BRANCHES

BIG THINGS HAPPEN IN SMALL GROUPS

discussion questions | September 7, 2014

sermon series

No matter how much we enjoy the weekend worship experience, sooner or later, we stop growing. That's because we need more than great music and engaging message. We need to connect with other people who are on the same journey as us. Learning we're not alone as we try to follow Jesus changes everything. That's what **Branches** is all about. In a **Branches** group, you'll find people who've been where you are, who know the joys and pains of building relationships, work and figuring out your calling, raising a family, and leaving a lasting legacy. They're people you can join with in figuring out exactly how the new life Jesus offers us changes our whole world. Becoming part of a small group is the single best way to pursue a thriving, life-changing relationship with God. This Fall, **Branches** Small Groups will replace all Wednesday Adult Education opportunities.

Branches groups will begin the week of September 28 and run though the week of November 16, for a total of 8 weeks. Branches groups meet at various times throughout the week, including on Wednesday evenings, when we have ministries for teens and children from 6:30-8:00 pm.

Signing up for a **Branches** group is easy. Just go to **bcnaz.com/branches** and fill out the form. You can even sign up from your smartphone or tablet.

today

We live in a world that doesn't know how to disagree well. As a result, we form circles of people who largely agree with us, who see the world the way we do and reinforce our beliefs and ideas. Even in the Church, we tend to group with people like us. But according to Paul, we need people who are different from us. And our spirituality should connect us with people who aren't like us. If Church is one more place that affirms our divisions, we're doing it wrong.

scripture for further reading

Proverbs 27:17; 1 Corinthians 1:4-12; 11:17-30; 1 John 4:16-21

discussion questions

1. Why do we tend to fill our social circles with people who agree with us?
2. What makes disagreeing so difficult?
3. According to Paul, worshiping in such a way that we reinforce our divisions isn't actually worship. Why is that?
4. Share a way you've grown through being in a relationship with someone who sees the world differently from you.
5. Have you signed up for a Branches group yet? If not, what's holding you back?