MinistryLift Small Groups conference Kajle Radbourne

Breakout Session: Multi-leveled groups kajle@dhbc.ca

What are multi-leveled groups?

Multi-leveled groups are essentially a structure that allows for two different groups that are together part of a single discipleship strategy but allow for two different contexts of community to accomplish different objectives and types of growth.

Theory and Purpose for multi-leveled groups:

*Sociological spaces: - Edward Hall*

Public Space is where we share common experience and connect through an outside influence

Social Space is where we share an authentic “snapshot” of who we are, which shows what it would be like to have a personal relationship with us.

Personal Space is where we share private experiences, thoughts and feelings

Intimate Space is where we share “naked” information about who we are and are not ashamed.

The strengths of a multi-leveled approach:

1. Able to have an open and a closed group
2. Different contexts to be equipped and do the work of the ministry

* Eph 4:11-13

The challenges of a multi-leveled approach:

1. Time: In most contexts, you can only expect your congregation to attend one meeting per week in addition to Sunday
2. Community: If you meet less frequently the sense of community and trust is harder to build
3. Redundancy: Unless the leadership **and** those who attend groups know the purpose of each group size **and** structure their time together accordingly the two group sizes can become redundant.
4. Continuity: While each group is distinct, a lack of continuity leads people to often join one or the other but not both sets of groups. There needs to be a strong sense of how the two groups work *together*.
5. Leadership: Double the amount of groups you have, double the leaders you need.
6. Content: What do groups do together?

A multi-leveled approach: Two models

*Cluster Model*

Missional mid-sized groups of 20-30 which house small groups of 5-12

*Pod Model*

Discipleship-orientated “pods” of 3-4 that meet from within home groups of 7-20