

MiniChurch Newsletter

Connect through Community

MiniChurch Testimony



"Hello friend, I hope this letter finds you well. I want to share an experience with you that I had recently with my MiniChurch, so you are encouraged to join a MiniChurch yourself. Because of their love for me and commitment to their faith, they helped bring me back from being astray.

We can all relate that the pandemic, politics, and the news have been challenging things to understand and cope with. These are the things that caused me to go astray. As Christians, we know that God is sovereign, but I couldn't wrap my mind around why things were the way they were. So, I walked away from Church and MiniChurch, as I was extremely disappointed. I made excuses about why I couldn't go back and started watching YouTube content about atheists and how they perceived things as non-believers. I started believing the negative things they said about Jesus and the Bible. All the while, I fell into a deep depression, feeling isolated and lost. My MiniChurch had made attempts to call and encourage me to come back, but I said I had to work and couldn't make it. I had taken my own will back and was unwilling to recommit to my faith. I was lost, hurt, and confused.

Some more time went by, and it was my birthday. I received calls from my MiniChurch and ignored them. I told my MiniChurch Shepherd that I wanted to keep my relationship with Jesus private, yet another excuse. I also received birthday cards from some of them in the mail. One card, which was also a letter of encouragement, said that God led her to send a message as evidence of God's love for me and that He was thinking of me and my present circumstances. This message and the precise timing

What is MiniChurch?

Small groups have been central to the Church since its beginnings. In fact, Jesus formed one when He called the twelve apostles; twelve men from diverse backgrounds, yet all united together for a single cause - to spread the good news of the Gospel throughout the world. At Hope Chapel, we call our small groups "MiniChurches". MiniChurch is a place where we encourage, strengthen, and equip each other. A place for us to safely challenge each other to grow in faith. In MiniChurch, we experience life together and strive to be more like Jesus Christ.



of me reading it helped me realize that God really did love and care for me, as I was suffering immensely at that exact moment, sitting in my car wondering what I was going to do next. There is no way that it was a coincidence. The kind and loving messages I received were unlike any I had ever gotten before. And it touched my heart. I decided at that moment that I would go back to MiniChurch. I'm so glad I did because I receive so much love and learning there. After returning to the group, I felt totally rejuvenated spiritually. And from that point forward, I decided never to walk away from my faith again.

My MiniChurch has the kindest, most loving people I've ever met. It is an honor and privilege to be a part of the group. God bless them. If you are reading this and feel lost or isolated, get involved in a MiniChurch. It will strengthen and encourage you so much. Now, I look forward to going to MiniChurch every week. I feel so blessed and grateful. Thank you, Jesus, for being my Lord and Savior. And thank God for Hope Chapel, all the pastors, and MiniChurch. Amen!"

Dave Hilmar, MiniChurch 104



What Makes a Good Accountability Partner?

By Erik Raymond TGC

We are not intended to live our Christian lives alone. We are members of a community. Most of this living occurs within the context of our local church. It's here that strategic relationships emerge with opportunities to provide deeply personal care. Overall these relationships are meant to help us to follow Jesus faithfully. Often we find an area of sanctification that we want to focus on and then ask another Christian to keep us accountable. It's common for us to refer to these relationships as our accountability partners.

But what makes a good accountability partner? And, how can we be helpful to our brothers and sisters? Here are some important traits.

Converted

It is important to know if the person who is going to help you is a Christian or not. Certainly one may find help from non-Christians. However, in the full scope of what I believe the Scriptures teach, the consistent application of a biblical worldview is supported by a right relationship with God himself. We live by the Spirit of God under the Word of God. Therefore, it is preferred that an accountability partner be another Christian and ideally a member of the same local church (Rom. 8:5; 1 Cor. 2:14-15).

Commitment

Bearing burdens and excising sin takes work (Gal. 6:1-2). More than just being available this requires being involved. It has to be the kind of commitment that weathers storms, endures difficulty, and is willing to see it through. This type of commitment realizes the stiff headwinds of adversity on the front end. It's the embrace of a family member that says, "I'm with you and will be with you through this." In the despair of sin and temptation, knowing that someone is there with you, slugging it out, is a great encouragement.

Conviction

Of course, we will be of little ultimate help if we are simply willing to take phone calls, answer texts, and show up. As useful as this is, we still need to say something. What will we say? Here it's vital that we believe the Bible is God's Word. Really this is of the utmost importance. If we are convinced that the Bible is the inspired, inerrant, infallible, and sufficient Word

God, then we have something to say (2 Tim. 3:16-4:4; 1 Thess. 5:11). If we don't, then in one sense, it doesn't matter what we say. To penetrate through the haze of sin and blaring noise of temptation, an accountability partner must have the conviction that God's Word is true. This obviously has tremendous implications for what we believe about God, humanity, sin, judgment, grace, mercy, and repentance. We need conviction to be helpful.

