

Quick Win: One simple key to Improve Small Groups

Hey folks, welcome to this Quick Win on one simple key to improve small groups.

So, what's the win in this Quick Win? Well, healthy small groups, healthy church. There's no doubt about that. We need to put people in rows and circles to disciple them into a walk with Jesus.

In rows on the weekend in weekend services. In circles in small groups with all sorts of dimensions, size and purposes. But you need to put people in small groups, I think, to really ultimately disciple them.

Let's look at this one simple key to improve your small groups.

Give every member a task

Give every member a task in the small group. Everyone who comes to a small group should have a task, or a role, something that they input into the small group or something they carry. Because I tell you, when people have a task to do or a role to fulfil, they get more committed to the group.

This is very simple. If I was running a small group these days, I used to run connect groups in my own church when I was pastoring, but if I was running a small group today I would hand out these sort of tasks to people

1. Birthdays

You're in charge of birthdays. You make sure you've got everyone's birthday, you organise a card, a simple little "Mars Bar" present, something that acknowledges the birthday. And you celebrate the birthday, maybe a cupcake or a big cake, you could just vary that up but you're in charge of birthdays.

2. Prayer

You're in charge of prayer. You just hunt around and find out prayer requests. Keep your ear to the ground and when you hear that a member of the group has got a need, you go to prayer about it personally.

MEMBER'S HUB

Also, as long as confidentiality is appreciated and administered well, you get other people praying into that situation. People know that you're the go to person for prayer, getting prayer requests made and maybe distributed. Not always distributed but definitely know that there's a go to person for prayer needs in the group.

3. Discussion

The leader should not lead all of the discussions. Small group leaders should train two or three others to lead discussions so they don't feel the weight of every discussion that I've got to lead. They actually train one, two or three others amongst the group and you can find some real gems there. People who don't want to lead a group but love to lead a discussion.

It's a great task to give to people.

4. Attendance roll

Give someone the attendance roll. Maybe two people can do the attendance roll for when one of them can't make it. They have to go online into the database, or text it in or write it on a bit of paper, however you collect that sort of data, give that off to someone else in the group to do that every time you meet.

I would suggest a couple of people to do that just to cover any gaps.

5. Texting

Put someone in charge of texting to the group. Texting reminders, texting inspirational thoughts about the discussion we just had, or the one coming up. Just put someone in charge of that communication connection amongst the group.

So they have a reminder about the group coming up or a reminder to read a passage of scripture, or to read this blog post before you come, or watch a three minute YouTube clip, or whatever! But put someone in charge of texting.

6. Food

Have two or three people in charge of food. Don't just leave it to the host of the house, ask other people to be involved in that.

You know what I'm doing of course, I'm asking you to find people that have a certain passion or bent, maybe even a gifting in all these different areas of attendance roll data type people, foodie hospitality type people, prayer people. All these different gifts that are in the group, just to put a bit of fuel on them to make them fire up even more.

7. Shepherding

Some people are not great at leading groups or leading discussions but they really have a heart to care for people. So appoint one, two or three people in your group to do shepherding, to care for people, to be aware of people who are going through a tough time or are willing to visit people and just do that shepherding, caring role that's so important in the life of the group.

Of course you want everyone caring for one another but some people have a really strong bent and gift and passion in that. An ability to listen and to empathise. Release them in the life of your group.

8. Engagement

How do you get people to engage outside the group? This might be some social events. Certainly use some social media to get people engaged.

Get someone to put their thinking cap on and think how do we get people to engage with one another. Maybe organise some coffees, some outings etc but think about engagement beyond the group meeting because if people are engaged with one another, they're going to disciple one another, and they're going to do life together. Not that I'm a fan of that cliché but engagement, I think, is important.

Ok, what else can you think of? Are there any other tasks or roles that you could add that really will help your small group grow and be healthy.

There you go, on key to improve small groups. A fairly simple one but I think you could make great use of it.

God bless you, thanks for joining me today.