

Jesus Discipled a Small Group. How Can We Do the Same?

Small groups aren't just an optional extra in a church programme but are biblical examples of how we grow as disciples. They provide amazing opportunities for deeper Bible study, closer fellowship, and personal prayer; however, leading discussion in smaller groups can at times be challenging, as we try to help everyone contribute in a meaningful way. This workshop will reflect on the importance of small groups and offer extremely practical guidance pointers on how to facilitate conversation and better shape them as discipling environments.

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I. The Method of Jesus

“Scripture is not only a message book but also a method book. It conveys not only the what but also the how. Embedded in the story of the good news is instruction and modelling of the means we are to use to ensure its transmission into the lives of the next generation.” Ogden

- A. He invested in the few
- B. He prioritised relationship
- C. He pursued transformation
- D. He engaged them in mission

II. The Nature of Small Groups

A. Is Not:

- 1. A formal meeting
- 2. A comprehension exercise
- 3. A preaching opportunity
- 4. About sharing gossip
- 5. Merely about the meeting

B. Should:

- 1. Involve Bible study and application

2. A space to share openly and honestly
3. A springboard to deeper community
4. A place where everyone can contribute

III. Top Tips for Facilitating Discussion

- A. Set expectations
- B. Find good content
- C. Think through the space
- D. Push for participation
- E. Warm up the conversation
- F. Observe the Bible text
- G. Answer questions with a question
- H. Go beyond comprehension
- I. Leave space
- J. Go beyond the group

Suggested Resources:

[“Side by Side”, Ed Welch](#)

[“Leading Small Groups with Purpose”, Steve Gladen](#)

[**Deep Roots of Resilient Disciples, Rick Hill**](#)

[5 Tips on Leading Small Groups](#)

[Training Videos for Leaders](#)

[Proximity Discipleship Resources](#)