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I John 4:11-21

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**Small Groups**

**result in**

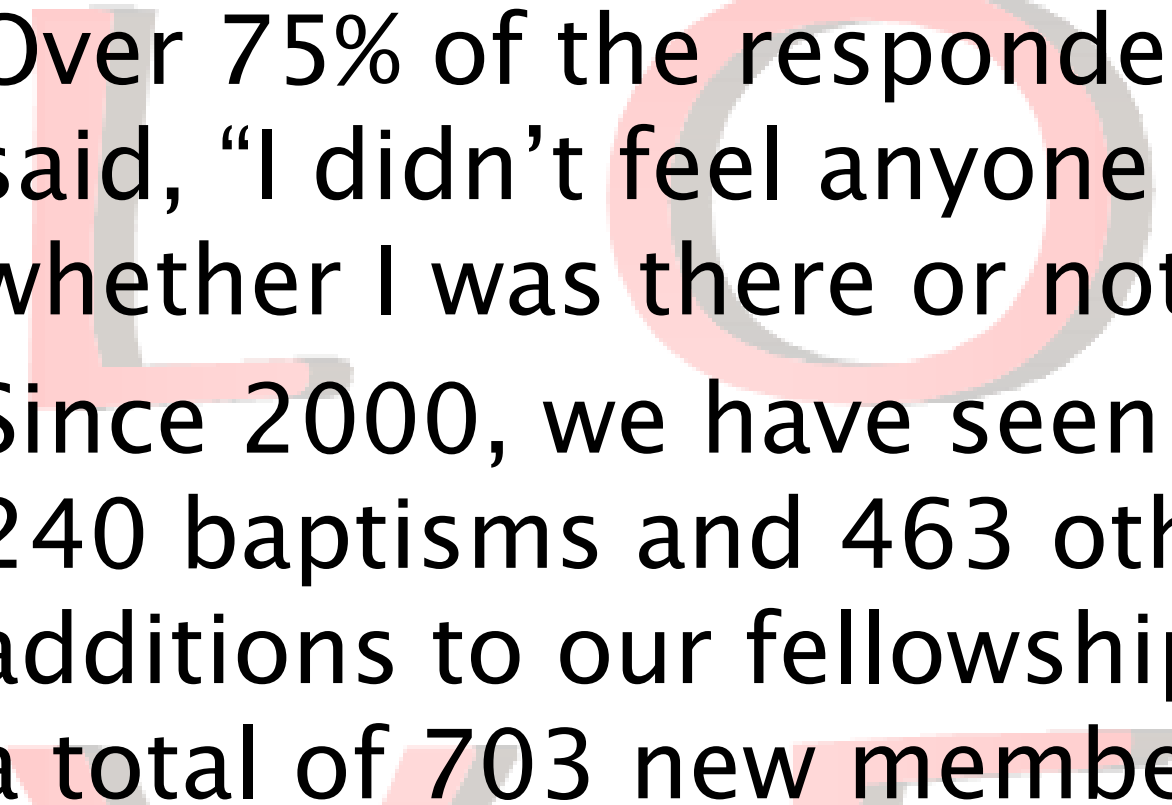
**Big Love**

# THE PROBLEM:

People do not feel loved.

a. Logically, statistically:

- 93% said they joined the church because of the pastor, but when asked, “What if the pastor leaves, will you leave?” 93% said, “No because I have friends here!”
- The average church member knows 76 people in the congregation.

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- Over 75% of the respondents said, “I didn’t feel anyone cared whether I was there or not.”
  - Since 2000, we have seen over 240 baptisms and 463 other additions to our fellowship for a total of 703 new members.

b. Emotionally

- Need for action.

# THE SOLUTION:

Small groups result in  
big love.

## a. Love one another

- 1 John 4:11
- 1 John 4:12-19
- 1 John 4:20-21

## **b. Healthy Small Groups**

- The small group must be Christ-centered.
- The small group must be biblically based to handle conflict.
- The small group must have relational health.
- The small group should strengthen the larger church body.

c. Alan Nelson, “Five levels of small groups”

- Polite and friendly
- Socially affirming
- Mutually earned
- Voluntarily surrendered
- Involuntary coerced

**If small groups  
result in big love,  
then become a part  
of a small group  
today.**

- a. Make the effort to visit a Sunday School class today.
- b. If you are in a small group, then give your small group a check-up.
- c. Attend a weekly Bible study during the week.
- d. Take the risk in approaching one or two others in our church about starting a life group, prayer group, or accountability group.

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