Small Group – Series – From / To – From Critic to Champion

The Purpose of a Sermon Based Small Group (to be read at the beginning of each gathering)

The purpose of our small group is to actively pursue Christ through relationships, as we worship, serve, and belong together.

READ ALOUD BY ALL (allow this prayer to shape your time together)

Dear God, help me in this dialogue to be humble & suspend judgment. I recognize that we are all created in your image. Give me courage to stay curious about each other by asking questions. Thank you, God, for this opportunity to meet together and in so doing grow closer to you. AMEN

Series: From / To

Opening question: Why is it so easy to criticize others?

Sermon Synopsis: Often it is easier to tear down than to build up. Pointing out problems doesn't take much imagination, offering solutions does. God chose to work most powerfully through a person that went from hunting Christians to starting Churches. Being a critic is easy, becoming a champion bears more fruit.

Discipleship Point: Becoming part of the solution is better than criticizing others.

Bible Reading

Reading the Bible is about reading for practice and spiritual formation – spiritual formation, in which the reader seeks to be formed by the Spirit of God.

Passage(s) from the sermon: Acts 7:58, 8:1, 9:1-17 (summarize Saul to Paul) 1 Timothy 1:12-16 (NRSV)

What questions do you have about the passage/sermon?

What do you feel God is saying to you through this passage?

How can you move from being a critic to a champion?

Prayer

Share a one or two sentence prayer request with the Small Group for this next week. Remember these prayer requests are about your life not someone else's.

(Sample Prayer)

God, we thank you for your presence with us. We lift up these requests to you knowing that you care deeply about us...we pray for _____ and _____ and (fill in prayer requests) ... God we know that you have heard our request and we release all outcomes to you and your glory. It's in your Son's name Jesus that we pray...**AMEN.**