



grow

Smaller as a Church

When God's people want to make an impact, they...

“When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, and the priests, who are Levites, carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it.”

Joshua 3:2-4 (NIV)

Focus on the Lord

When God's people want to make an impact, they...

“Then you will know which way to go,
since you have never been this way
before. But keep a distance of about a
thousand yards between you and the ark;
do not go near it.”

Joshua 3:2-4 (NIV)

Focus on the Lord

When God's people want to make an impact, they...

“Joshua told the people,
‘Consecrate yourselves,
for tomorrow the Lord will do
amazing things among you.’”

Joshua 3:5 (NIV)

Dedicate ourselves to the Lord

When God's people want to make an impact, they...

“Joshua said to the Israelites,
‘Come here and listen to the words
of the Lord your God.’”

Joshua 3:9 (NIV)

Listen to the Lord

When God's people want to make an impact, they...

“And as soon as the priests who carry the ark of the Lord—the Lord of all the earth—set foot in the Jordan, its waters flowing downstream will be cut off and stand up in a heap.

Joshua 3:13 (NIV)

Obey the Lord

Savior modeled their importance.

Why make an effort to grow smaller as a church?



Why make an
effort to grow
smaller as a
church?

Savior modeled their
importance.

Mandate to love one
another.

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effort to grow
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Allows for unlimited
growth in people &
church.

God's Growth Plan

“⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All the believers were together and had everything in common.”

Acts 2:42-47 (NIV)

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God's Growth Plan

“⁴⁵Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. ⁴⁶Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

Acts 2:42-47 (NIV)

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God's Growth Plan

“Day after day, in the temple courts
and from house to house,
they never stopped teaching and
proclaiming the good news
that Jesus is the Christ.”

Acts 5:42 (NIV)

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God's Two Part Growth Model

Part #1: large group
teaching

Part #2: small group
caring



*Let's us minister in a
safe environment.*

Why make an
effort to grow
smaller as a
church?



Our SHAPE for Ministry

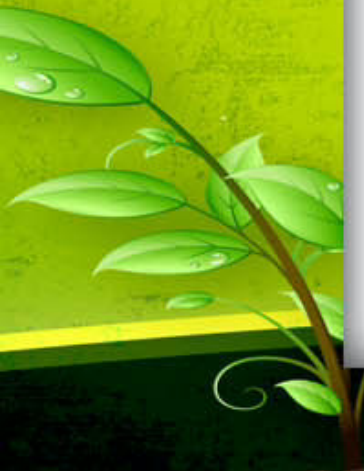
Spiritual gifts

Heart or Passion

Abilities

Personality

Experience in Life



Why make an effort to grow smaller as a church?



Let's us minister in a safe environment.

Looks to reach out to people where they are.

Our Challenge

For us to grow deeper in our maturity and greater in our influence, we must grow smaller in our focus and more intimate in our approach, and more passionate about small groups as a strategy to fulfill our mission of caring for people and sharing with people