

Journey Groups at Calvary: Commissioning Journey Guides and Co-leaders

1 John 1:1-4, 7

Thesis: This morning, we want to cast vision for Journey Groups at Calvary, to commission our Journey Guides and Co-leaders, and to invite people to plug into a Journey Group.

Text: *1 John 1:1–4 (NIV84) 1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at, and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. 2 The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. 3 We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. 4 We write this to make our joy complete.... 7 ...if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.*

The Scripture tells us of God's intention for us to experience life in God through Christ, so that we can experience the fellowship and communion of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, not as isolated individuals, but as a community in fellowship with God and with one another.

I want to say "Thank you" to our Journey Guides and Co-leaders. These folks serve as servant leaders and shepherds in this body to help us grow in our fellowship with God and to help us grow in our fellowship with one another.

I also want to express my thanks to **Tim Smithwick** who serves as our **Small Group Pastor**. Tim has a wonderful team around him: Belinda Smithwick, his wife, and Tom and Margaret Petry. And, April Duffey handles a lot of the administrative coordination for Tim and the Journey Group Ministry.

Our Journey Group Leaders and Co-leaders play an important part in Calvary being a beautiful bride and a healthy body for the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. **Journey Groups are the heartbeat of Calvary.**
 - a. Our church vision calls us to express true Christian community.
 - b. And, Journey Guides and Co-leaders are helping us to fulfill our vision.
2. **What does that mean: to express true Christian community?**

- a. **First, God is building us into a place where he dwells** (Ephesians 2:19-22). We want God to feel at home in us.
 - i. *Ephesians 2:19–22 (NIV84) 19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. 21 In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. 22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.*
 - b. **Second, we want to grow in our capacity for authenticity** (1 John 1:7). That means we are growing in our ability to be open and honest with others in a safe place.
 - c. **Third, we want to practice being a community** where our attachment with the Lord and others fuels our joy, which empowers godly living (Numbers 6:22-26; John 15:9-12).
 - i. *Numbers 6:23–26 (NIV84) 23 “Tell Aaron and his sons, ‘This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them: 24 “ ‘ “The LORD bless you and keep you; 25 the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; 26 the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.” ’ ”*
 - ii. *John 15:9–12 (NIV84) 9 “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. 12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.”*
 - d. **Fourth, Journey Groups are one of the primary places where we minister to and care for one another as a body** (James 5:16).
 - i. *James 5:16 (NIV84) Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous one is powerful and effective.*
3. **Our Journey Guides and Co-leaders are the ones** who embody and model the vision and values of our congregation.
 - a. Thank you for your love for the Lord.
 - b. Thank you for your love for others.
 - c. Thank you for your love for Calvary.
 - d. Thank you for your loving servant leadership.
 4. **Let’s gather down front as Journey Group Leaders and Co-leaders for our time of prayer and commissioning.**

- a. May the Lord pour out upon you a fresh grace and fresh anointing for what he has called you to do.
 - b. May you have a revelation of his joy and pleasure in partnering with you.
 - c. May you have a vision of the impact you are having for the kingdom of God.
 - d. And, may you feel the appreciation and gratitude of a grateful church.
5. **Cast vision for the importance of Journey Groups.**
- a. Journey Groups are a place to learn and grow, to let the word of God have the run of the house (Colossians 3:16).
 - b. Journey Groups are a place of fellowship, authentic relationships, where we can be open and honest and share our lives.
 - c. Journey Groups are a place to give and receive ministry; it is a place of encounter with one another and the Lord, especially through prayer.
 - d. Journey Groups are a place to grow in unity and oneness.
 - e. Journey Groups are a place to break bread and to share life together.
6. **Cast vision for signing up for Journey Groups.**
- a. You heard the vision for Journey Groups and about the importance of Journey Groups in the life of our church.
 - b. Let me say it again: Journey Groups are one of the primary places where we minister to and care for one another as a body (James 5:16).
 - i. Journey Groups are a primary place for ministry.
 - ii. Journey Groups are a primary place for pastoral care.
 - iii. Journey Groups are a primary place to grow in authenticity.
7. **Call to action.**
- a. Please [sign up today](#) for the new round of Journey Groups.