Character

By this, I don't mean that to be an accountability partner we must be sinless. Obviously we are all sinners and all in need of help. But I do believe that there is wisdom in considering the maturity of someone whom you choose to ask to help you. If you have three guys struggling with purity who agree to meet together and talk about their struggles but none is seeing victory in sin, how helpful is this in the long run? There is wisdom in having someone who has demonstrated godliness help you to do the same through regular accountability (Eph. 4:11-15; Col. 1:28).

Courage

Most people shy away from confrontation. We don't like it. But, to help each other grow we need people in our lives who are courageous enough to call a spade a spade. We need a friend to come alongside us and say, "Here's what I'm seeing, and this is what God's Word says." This takes courage. If the goal is spiritual growth through accountability then implicit in this is the courage to call the other person out when they are not obeying God's Word (Col. 3:16-17; Rom. 15:14; Matt. 18:15-18).

Clarity

There must be clarity on two fronts. First, there must be clarity on God's Word. This goes with the section on conviction above. We must know the Word of God and the God of the Word, and we must speak with clarity on his behalf. To be helpful in matters of spiritual growth—especially in issues that may require strong accountability—there needs to be clarity. This involves what God has said in matters of law (this is what God requires us to do) and gospel (this is what God has done in Christ for us). Second, there should be clarity on our role. Accountability partners are not the Savior nor are they the Holy Spirit. On occasion, we might be tempted to fear our accountability partner more than we fear God. This is not helpful, because it was a lack of fear of God that got us into sin in the first place (Rom. 3:18). There's also the temptation to cling to the accountability partner like they are the Savior. Instead

of wearing out a path to the throne of grace (Heb. 4:16) we blow up our accountability partner's phone with texts. There's nothing wrong with texting of course, but the helpful accountability partner understands their role. They have clarity. And so they will regularly point their friend back to God and his sufficient grace. This takes humility as well as clarity—and often, time.

Compassion

Helping our brothers and sisters with sin is hard and heavy work. The most useful in this regard reflect Christ. And if we are reflecting Christ, then we are compassionate helpers. The early 20th-century theologian B. B. Warfield observed the descriptions of our Lord Jesus and found the most common was compassion. If accountability partners are aiming to render Christlike service, then they must reflect his compassion. Like Jesus, we must have a heart that breaks over sin (Matt. 9:35). I don't think compassion obscures anything I've already written. Instead, it colors it. We are most like Christ when we are clear with the Bible, courageously pointing out sin, and doing it with loving compassion.

In short, a good accountability partner is someone who's working hard to follow Jesus and willing to help others to do the same.

Why should I go?

Trying to live out your faith by yourself is a losing battle. MiniChurch provides community, accountability, and discipleship which are essential to your spiritual growth. Over 50 times in the New Testament, the words "one another" are used to describe the relationships of the early church. MiniChurch allows us to embody those words. It's a place designed for bringing us together. They also make our large church feel small.

We hope you'll take the opportunity and join a MiniChurch! Feel free to visit our church website to look through the MiniChurches online.



MiniChurch Testimony

"My women's discipleship group, "Walking in Community" has been and continues to be a personal blessing in my life, as it is here that I can resolve my questions left to me from the Sunday sermon, delivered by the Hope Chapel pastors. In addition, it is a space where together with my 12-year-old daughter Mia, we feel loved and supported in any situation by my sisters; thus, becoming a family."

Sandra Villagran, Walking in Community

"Mi grupo de discipulado de mujeres "Caminando en comunidad" ha sido y sigue siendo una bendición personal en mi vida, ya que es aquí donde puedo resolver mis preguntas que me quedan del sermón dominical, expuesto por los pastores de Hope Chapel. Además, es un espacio donde junto con mi hija Mía de 12 años de edad, nos sentimos queridas y apoyadas en cualquier situación por mis hermanas; convirtiéndose así, en una familia."

Sandra Villagrán, Caminando en Comunidad

Caminando en Comunidad

Discipulado de mujeres

Martes de 6:30 a 8:00pm

Ubicadas dentro del Area de South Bay

Acompáñenos a meditar sobre el sermón dominical, para aplicar las Escrituras en nuestra vida diaria; mientras seguimos a Jesucristo, el Maestro.

Para más información, favor comunicarse con
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Get In Touch

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hopechapel.

Weekend Services

Saturday | 5 pm
Sunday | 9 am
Sunday | 11 am