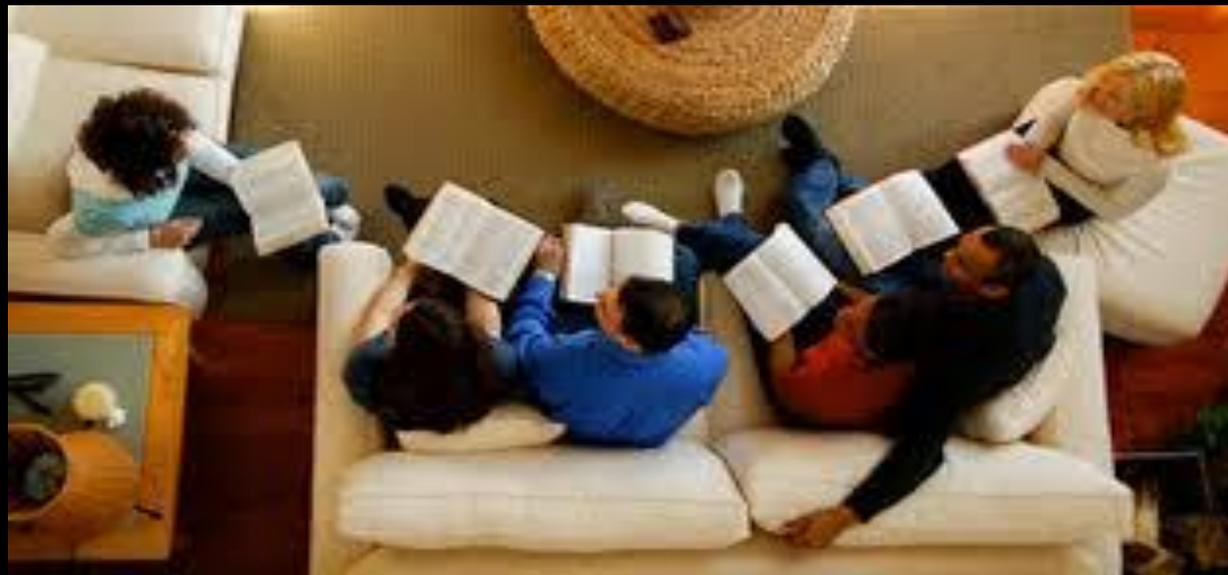




*Created by Rev. Beth Caulfield 10/2014*

# small groups

connect | grow | serve



# JOHN WESLEY AND SMALL GROUPS



- ✓ “Holy Club”
- ✓ Lay-driven Small Group Ministries

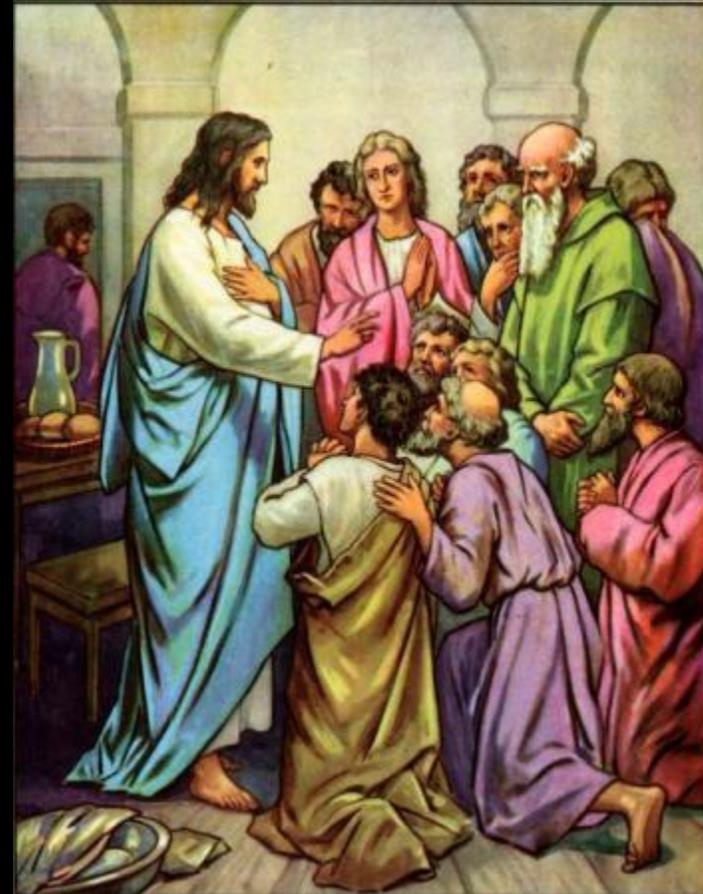
**HEBREWS 10:24-26**

**(CEB)**

**<sup>24</sup> AND LET US CONSIDER EACH OTHER CAREFULLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF SPARKING LOVE AND GOOD DEEDS. <sup>25</sup> DON'T STOP MEETING TOGETHER WITH OTHER BELIEVERS, WHICH SOME PEOPLE HAVE GOTTEN INTO THE HABIT OF DOING. INSTEAD, ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER, ESPECIALLY AS YOU SEE THE DAY DRAWING NEAR.**

