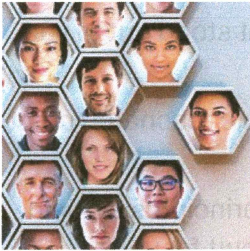


# Why Small Groups? Part 2

The reason behind intentional Christian community.

by Carolyn Taketa

Last week we discussed the main biblical basis for small groups. Today we need to look at their purpose. God himself is



in a community of three persons in one—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—who exist in perfect unity. So it is not surprising that from the beginning, God created us to be in community with one another.

## Purpose of Small Groups

When we look at the early church we get a picture of small communities of people who followed Jesus together. The Book of Acts, especially Acts 2:42-47, gives us a great picture of the early church and the components of biblical community, which encompassed both the "temple courts" and "house to house."

**Acts 2:42–47 (NLT)** *All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. <sup>44</sup> And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. <sup>45</sup> They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. <sup>46</sup> They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—<sup>47</sup> all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.*

These believers engaged in life together through teaching, fellowship, communion, prayer, miracles, radical generosity, and corporate worship. They spent time together eating, learning, celebrating, proclaiming the Good News, and supporting each other. In addition, the 50-plus "one another"

verses in the New Testament flesh out other aspects of this community. For example, it was a place where people loved, forgave, served, bore burdens, encouraged, exhorted, prayed, equipped, spoke truth in love, confessed sins, and treated each other as precious members of one body.

God never intended for us to live the Christian life alone. How can we apply these "one another" references unless we are in intentional, close relationships with each other? God calls us to love, not in an abstract or superficial way, but in a deep, face to face, life-on-life, transformative way—which is difficult and inevitably messy.

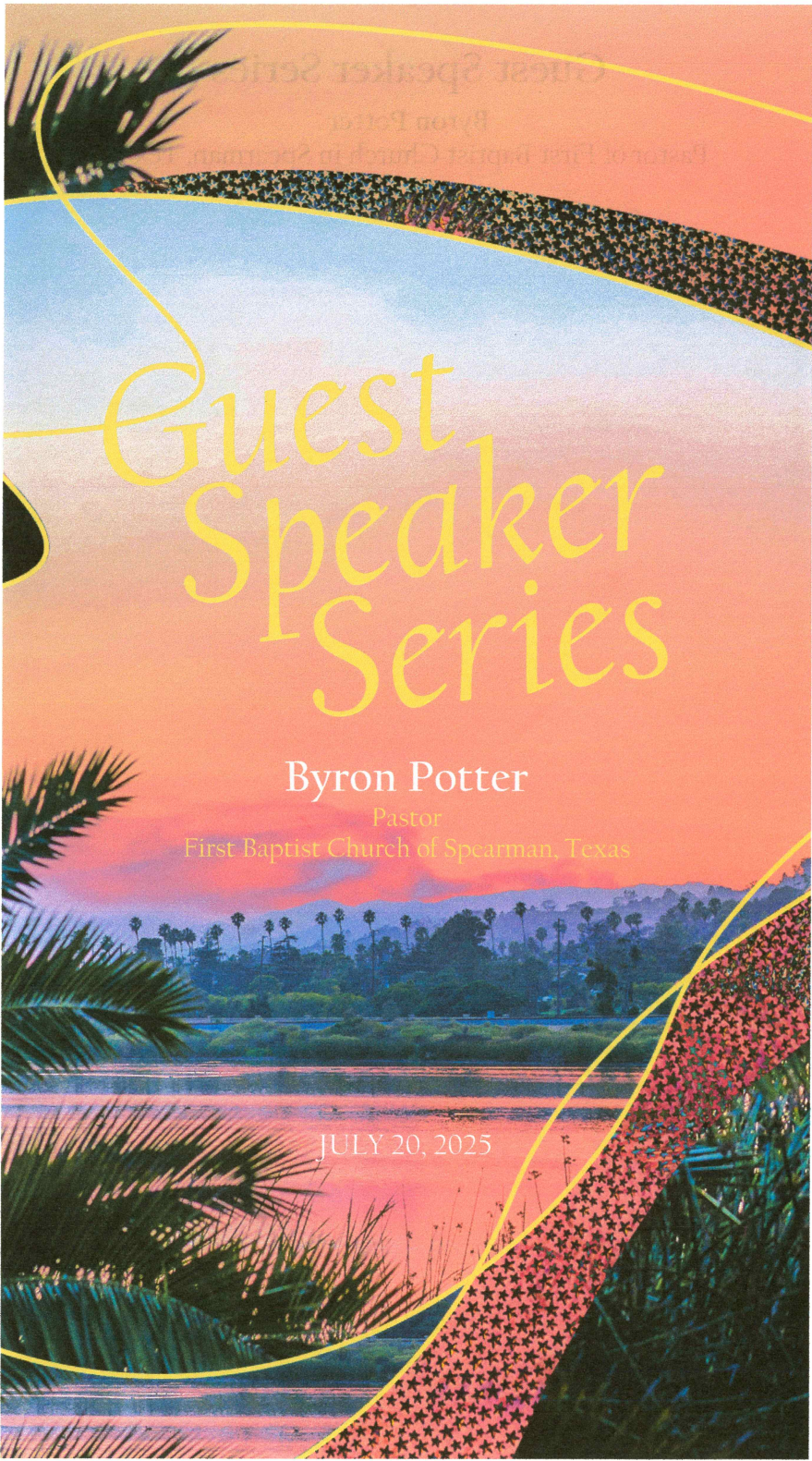
In our modern culture, small groups are often viewed merely as a program or a fellowship ministry within the church. But for the New Testament church, it was a way of life, encompassing every area of their lives. Their relationships with one another were critical to their pursuit of Jesus, their growth in Christ, and their witness to the Good News. It would be impossible to experience biblical community apart from spiritually significant, intentional relationships with other believers. Relational structures like small groups, therefore, are an integral part of "being" the church and not just "doing" church..

## Deacons on Call

Johnny Davis and Ed Watson

## Weekly Scheduled Events

- **WORSHIP:** Sundays at 9:45 AM
- **SMALL GROUPS:** Sundays at 11 AM
- **DEEP DIVE INTO GENESIS:** Next session **AUGUST 6**
- **FIRST KIDS:** Our next meeting will be in August
- **FIRST YOUTH:** See [firstplainsyouth.com](http://firstplainsyouth.com) for summer events





# Guest Speaker Series

Byron Potter

Pastor of First Baptist Church in Spearman, Texas

# Small Group Discussion Guide

1. What is the best piece of advice you have ever received? Did you actually act on it? Explain.
2. Read the main passage given to us by Byron. Is there anything from the sermon you would like to discuss?
3. What was your greatest takeaway or what stood out to you the most from this week's sermon?
4. What sermon illustration, story, or example resonated most with you and why?
5. Share a time in your life when one of the principles or main points from this week's sermon was difficult for you to follow or live out. Why was it so difficult?
6. As a group, share which Scripture(s) from this week's sermon God spoke to you through, or has prompted you to dig into further. Read those passages aloud and discuss them.
7. What action do you need to take to go beyond having the knowledge to applying that truth to your life?
8. How can we pray for your OIKOS?
9. When can we get together and have some fun? Who's bringing the coconut cream pie?

# OIKOS by the NUMBERS

- **2** - The percentage of Christians who will be attending the 100 largest churches in America. Small churches are still having a big impact these days.
- **1** - The number of verses into the Bible before God introduces the idea of relationships.

# OIKISM of the Day

- Non-believers already think they know what Christians are like. The only way they will change their minds is by spending time with **YOU**.