

SMALL GROUP LEADER TRAINING

“ . . . each member belongs to all the others.” (Romans 12:5 NIV)



WHAT IS BIBLICAL COMMUNITY?

THE TRIUNE GOD	OLD TESTAMENT	NEW TESTAMENT
There is <i>one</i> God who has revealed himself to us in <i>three</i> co-equal and co-eternal persons—Father, Son, and Spirit—each relating to one another in self-giving love and humility.	Hebrew family Nation of Israel Example of Moses (Exodus 18)	Jesus and the Twelve “fellowship” (<i>koinōnia</i>) Early house churches (Romans 12) The “one anothers”

Through faith in Jesus Christ, we share a “common life” with the triune God (1 John 1:3; indwelling of the Spirit) and as a result with one another; therefore, we belong to one another (Jerry Bridges, True Community).

PRACTICAL SKILLS

Goal of Leading a Small Group Discussion

Facilitate a meaningful conversation among group members for *transformation*.

Your First Meeting

“What do we need to remember as a group in order for us to have a meaningful discussion each week?”

Create a Safe, Accepting Environment

- Commit to confidentiality
- Model authenticity
- Prepare ahead
- Beware of non-verbal cues (handout)
- Honor the time
- Affirm every answer (handout)
- Respond to melt-downs with care and concern
- Handle conflict carefully

You must let no unwholesome word come out of your mouth, but only what is beneficial for the building up of the one in need, that it would give grace to those who hear.

Ephesians 4:29 NET

Be Attentive to Quiet and Talkative Group Members

QUIET PEOPLE	TALKATIVE PEOPLE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Engage them in casual conversation before and after the meetingCall on them at timesEncourage and affirm them	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Reign in rabbit trailsCut them off graciouslyMeet/talk with them privately

Handling Error

- Use the Bible as your authority
- Draw out biblical principles from other group members
- Don't become the authority and correct everyone
- Remember there are many "gray" areas where people won't agree
- Thank him/her for sharing and ask others to respond
- Create an environment where members can disagree in love and with respect

Two Key Skills

ASK GOOD _____	LISTEN _____
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Use Variety of Questions

- Keep questions simple and short
- Consider answering a question with a question (follow-up questions)
- Use questions to clarify the meaning of what has been said
- Use "yes" and "no" questions sparingly
- Be cautious about using "why" questions
- Don't waste time with wild speculations

NOTES: