

## **Greater Concerns**

Growth groups naturally tend towards an inward focus. As friendships deepen and people begin caring for each other in more significant ways, the relational bonds within the group get stronger and stronger. This is good, for it is one of the purposes of growth groups. There are however a few things that can be done ensure that group closeness does not lead to stagnancy.

### **The branching out section in the sermon based materials**

In order to facilitate an outward focus and connection with the larger church, the sermon based growth group materials will offer practical suggestions for group to embody the values of the church.

Every four to six weeks a new focus will be presented. We would ask leaders to make time to discuss the branching out section and encourage the group to experiment with the opportunities involved.

### **Serve together**

Working together as a team to benefit those not in the group is an easy way to bring a fresh sense of purpose to a group. Not only does this enlarge the heart of the group, but it also deepens the friendships within the group as people work together. Some ideas for team ministry include:

1. Serving together at Breakfast club
2. Assembling a Christmas hamper or Samaritans purse gift box.
3. Cooking a meal for Christianity Explored
4. Doing yard work for a needy friend or neighbor
5. Taking more initiative in connecting with a missionary

The best service projects are those that your group members discover for themselves.

### **Add People to the Group**

Group size is usually limited by physical space and by group dynamics. Pay attention to how many people can comfortably fit in the room in which you meet. If you have room to add people to the group, the best way is for the group to take the initiative. Talk about the need to add people to the group and invite the group to suggest people who could be invited to join. Approach these people and invite them to consider joining the group.