

Three Is Enough Groups (TiE)

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- I. Three Is Enough Groups: Putting Wheels on a New Way to Live: *“By yourself you’re unprotected. With a friend you can face the worst. Can you round up a third? A three-stranded rope isn’t easily snapped.”* (Ecclesiastes 4:12, *The Message*)
 - A. Three people: Why?
 - B. Doing three simple things
 1. Pray: to be alert to the Spirit’s leadership and guidance; to pay attention to the people and events of your life; pray for Spirit-power that enables you to be an ambassador of the Kingdom in the routines of your life; and pray for the ability to do so for the good of others. Pray for the members of your group as you go on this journey.
 2. Grow: by reading material that facilitates the journey inward and the journey outward; by meditating on the things the Spirit highlights in your reading; and by discussing your reading with your TiE Group once a week over coffee, lunch or after work.
 3. Serve: others by being alert, by noticing others; through creative, resourceful and inventive help for others; being humble, gentle, generous and genuinely altruistic - draw no attention to you or your TiE Group. God’s purpose for you is that you are his cooperative friend - serving others - the least, the last, the broken and the missing - in the everyday affairs and rhythms of your life. If following Jesus means anything, it means to serve others (Mark 10: 41-45)

Values For TiE Groups:

Taken from Christianity Beyond Belief, IVP

For Such A Time As This: The time is ripe for a fresh approach to both evangelism and spiritual formation - one that is rooted in real life and that counters the present negative views of Christianity. If we can connect spiritual formation to serving others, we not only will help correct Christianity’s poor image but, even more significant, facilitate authentic and

relationally sound evangelism. Three Is Enough Groups puts spiritual formation back where they belong - in the rhythms and routines of daily life.

- Choosing to be his apprentices, we value our relationship with Jesus, our Lord and Master, who teaches us how to be a faithful child of God for the sake of others.
- We value the Holy Spirit as our guide and source of character and power. We will interact with him in conversational ways without hype or pretense.
- We will strive to carry out the practices associated with our group, but we don't want to confuse this effort with earning God's love. Grace is for the whole journey of discipleship, not just conversion.
- We will focus on and immerse ourselves in the righteousness, peace and joy of the kingdom, replacing neurotic religious guilt, shame or fear with this reality.
- This life matters, not just the life to come. Therefore the events and people of our life are of utmost value.
- Neither spiritual formation nor a loving, serving engagement with others can be added to an already too-busy or out-of-control life. We follow Jesus for the sake of others within the existing contexts, rhythms and routines of our present life, not some hoped-for life that will never come.
- We believe every Christ follower should be oriented toward serving others.
- When God asks us to be his cooperative friends, he will provide the motivation and means to do so.
- We will look for those who may be ready to enter life in the kingdom, making Jesus and his kingdom teachings known.
- Our Three Is Enough group is not an end in itself. The group's *telos* (end or purpose) is following Jesus as ambassadors of the kingdom's goodness for the sake of others.
- We will not be spiritual police, office nags or creepy religious types.
- We will practice our faith with gentleness, humility and in hidden service to others.
- The journey outward doesn't begin after getting our act together. Therefore, we won't wait till we're fully "fixed" before starting our lives of creative goodness. Some things about us can't be learned apart from first taking the risk of loving and serving others.

- Our group will not criticize the church. It is designed to help the church be the sent people of God in daily life.

* See the Appendix in *Christianity Beyond Belief* for the conceptual basis for groups of three.