

Sermon Notes – March 18, 2018

The question that we all need to answer is where do we see ourselves as RVCC in a year from now? Will we be unified? Will we be reaching our communities for Christ? Thom Rainer in his article “Churches That Break Out in 2018 Will Carry These 4 Characteristics” states that he has had a watchful eye on “breakout churches”, ones that have moved from struggling to thriving. From his watchful eye he sees 4 unique characteristics that are both the cause and the result of the breakout.

1. These breakout churches increased their efforts to reach their communities by fourfold.
  - a. Increase in effort, finances and time given to outreach ministries.
  - b. What do you see as the needs, opportunities and/or challenges that our communities are facing that we could invest in? Don't forget about the brokenness in our culture. Make a list, write that list down and pass it on to Pastor Randy.  
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2. These breakout churches focused on John 17:20-23 as an ongoing prayer effort towards unity.
  - a. How unified do you see us as a church today?  
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  - b. What are some ways that you as a life group can grow this prayer for unity?  
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3. These breakout churches made a concerted effort to abandon the entitlement mentality.
  - a. What does entitlement look like?

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b. Where do we see it evidenced at RVCC?

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c. What are some ideas of how we can abandon this mentality in our church?

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4. These breakout churches prayed for hearts that would be willing to accept new paradigms. (A paradigm is an important change that happens when the usual way of thinking about or doing something is replaced by a new and different way).
    - a. If we are going to breakout and reach our communities, what new paradigms do we need to embrace?
    - b. Again, please make a list and submit that list to Pastor Randy.  
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  5. All of this has the potential to feel overwhelmed and think how do we embrace all that is necessary to reach our community? We are just one church...
    - a. Consider Numbers 11:4-35. Is the Lord's arm too short to meet our needs?
    - b. Consider Isaiah 59:1.
    - c. What do these passages say to us today?  
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  6. Spend time praying through what's been discussed.