







#1 - After this sermon series:

- Have **sign-up tables**, with that small group leader to answer questions.
- Secure **contact information** of interested persons on the sign-up sheet.
- Pass out this information; **time, day, address** (maybe a map). Business card?

Or - #2, try this

- Announce, in **church bulletin** for 2-3 weeks about your upcoming group.
- Small group leaders could **divide the membership list** by; age (by decade), gender, and family.
- Each leader invites those with whom they are most comfortable
- **Experiment** prior to bringing non-SDAs

Or - #3, **smile** at everyone daily

- If they smile back, **talk**.
- If they talk back, **bring God** into your conversation. (Hasn't God given us ...)
- If they respond to this "God hint" **invite** them to your small group.
- Make business cards (day, time, & place)

Or - #4, go to friends & neighbors

- Bring a **baked good** (or something homemade)
- Say, "If you are **ever overwhelmed** and you want someone to pray for you, would you please ask me!"
- Once they ask, **invite** them to your small group.

Or - #5, hold a "**block party**"

- Invite the **police** for a "Neighborhood Watch" (or a dialogue).
- Invite neighbors to come and bring food
- Toward the end, **invite** them to your small group (give time, day, & place)

Successful small groups have these **people**:

- **Leader** and an **assistant leader** & maybe a **host/hostess**
- The Assistant leader is **in training** to become a leader
- When your group becomes **too large**, the Assistant becomes the Leader of the split-off group. Then, secure **two more Assistants** (one for each group).

The Leader's role:

- Facilitates a **balance** between everyone having time to talk, yet not dominating the conversation.
- **Encourage** sharing, **affirm** responses, and gently hold them accountable where needed.
- Learn to lead by asking **good questions**.

Characteristics of good leaders:

- They **pray often** for each attendee.
- They are **empathic**, nurturing
- They ensure the group is a "**safe place**".
- They encourage each attendee to use his/her **gifts** to bless others.
- They **train** their Assistant by giving him/her opportunities to lead.

What is the **ideal group size**?

- Not less than **three** and not more than **twelve**.
- **Five to seven** is the ideal size. This gives time for all to share and not be over-looked.

When a group becomes **too large**

- Point out that all **don't have time to share** – the purpose of the group.
- Since they'll **resist** splitting, arrange for **monthly social gatherings** of both groups.
- **Short term** groups don't usually have this concern.

How long should your group go?

- Due to busy schedules, try **6 – 12 weeks**.
- If your group wants to **continue**, vote to continue for another 6 – 12 weeks, etc.
- Having an **end date**, reduces fear of people making an endless commitment.
- Most groups do not meet during the **summer**.

What do you do with **children**?

- Provide **child care** by **rotating** people each week. Use a different room.
- Or, each **contributes** for a responsible teenager (or Grandma) to watch them.
- A **host/hostess** might provide child-care.

Opening night instructions:

- #1, No **interrupting** when another person shares.
- #2, No attempts to **fix** another, or share a **comparable** story.
- #3, No one **dominates** the conversation!
- #4, No **gossiping**!
- **Repeat** instructions as needed

Possible weekly schedule

- 10-15 minutes for **sharing**
- 5-10 minutes for **prayer**
- 20-25 minutes for **Bible study**
- 5-10 minutes to organize for a **service/outreach** project
- If you meet only twice a month, go 90 minutes, if only once a month, go about 3 hours, expand sections accordingly.

Be flexible! Not all groups are the same.

- Whereas all four essential activities **must** be done, how much time is spent per section will be different per group.
- More **extrovert** groups spend more time in sharing. More **introvert** groups spend more time in study.
- **Service** minded people may spend most of their time preparing to do a service project.

The use of **ice breakers**:

- Use mainly at the first few meetings.
- Ask "revealing" (about them) questions, allowing each to share.
- **Examples**; What was your favorite Christmas & why, or, what animal (or color) best represents you and why, etc.

Practical tips for **supportive fellowship**

- **Ask**, "What happened in your life this week?" Or, "What would you like us to pray about for you?" (2-3 minutes each)
- Taking brief **notes** will inform your prayers through the week.
- If someone is **too shy** don't make them feel uncomfortable about sharing.

Practical tips for **prayer**

- If someone **can't pray out loud**, have them pray silently, saying "amen" (out loud) so the next person knows when to pray.
- Keep a **prayer journal** listing requests and date of answered prayer (builds faith).
- If a **Pentecostal** is present, ask for translator prior to prayer (see 1 Cor. 14:27).

Practical tips for Bible study

- See **first presentation** for additional tips.
- Use **one Gospel story** at most per week.
- After exhausting the Gospels, go to another NT book, or EGW book on the life of Christ.

Practical tips for Bible study

- Start with **EGW's quote** of using one's **imagination** to relive that Bible story (see TMB:1).
- Choose to be a **participant** or nearby **observer** in your Bible story.
- **Ask**, "What does this tell me about God?" (His character) and "How could this (story/verse) apply to me?"

Practical tips for Bible study

- If someone says something **outlandish**, find something in what they said to **affirm** (that they are trying) and **guide** them back to what the Bible says.
- Remember when using one's imagination, there are **no wrong mental pictures**. Affirm more than correct!

You don't have to study our doctrines

- Observe who **struggles** finding the passage or understands what it means.
- **Privately** offer to teach them "the **major themes** of the Bible" so they will be more comfortable in class (Bible studies).
- I've never been turned down with this offer and have baptized almost everyone that I taught the "major themes."

Practical tips for **service/outreach**

- Read **books** on service evangelism
- **Ask**, "What needs to be done within our community (or church)?" "How can we improve the quality of life within our community?"
- Talk with **service organizations** within your community for suggestions.
- **Decide** what your group can do.

Small Group Leaders **MUST** be ministered to.

- You can't give what you don't have!
- **Leaders need to meet** at least monthly
- **Share** what is happening and learn from each other.
- **Share** with your pastor any needs exceeding what your group can handle. (see **Jethro principle**, Ex. 18)

My **favorite books** on small groups:

- **"Successful Small Groups"** by Kurt Johnson
- **"Small Groups, Big Impact"** by Jim Engli & Dwight Marble
- **"Nine Keys to Effective Small Group Leadership"** by Carl George

My **favorite books** on small groups:

- **"How to Build a Small Group Ministry"** by Neal McBride
- **"Real Small Groups Don't Just Happen"** by Neal McBride
- See what are the most popular books on small groups on **Amazon**, etc. that are in harmony with these principles.

When will you start your small group?



- What prevents you from being in a small group?
- How will resolve this (these) concern(s)?
- Prayer of dedication
