

**Ron Armstrong • March 23 & 24, 2019**  
**The Great Investment: Group Insurance**

**Ecclesiastes 4:9** Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: **10** If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. **12** Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

**I Kings 18:22** Then Elijah said to them, "I am the only one of the Lord's prophets left ...

**2 Timothy 4:9** Do your best to come to me quickly, **10** for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. **11** Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry. **12** I sent Tychicus to Ephesus. **13** When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments.

**Matthew 26:38** Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."

**40** Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Couldn't you men keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter.

**A. The ancient wisdom of "GROUPING."**

1. Being alone doesn't cause life to go badly; it just makes it worse when it goes badly all by itself.
2. Being in a group is INSURANCE for tomorrow's hard times and heartbreaks.

3. When life in the Bible was planned, it included a group; when it was really bad it, almost always included an element of "ALONENESS."

- a. Elijah- "I'm the only one left."
- b. Paul- "Please come quickly."
- c. Jesus- "Couldn't you pray with me even for an hour?"

4. Grouping doesn't look the same for everybody, but it is more than ACQUAINTANCE.

- a. We encourage you to get into a small group; it's a start, but it's not grouping.
- b. Grouping means there will be CLOSENESS between us.

**B. To make a group, do real grouping:**

1. Build SAFETY. People are looking for "belonging cues," and they need a lot of them.
  - a. Energy. They have to feel that you are investing in the conversation.
  - b. Individualize. Treat the person as unique and valuable.
  - c. Commitment. Signal that the relationship will continue.
2. SHARE vulnerability. It sparks cooperation and trust. (Cooperation hinges on it.)
  - a. Vulnerability is not touchy-feely. It communicates that I have weaknesses.
  - b. Signal – matching response – detection – norm that weaknesses are okay.
3. Establish PURPOSE.
  - a. Gently and repeatedly communicate the group's purpose. The group should know what its purpose is and what it isn't.
  - b. Make GIVING to the group your personal purpose.