

Launching and Leading Small Groups

Summer Break Out Series
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July 23, 2023

Groups & Small Groups - What We Have

- ▶ **Definition:** An "Immanuel group" would be any group of people you meet regularly with for a predetermined purpose.
 - ▶ Large groups (Sunday AM Worship Service, Hispanos en Cristo, Sunday PM Worship Service)
 - ▶ Mid-sized groups (ABF's, Core Strength, some Women's Bible studies, etc.)
 - ▶ Small Groups on Campus (Women's Bible Studies, Subset Groups of ABF's, MOB, Core Strength, Student Ministries, Care & Counseling Groups).
 - ▶ Classes (IBI).
 - ▶ Service Groups (Music & Worship, Parking, Ushers, Children's Ministry Leaders, Elder Councils, etc.)
 - ▶ Small Groups Off Campus meeting primarily in homes.

Another Emphasis

- ▶ *THE PURPOSE OF THIS TRAINING IS TO ENCOURAGE AND TRAIN ANY GROUP, BUT PRIMARILY TO ENCOURAGE THE LAUNCHING OF NEW OFF-CAMPUS SMALL GROUPS THAT MEET IN HOMES.*

What is a Small Group ?

When Should It Meet?

- ▶ Generally speaking, 6 - 12 people
- ▶ A loving group dynamic that includes the Investment of Time & Intentionality

- ▶ At a minimum...at least Once a Month
- ▶ Better to Best ...Two Times per Month to Weekly
- ▶ It's Good to Allow for Occasional Breaks in the Schedule

Open or Closed Group ???

OPEN GROUPS

- ▶ All ABFs are open mid-sized groups
- ▶ An OPEN GROUP is one that anyone can attend.
- ▶ Demographic Distinctives (Men's Groups, Women's Group, Couples Group)

CLOSED GROUPS

- Support Groups
- Addiction Recovery Groups
- Grief Groups
- Accountability Groups

Immanuel Groups Require...

- ▶ A Designated Leader and Host (Must be an IBC Member)
- ▶ Spiritual Maturity - Qualifications of Deacon in 1 Timothy 3:8-13
Fruit of the Spirit - Galatians 5: 22-23
- ▶ Spiritual Gifts Required: For the Leader - Leadership & Teaching
For the Host - Hospitality & Service
- ▶ A Designated Time and Place to Meet
- ▶ Connection with People to Enlist in the Group
- ▶ “Kingdom” Focused
- ▶ Elder Oversight - Adhering to the IBC Statement of Faith

Elements of A Small Group

- ▶ Reading the B-I-B-L-E
- ▶ Teaching that Includes Q & A with Group Interaction
- ▶ In mixed groups, Men should teach, but women may share perspectives and insights and participate in discussions.
- ▶ Expect Life-Change
- ▶ Resources: Approved Bible Study or Video Curriculum

Elements of A Small Group

- ▶ Inductive Bible Study: What Does it Say? What Does it Mean? How Do I Apply It?
Observation.....Interpretation.....Application
- ▶ Teaching Responsibilities Can Be Shared
- ▶ Fellowship - but think Discipleship
- ▶ Prayer
- ▶ Service & Ministry
- ▶ Evangelism

A “Transition Season”

- ▶ Healthy small groups should also have a time of the year [usually in the Summer] when members can decide whether to continue their involvement in the group; or if they desire, to discontinue attending the group.