# JESUS AND SMALL GROUPS

- ✓ Chose and worked closely with 12 Disciples
- ✓ Sent out teams of 2



# GNJUMC STRATEGIC MINISTRY PLAN

*“Vital congregations evidence their vitality through the number of disciples in small groups for learning and faith formation.”*

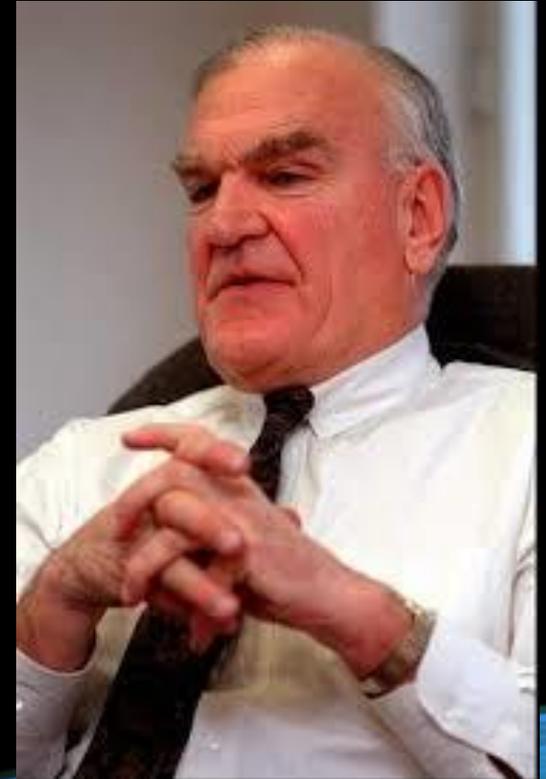
*“To be achieved by 2018 – **increase the percentage of worshipers in small groups from 43% to 75%.**”*

# SMALL GROUPS MINISTRY BRING VITALITY BECAUSE:

- It Deepens Relationships with People and God
  - Builds Christian Community
  - Builds Support Networks

**“AMERICANS ARE AMONG THE  
LONELIEST PEOPLE IN THE  
WORLD.”**

**- George Gallup, Jr**





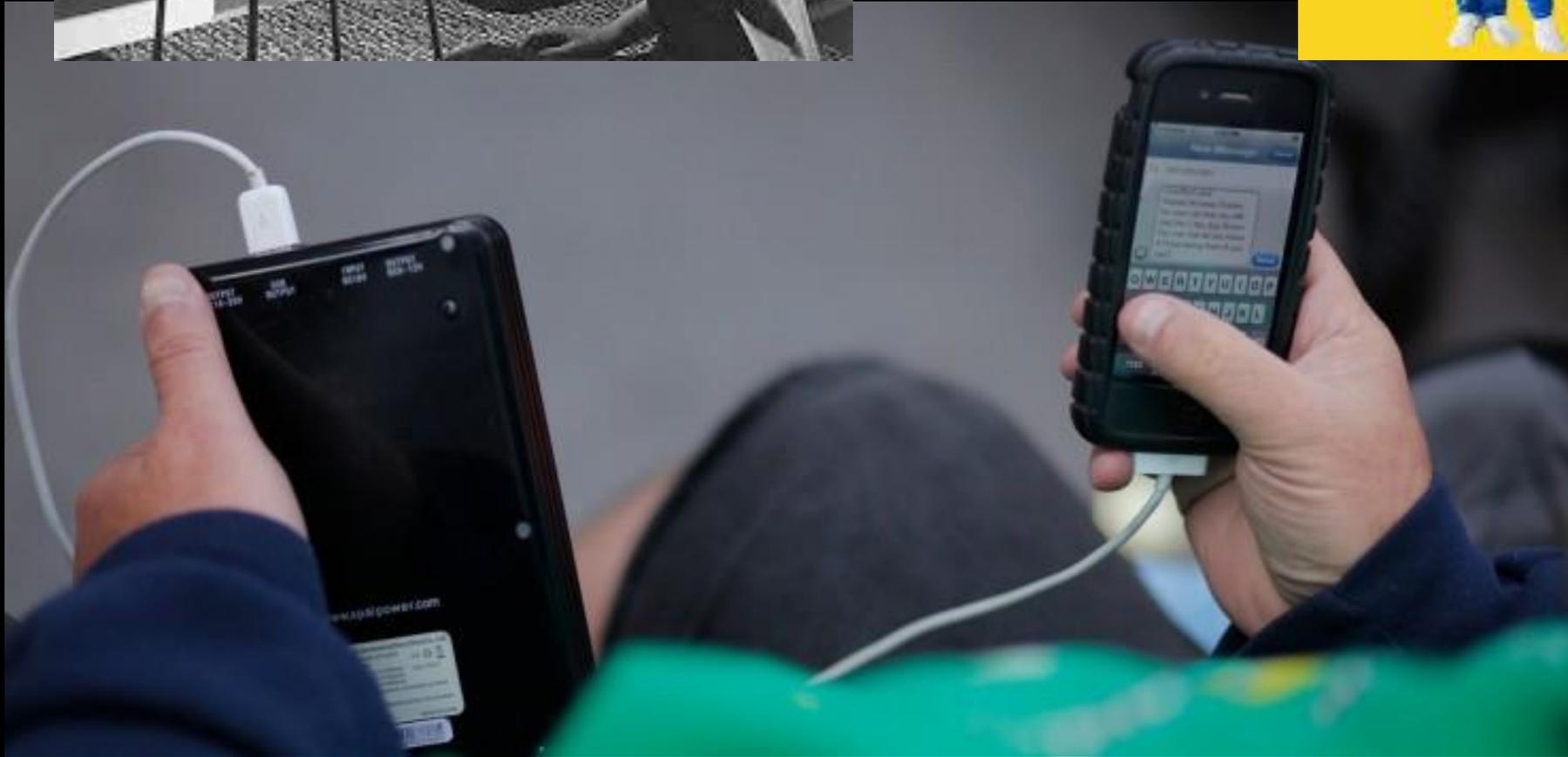
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# Our Culture Craves Relationships



