

WE BELONG

15TH FEBRUARY 2015

ALLAN DEMOND

COMMUNITY: SKILL #1 "BE THERE FOR EACH OTHER: DEVOTION"

ROMANS 12: 10 & PETER 4:8

(If comfortable to do so) Share with the Group a relationship you have (or had) in which you were devoted to the other. What were some of the key elements? What did it feel like?

One definition of 'Devotion is' having an interest in each other'. How do you feel about that definition?

Read Romans 12:3-16 and 1 Peter 4:8. We are encouraged to love and honour each other. How do the passages together with the good example of some others in your life help you unpack the depth of meaning of, 'Being devoted to one another'?

How are you committed to one another in your Small Group?

To help us to think through various aspects of being committed to others, Allan suggested four areas in which we are challenged to think about and respond. What's your immediate response to each of the following?

1. People in need (refer v 13) - examples within the church include those who attend 'Dinner Tonite' and the Persian community.
2. Opposition: As Christians we are challenged to be different. Paul says we should bless those who criticize us/oppose us; v18 instructs us to live at peace with everyone.
3. Emotion: (ref v 15) How do we respond to those with deep emotions - we are meant to enter their experience – requiring energy and sometimes a sense of vulnerability.
4. Status: (ref v 16) What about those who are of lesser status - those we can lift up? eg When we offer to carry one another in prayer, then status disappears; we build beautiful bridges of connection and support.

How can we do this? (Ref. 1 Thess 3:12, 5:23-24; 2 Thess 2:16-17;)

Take-home reflection: In which area do I feel most challenged and how might I respond?