

August 13, 2023 - 1 Thessalonians 5:12-15

Welcome to the start of a new semester of groups at Fondren Church! Take some time to ask and answer some or all of the questions below. Be sure to spend some time going over the Top 3 things your group members need to know.

Connect:

If you have a new group or have some new people in your group this week, be sure you take the time to go around the circle and introduce yourselves. Share things like your name, some interesting things about yourself, and how long you've been coming to Fondren Church.

If you're not a group that's been going for a while, take some time for a few people to share what they hope to gain from these next weeks of the group or something about an area of growth that they hope to see develop in the group as a whole.

"We fall prey to the illusion of self-mastery."

People often believe that they can take care of everything for themselves by themselves. How often do you fall victim to this mindset and end up "going at it alone"? What are some ways you're guilty of this?

Engage:

Robert issued a two-fold challenge for the next 6 weeks:

1. Re-Energize and Re-Engage on Sundays and live in community."

Read Revelation 2:4, Luke 4:16, and Psalm 69:9

How high of a priority are regular church attendance and meaningful church involvement to you? Why do you think that is? What would you like to change or begin?

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-15

In this passage, Paul outlines instructions for relating to different types of people.

Relationships with Leaders

- Leaders should labor and serve but shouldn't do it alone.
- Leaders should care for the people.
- Leaders should admonish.

In the ways that you lead, how well are you doing in these areas? Where can you grow?

Paul gives instructions to those being led:

- Recognize your leaders
- Honor your leaders (Hebrews 13:7)
- Love your leaders (Hebrews 13:17)

What's your relationship with those that lead you?

Where can you put some of these things into practice with those that lead you?

Relationships with Those Struggling

- Idle - There's a low tolerance for sloth and laziness in the Bible.
- Discouraged - We comfort the discouraged.
- Weak - The poor, the sick, and the down-and-out

How often do you seek to serve these types of people? What can you do practically this week to serve someone that you know that fits into one of these groups?

Apply:

“If you can change someone’s day, you can change their life.”
Have you ever thought about the truth of the above statement?
Has someone’s love ever caused you to have a life-changing day?
Who can you give the life-changing gift of love to this week?

Robert closed the service with 3 questions for those already in groups.

1. In what areas are you pretending to have it together, especially around people of faith?
2. What do you see as a next step in terms of letting this group know the real you?
3. While not everybody needs to know everything about you, what specifically can you do to be more known by someone this week?

Top 3:

About Fondren | Sunday, August 20 after the 9:30am and after the 11am Worship Services.

Join us in the Breezeway Room for a brief time to learn what we’re all about as a church. It is your place to meet people, ask questions, and let us know your interests. It will be a great time to invite friends or community members who might be interested in learning more about all things Fondren Church. At this event, you’ll get an overview of key areas of our church and ways for you and others to get involved.

Serve Day | September 23

Serve Day is a day where people from Fondren Church serve alongside ministries all over the Jackson-Metro. We have ways for people of all ages and abilities to make a difference together. More info and registration coming soon!

Membership Class | September 24 after the 11am Worship Service

Membership is a way for our church leadership and church members to make promises to one another as we seek God’s best for Fondren Church together. The first step in becoming a member is to attend a membership class. In the class, you’ll learn more about the history of our church, our leadership structures, and the ways we promise to care for you as a church member. You can sign up and get more information at fondrenchurch.com/events.