ACQUAINTANCE = FRIENDSHIP

# MOST SPIRITUALLY VULNERABLE WHEN ISOLATED



# We Were Created to be in Relationship

- “Let us make humanity in our image” - *Genesis 1:26*
- “It is not good for the man to be alone.” - *Genesis 2:18*
- Jesus wanted us to be as one like He and the Father so that we would witness to Him – Good Community is part of our Mission as the church *John 17:20-23*

# SMALL GROUPS MINISTRY BRING VITALITY BECAUSE:

- **It Deepens Relationships with People and God**
  - Builds Community
  - Builds Support Networks
- **Enhances Prayer Lives**
- **Increases Engagement with God's Word**
- **Encourages Accountability**
- **Offers Opportunity to Discover and Utilize Spiritual Gifts**

50% OF ADULT CHRISTIANS BELIEVE THERE SHOULD BE MORE TO CHRISTIAN LIFE.





# ***WHAT IS SMALL GROUP MINISTRY?***

- **Small groups are gatherings of up to 15 people that are intentionally planned for growing disciples' faith, spirituality and engagement in the world. They meet at least twice a month, are rooted in prayer, are conversationally driven, and involve study and/or outreach. Each member becomes a teacher and learner through a facilitated sharing. They build relationships with God and people and thus help make the community and the world a better place. Sunday "Church School" classes, music ministry teams and other church groups *may, or may not be* a small group, depending on how their meetings are structured when considering the above factors.**

# TYPES OF SMALL GROUPS

## LONG TERM & SHORT TERM

- ✓ Bible Study
- ✓ Study Topic
- ✓ Accountability
- ✓ Ministry
- ✓ Interests & Hobbies
- ✓ Other



The background features a green grid pattern. In the foreground, there are black silhouettes of four people sitting on the floor in a circle, engaged in conversation. The overall theme is group interaction and training.

