

Weekly Study

Famous to My Family | Doug Wekenman | September 25, 2022

**A note to leaders: there have been two additional questions added to the “grow” and “move” portions of the Weekly entitled ‘Dive Deeper’. This is designed for you to help guide your group into deeper relationship with Jesus and each other, and take an additional step for owning their relationship with Jesus throughout their week.*

START

If it's your first week meeting as a group, go around and do introductions. Have people include their name, how long they have lived in Austin, and the most impactful thing they took away from Sunday's message.

**A note to leaders: the best way to begin to build relationships among your group and stir one another's faith is to share our stories with each other. The Bible says that we overcome by the blood of the lamb and the word of our testimony (Revelation 12:11) — our testimonies are powerful and help bring healing and freedom to others!*

Extend an invitation on the first night of your group for people to share their testimonies with the group. Usually, having one person share at the beginning of the night each week seems to work best.

If your group has been meeting already, go around and check in with your group with the following questions. If you had new people join your group this week, be sure to allow time for introductions.

- What are you most looking forward to this week?
- What is the most impactful or challenging thing you learned during Sunday's message?
- What did that thing teach you about God? About yourself?

SHARE

This week Doug continued our sermon series “Let's Go Change the World” with a message about being famous to your family. Revival has an order to it, and the order matters: it first starts with our own hearts, and then it flows to the people around you. He preached out of a passage found in Acts 2 which highlighted the need to prioritize and sacrifice for your people, the power of encouragement, and never giving up on community. These things creates a united church, and a united church is one that has the opportunity to change the world.

G R O W

Read Acts 2:42.

Jesus had crowds who followed him everywhere he went! He influenced those crowds, but more importantly, it was his people who he impacted. He had twelve disciples — people who were spending their lives to learn from Him, become like Him and take His message out into the world. Think about it like the group you're sitting in right now. It was the circle, not the crowd, who started the church. This is who Jesus did life with.

This verse speaks to how the circle in Acts 2:42 devoted themselves to fellowship... meaning, they prioritized their people. The world has pushed us to believe that we need to be all things to all people, which will only leave us feeling stretched thin and unable to deposit time, attention and love into the lives of our people in the ways we were designed to. This isn't an invitation to be exclusive or cliquy; rather, it's an opportunity to recognize the people who God has put in our lives in this season and devote ourselves to seeing each other walk in the fullness of life that Jesus has provided for us.

- Go around the circle and answer: what are some of your priorities? How much time do you give to those priorities each day or week?
- What are the life-giving things that you know you should prioritize more but haven't yet? What is one action step you can take this week to begin to integrate those new habits into your weekly rhythm?
- *Dive Deeper:* Mark chapter 2 talks about a paralyzed man and his friends who fought to get him to Jesus. Who are the people you do life with? Are they the kind of people who will do inconvenient things, like ripping a hole in the roof, to get you to the feet of Jesus? Are they pushing you to be with Jesus, become like Jesus and go do what Jesus did in your daily life? Spend some time this week praying that God would bring you close friends who will help walk with Jesus more closely.

M O V E

Read Acts 2:43-45.

Two of the most difficult things to do when we feel like our inner lives are empty is to encourage people and sacrifice for them, but the paradox of the kingdom is that if God can get these things through us, he will fill us up in ways that are beyond our understanding. Proverbs 11:24 says, "The world of the generous gets larger and larger", and this includes our relational generosity. Generosity of spirit is how we grow in richness of relationship and become famous

to a few. All of us want to be known and loved, but people can never give you what God can. In God's economy, we get more by giving away what we already have.

Do you believe that you have all the love and encouragement you could ever need? When you catch that, you can more easily move from being a vault to being a vessel.

- What tends to stop you from extending encouragement to others? These can be big or small things.
- Take a moment to think and write it down: who are two people you want to encourage this week? Take a few minutes as a group to draft and send encouraging messages to those people before you dismiss for the night. Watch as God is faithful to fill you up with encouragement also!
- *Dive Deeper:* Who is the most encouraging person you know? If possible, reach out to them this week and ask them to get coffee or a meal with you and have them talk to you about their relationship with Jesus and how they think about encouragement.

P R A Y

Spend some time sharing personal prayer requests. If you are in a co-ed group, consider breaking up into separate groups to share more freely.

- Ask the Holy Spirit to cultivate depth in your group that helps you become more like Jesus each day.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to show you which of the four topics that Doug discussed — prioritizing your people, encouraging and being encouraged, sacrificing for your people, and never giving up on community — you should focus on in this season of your life.
- Ask God to bring you close friendships that push you to the feet of Jesus and help you be the person He created you to be.