

**Series:** Church Strategy  
**Sermon title:** *Lengthen & Strengthen:  
Planting Multiplying Small groups*  
**Scripture:** Hebrews 3:12-14, Hebrews 10:23-25  
Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church  
April 29, 2018  
S.C. Brown, Pastor

We come today to week 4 in our Church Strategy, which is called “Lengthen & Strengthen”.

We have 5 cords that we want to lengthen; 5 areas of ministry that we need to stretch out...that we need to grow in.

We talked about PRAYER, PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL, ministry to PARENTS & CHILDREN, and this week, **PLANTING MULTIPLYING SMALL GROUPS.**

This could be a series in and of itself, so hold on tight to your seatbelt, this is going to be a bit like a mini-bus ride to Mongkok. Fast and furious.

You may want to take some notes and some photos of some screens. I’ll be glad, of course, to give you the slides.

The PDF is always up on the website.

**Let’s pray together.**

It is our hope and our vision that as a church we will continually be **BEHOLDING** GOD, **BELONGING** to one another by building each other up, and **BEING SENT** as his witnesses.

Well, today we look at HOW we can **BELONG** to one another better. How do we do that?

Our Sunday gatherings here are something I truly love. I can't wait to see everyone on Sunday.

But, can we really go deep here only?

Can we accomplish the “One Another” passages in just one hour a week here at CWBS?

We are commanded to “*One Another- One Another.*”

**Romans 12:10** - Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;

**Romans 15:14** - And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to admonish one another.

**Galatians 6:2** - Bear one another's burdens,

**Ephesians 5:19** - speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,

**Philippians 2:3** - Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;

**Colossians 3:13** - bearing with one another, and forgiving each other,

**1 Thessalonians 5:11** - Therefore encourage one another and build up one another,

**James 5:16** - Therefore, confess your sins to one another,

**1 Peter 1:22** - Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, ferently love one another from the heart,

**1 Peter 4:9** - Be hospitable to one another without complaint.

**1 Peter 5:5** - You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another.

Then we have the verses that were read earlier....

**Hebrews 3:12** Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. **13 But** exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. **14** For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.

**Hebrews 10:23** Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. **24** And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, **25** not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

God has provided a way for us to stay on the path.

God has provided for us a remedy to having an unbelieving heart; a protection from falling into sin!

What is it? **ONE ANOTHER.**

John Piper once said, ***“Sanctification is a community project.”***

If you want to be holy,  
if you want to grow,  
if you want to truly know God...and BELONG to the  
body of Christ in a deep way.....  
then we need to meet in a small group with others.  
That is the place where we do the ‘one another’  
passages.

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Now, in the rest of our time I want to lay out for you a  
METHOD.

I want to propose to you a new kind of small group.

It's the kind of small group that I have been doing off and on since I was 16 years old.

That's a long time!

I know of no other type of group, no other type of meeting together that has helped me more than this kind of group.

These groups are called:

**LIFE TRANSFORMATION GROUPS. (LTG'S)**

**What is an LTG?**

**What is a Life Transformation Group?**

A **Life Transformation Group** is made up of two to three people, all of the same gender, who meet weekly for spiritual growth and development.

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**Who should be in an LTG?**

There are only two suggested qualifications for starting or joining an LTG:

1. A desperate need for Jesus Christ ([Luke 5:31-32](#)).

[“Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 32 I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.”](#)

2. Faithfulness in the process itself ([2 Tim. 2:2](#)).

2 and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men,[a] who will be able to teach others also.

These two criteria balance one another to keep the group on track both with healing for hurting people and health for helping people.

To compromise either of these principles will slow down or derail the effectiveness of the group.

So, if you are desperate and hungry for Jesus Christ and want to grow to know him more and walk in holiness...this is for you.

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## What do you do in an LTG?

An **LTG** consists of 3 essential disciplines for personal spiritual growth—

- A steady diet of **Scripture**,
- **Accountability & Confession** of sin
- **Prayer** for others who need Christ.

1. **SCRIPTURE**: The power of the LTG system lies in the unleashing of God's Word into the lives of people. The Lord made it clear that the Word of God is the seed of new life. He said, "Now the parable is this: the seed is the word of God....But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard

the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance” (Luke 8:11, 15).

2. **ACCOUNTABILITY**: The LTG provides a wonderful place in which to be accountable to overcome patterns of sinful behavior.

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Questions like....

- Did you **BEHOLD GOD** this week and finish your reading? Did you hear from the Lord? What are you going to do about it?
- Have you **BELONGED** to the body this week & sought to use your gifts in the building up of others? How?
- How and where are you **BEING SENT** as a witness of Jesus Christ in your words & actions?
- Have you lacked any integrity in your financial dealings this week, or coveted something that does not belong to you?
- Have you been exposed to sexually alluring material or allowed your mind to entertain inappropriate thoughts about another person this week?
- Have you been honoring, understanding, and generous in your important relationships this past week?

- Have you damaged another person by your words, either behind his/her back or face-to-face?
- Have you given in to an addictive behavior this week? Explain.
- Have you continued to remain angry toward another or have you secretly wished for another's misfortune so that you might excel?
- Have you been completely honest with me?
- \_\_\_\_\_  
*Your own personalized accountability question.*

### **3. PRAYER**

Each member of the LTG is to identify the 2 or 3 people who are the highest evangelistic priorities God has laid on their hearts.

They share the names of these people at a group meeting, and each member writes the names down on the card in the spaces provided.

Each person should have listed all the names represented in the group, totaling **6** names.

Each time one of us does our Bible reading; we select one of the names and pray for that person using the suggested prayer guide.

With this system, the person who is listed for strategic prayer is prayed for two to three times by two or three different people every week.

### **Where do LTG's meet?**

anywhere.

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### **Let's summarize:**

- a. LTGs meet once a week for approximately an hour.
- b. LTGs are groups of two or three (adding a fourth person is the beginning of the second group, and *multiplication* is imminent).
- c. The groups are not mixed gender but same gender.
- d. There is no curriculum, workbook, or training involved.
- e. There is no leader needed in the group.
- f. Only 3 tasks are to be accomplished in an LTG.
  - A steady diet of **Scripture**
  - **Accountability & Confession** of sin
  - **Prayer** for others who need Christ.

LTG training will take place **next Sunday, May 6** during lunch. We will grab our lunch and meet in a quieter spot of LG7, where I will go into details such as: how much Bible reading per week, altering the accountability questions, how to multiply your group and when and

addressing whether a non-christian can be in your group.

CBIBC, let's lengthen our cords....let's plant many *multiplying* small groups.

Pray about starting a **LIFE TRANSFORMATION GROUP.**

This is the vehicle and method by which we will MAKE DISCIPLES and by which we will 'One another-One another.'

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**Hebrews 3:12** Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. **13** But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. **14** For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.

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