

DARING FAITH

COUNTDOWN CALENDAR

THIS WEEKEND: “Daring To Make A Difference Together”

This next week, May 4-8

Hosts distribute the **Daring Faith Brochure** to your group and watch the **VISION VIDEO** this week in your group. You can *also watch* 1) *Our History of Faith* and 2) *Our 5 F.A.I.T.H. Goals on the DVD*

SAT NOON: (May 9) PLEASE TURN IN YOUR ADVANCE GIFT COMMITMENT so your faith pledge can be included in the weekend announcement.

May 9-10 MOTHER’S DAY. Bring your mom!

Kay Warren & Amy Hilliker will teach on **“Daring To Grow!”**
The kids will march in to the service with their **Children’s Offering** and we will announce our Advanced Gifts total.

May 16-17 Offering & Commitment Day!

This weekend is also our **Daring Faith Expo** which will be a fun interactive fair that showcases all Saddleback is doing locally and around the world. My message will be **“Daring To Go Forward in Faith.”**

May 23-24 “Daring To Wait in Faith”

May 30-31 VICTORY CELEBRATION WEEKEND!

We will announce the total given and committed to our Daring Faith campaign. It will be a praise and party event like you’ve never seen!

THE HEART OF SADDLEBACK: SMALL GROUPS

Daring Faith Small Group Hosts Rally - May 1, 2015

Small groups are not a “program” of our church,
THEY ARE OUR CHURCH!

I. THE OLD TESTAMENT MODEL - EXODUS 18:13-26

THE PROBLEM: Moses was doing all the work by himself and was burning out. (vs. 17-18)

THE SOLUTION: They divided the ministry to God’s people into smaller groups (vs. 21-22)

THE STRATEGY: Moses appointed

- Leaders of 10
- Leaders of 50
- Leaders of 100
- Leaders of 1000

THE RESULT: Moses was relieved and everyone had his needs satisfied (vs. 23)

II. THE NEW TESTAMENT MODEL: ACTS

During its first 25 years, the first church (in Jerusalem) grew from 120 to over 100,000!

- Acts 1:15 “120 believers”
- Acts 2:41 “3000 were added to the church that day”
- Acts 2:47 “the Lord added daily those being saved”
- Acts 4:4 “the number of men grew to 5,000”
- Acts 5:14 “more & more believed & a multitude was added”
- Acts 5:28 “you’ve filled Jerusalem with your teachings”
- Acts 6:1 “the number of disciples rapidly multiplied”
- Acts 6:7 “the number of believers increased rapidly”
- Acts 21:20 “tens of thousands have become believers”

In Jerusalem, they were ONE CHURCH in *multiple* locations with 2 types of meetings!

“(They met) day after day, in the TEMPLE COURTS
and from HOUSE TO HOUSE...” Acts 5:42

- large group _____
- small group: _____

“Greet the church that meets in their home.” Rom. 16:5
See Acts 2:46, 8:3, 16:40, 20:20, 1 Cor. 16:19, Col. 4:15

5 REASONS WE USE HOMES & OFFICES

- Small Groups are _____
- Small Groups are _____
- Small Groups are _____
- Small Groups are _____
- Small Groups are _____

III. WHAT THE FIRST BELIEVERS DID IN SMALL GROUPS OUR MODEL: ACTS 2:42-47

1. THEY _____ TOGETHER.
“They devoted themselves to the apostles teaching...”
2. THEY _____ TOGETHER.
“... and to the fellowship...”
3. THEY _____ TOGETHER.
“... to the breaking of bread...”
4. THEY _____
“... and to prayer...”
5. THEY HELPED EACH OTHER _____
“... they gave to anyone as he had a need...”
6. THEY _____
“... they ate together with glad and sincere hearts...”
7. THEY _____
“praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people”
8. THEY _____
“And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

IV. BENEFITS OF BEING IN A SMALL GROUP

“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but instead let us encourage one another!”
Hebrews 10:25

1. It connects me _____
“Together you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of that body.” 1 Corinthians 12:27 (NCV)
2. I understand _____
“Take your turn, with no one person taking over. That way each one gets a chance to say something special from God, and you all learn from each other.”
1 Corinthians 14:30-31 (Mes)
3. _____
“I tell you that if two of you agree about something and pray for it, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. This is true because anytime two or three people come together in my name, I am there with them.” Matthew 18:19-20 (NCV)
4. I'm able to _____
“Help carry one another's burdens, and in this way you will obey the law of Christ.” Galatians 6:2 (TEV)
5. It's a place to practice _____
“Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, “How can I help?”
Romans 15:2 (Mes)

IV. 3 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE HOST

1. _____
“When you extend hospitality to Christian brothers and sisters, even to strangers, you make the faith visible.”
3 John 1:5 (Mes)
2. _____
“Reliable communication permits progress”
Proverbs 13:17 (LB)
3. ENCOURAGE OTHERS _____
“Entrust this message to faithful individuals who will be competent to pass it on to others!”
2 Timothy 2:2 (GW)