

# Community Group Questions

September 3, 2017

Romans 1:18-23

[Leader Notes: As we wait for the publisher to grant us permission to use the PDF's of the book, *Why Small Groups*, we decided to provide you with group discussion guides similar to what we had before. If your group has pot-lucked a light meal or desert and eaten together, then let us consider that part of "the breaking of bread", for now (see below).]

**Group Time:** This evening in our gathering we want to emulate a model from the early church in Acts 2:42 which says, "And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." Until we have opportunity to delve into the significance of "*the*: placed before each of these, we will walk in the understanding we have for now in each of those four areas.

The Apostles' teaching is the New Testament, the writings of those who learned from Christ, or some of their associates (like Luke was to Paul). And because Christ is the fulfillment of the Old Testament, our whole bible is open to us. So, let us steep in the text together. This helps our discussion and care for each other (the fellowship) and all of that may boost our time of prayer at the end.

## Get to know each other:

1. Share with us something that happened in your life this summer that sticks out in your memory?

## Get to know God and His Word:

1. Let us take turns reading together a verse from the passage above.
2. What things stand out to you from the text? *Why?*
3. Do you see the truths of these verses in your own life before you were a Christian? Do you see fragments of this attitude in your life now? **Choose one to share with the group?**
4. How does understanding the inconsistency caused by truth-suppression help us to speak to nonbelievers about the Christian faith?
5. Dave Harvy said, "until sin be bitter, Christ will not be sweet." What does that mean for our text?
6. *What questions do you have from Romans 1, that you would like answered by one of the staff pastors?*
7. Personally: How, and how often, will you spend time simply giving glory and thanks to God for your life in his world this week? **For group discussion: what practical things tend to get in Christian's way of doing this consistently? List some.** What are some helpful suggestions would you offer for people in your life situation who desire to be consistent in this area?

## Get together in prayer:

1. In light of our discussion what items or prayer requests or praise could we pray about together.
2. Let us pray for our missionaries to Papua New Guinea, Siberia, and the Middle East communities in Lincoln.