

SMALL GROUPS and other Choices

Life is a series of choices
 We make choices 7 days a week that acknowledge God
 or marginalise God

Small groups choose to connect with God and with each other

Small group leaders choose to facilitate connection

Why Small Groups?

Small Group Vision

start With a common goal that unites all of your small group leaders:
 ~ A small group community for all who desire small group community ~

How do we get there from here?

Small Group communities need space
 Small Group communities need leaders

Space + new leaders = new groups
 = A small group community for all who desire small group community

Seeing The Need

VACANCIES

Healthy Small Groups Create Leaders

The best source of new small group leaders: Healthy small groups

Small groups are all about Following Jesus
Following Jesus means emulating Jesus

Small groups set priorities by Following Jesus
Following Jesus turns priorities into action

Healthy small groups follow Jesus
 Healthy small group leaders follow Jesus...and a few practical leadership tips

Extended Health Plan

Big Picture Ideas for Healthy Small Groups

- Know where you're going
- Communicate why you're going

Focus on purpose – as you lead Keep Christ at the center

Revisit your purpose – as a group Use Scripture as a compass

Revise your purpose – as you grow Because Biblical literacy matters!

The Big Picture Roadmap

What is the Role of a Small Group Leader?

1 Set the stage: Determine your purpose and direction

Purpose = what will your group focus on?
 Fellowship? Discipleship? Ministry? Evangelism? Worship?

Direction = how will you actively serve your purpose?
 Connecting? Studying? Serving? Inviting? Praying? Celebrating?

Follow your heart and your head – purpose/direction options are limitless

Starting Along the Path

Small Group Leaders... Lead

By:

- Modeling compassionate care
- Building trust by honouring confidentiality
- Encouraging participation and healthy risk-taking
- Encouraging listening – to God and to one another
- By sharing the load? Yes, sharing the load...

Leading the Way

Small Group Leaders...Train Co-Pilots

Even super heroes need sidekicks!

Be aware of mature and maturing leadership gifts in your group
Maturity + availability = potential new leadership co-pilot

3 Step Co-pilot training:

- 1 Explain the mechanics of a group gathering - The co-pilot starts by observing
- 2 Co-leading: The co-pilot leads one aspect of each gathering
- 3 Leading entire gatherings – Be there for back up and encouragement

Keep it simple, keep it moving forward

Sharing the Way

Why Training Matters

Training is practical:
Training leaders builds up small group competencies
Tomorrow's church leaders grow in maturity as today's group leaders

Training is biblical:
We proclaim Christ, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ.
Col. 1:28

Training is strategic:
New groups need more than just space – new groups need leaders

Nurturing Gifts

Demythologize the Leadership Role

Leaders ...	Leaders also...
Look like you and me	Learn as they go
Make mistakes like you and me	Teach as they go
Struggle at times (like you and me)	► Choose to lead!

Leaders R' Us

Small Group Leaders...Celebrate

An excerpt from the Tony Campolo sermon
The Kingdom of God is a Party!

"God will not give up on his world. He didn't come into the world to condemn the world but to deliver it and to give to the world joy, joy, joy, joy, unspeakable joy."

Acknowledge and celebrate community
Celebrate God and celebrate one another
Celebrate "...joy, joy, joy, joy, unspeakable joy."

Celebrate Along the Way

Small Group Leaders...Expand

Expansion takes healthy risks and breaks down barriers

Expand ideas: Introduce new ways to study Scripture

Expand your community: Invite friends and neighbours to visit your group

Expand your small group's influence: Serve in your community

Expand your compassion: Care for and encourage 'difficult' people

Expand your life: Take spiritual disciplines seriously

Expand your common sense: Take care of yourself, your group needs you!

Expand Your Leadership

Small Group Leaders...Survey

Survey your small group landscape – What's growing? What's withering?

Take time to:

Revisit your purpose as a group: Are things working out as you envisioned?

Renew your commitment to one another: Don't take community for granted

Reset the stage: Apply what has been learned to refine purpose and direction

Close the training cycle: Let co-pilots become pilots

Survey ~ Learn ~ Apply

Small Group Leaders...Are Never Alone
 Broadcast your safety net for leaders

Small Group Ministry leaders can help with:

- Small group launches and strategic planning
- Bible study resources
- Small group facilitation and training
- Leader-to-leader mentoring
- Community service opportunities
- Conflict resolution

Small Groups – Large Support

Collaboration

Review – From the Sofa to the Leader’s Chair

- 1 Set an irresistible goal: A group for everyone who desires a small group
 Key ingredients: space and new leaders
- 2 The overriding principle: New leaders come from healthy groups
- 3 Healthy Groups aren’t an accident: A defined purpose steers their activity
- 4 Every leaders needs to share the load with a Co-pilot
 Consciously modelling, mentoring and celebrating
- 5 Close the training cycle - Let Co-pilots know when it’s time to lead
- 6 Repeats steps 3, 4 & 5