# Shepherding and Facilitating Training for

# SMALL GROUPS

# SMALL GROUP LEADER

## WORKSHOP GOAL:

EMBRACE SHEPHERDING AND

FACILITATING

NOT

TEACHING

## Cowboys drive Cattle



## Shepherds lead Sheep



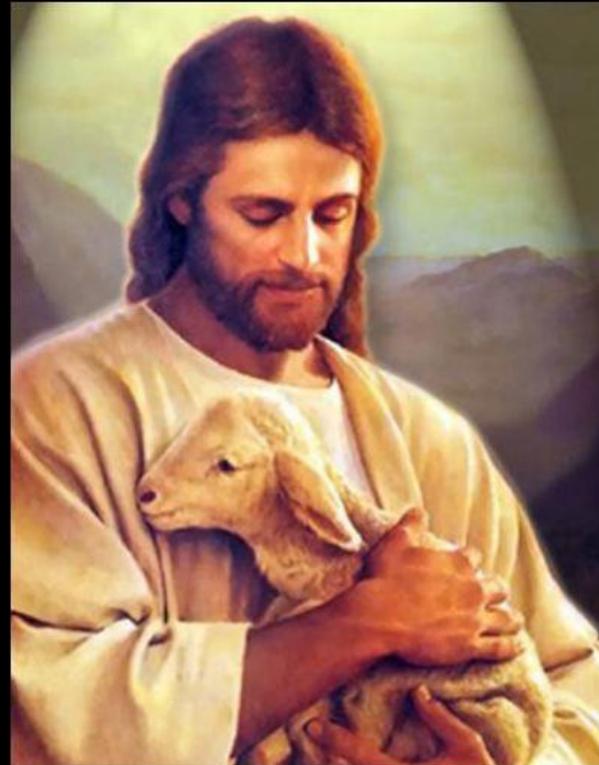
# AS SHEPHERDS SMALL GROUP LEADERS SHOULD:

- Love
- Build Relationships with each member
- Encourage genuine fellowship among group members



# A SHEPHERD IS: AN AMBASSADOR FOR CHRIST

2 Corinthians 5:20 (CEB)  
So we are ambassadors  
who represent Christ. God  
is negotiating with you  
through us. We beg you as  
Christ's representatives, "Be  
reconciled to God!"



# AN AMBASSADOR FOR CHRIST

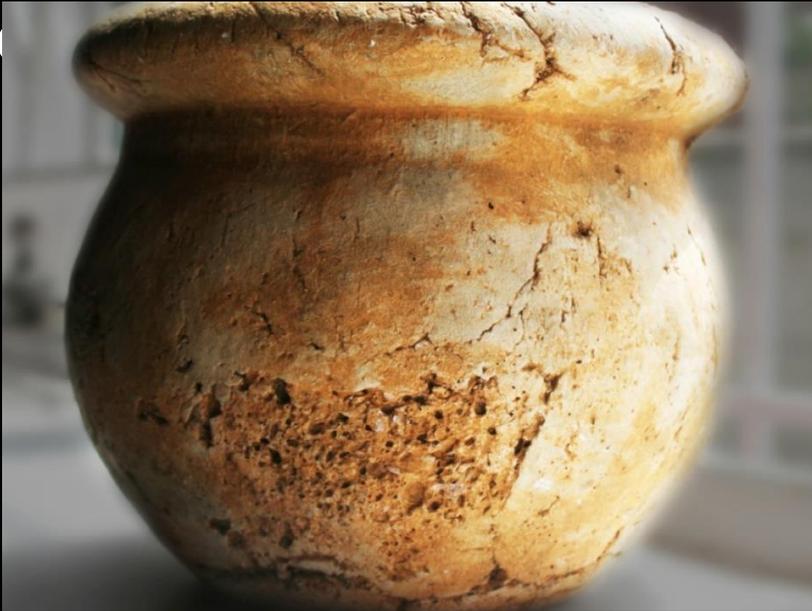
## Step 1: Attitude toward self

...a mystery that has been hidden for ages and generations but which has now been revealed to his holy people. <sup>27</sup> God wanted to make the glorious riches of this mystery known among the Gentiles, which is **Christ living in you, the hope of glory.**

Colossians 1:26-27 (CEB)

# AN AMBASSADOR FOR CHRIST

Attitud



But we have this treasure in clay pots so that the awesome power belongs to God and doesn't come from us.

2 Corinthians 4:7 (CEB)

# ARE YOU SELF-CONSCIOUS?



# ARE YOU SELF-CONSCIOUS?

**“I’M ONE OF THE WORLD’S MOST SELF-CONSCIOUS PEOPLE. I REALLY HAVE TO STRUGGLE.”**

**MARILYN MONROE**

© Lifehack Quotes



# *ARE YOU SELF-CONSCIOUS?*

- **Focus Up – On God, whom you are serving**
- **Focus Out – On those you've been given to minister to**

# AN AMBASSADOR FOR CHRIST

## Step 2: Attitude Toward Others

### Be like Jesus who :

- Was sensitive to each person he met
- Met each person where they were
- Friendly and accepting
- Willing to take the initiative in a relationship
- Available, flexible, and unrushed
- A good listener
- Most concerned with loving people and meeting their needs

## 2 MINUTE DISCUSSION

How can one's self-consciousness about leading a group be transformed by Christ?

# NUTS AND BOLTS FOR FACILITATING SMALL GROUP LEADERSHIP

1. Assist Group in sharing *their* thoughts on subject matter
2. Assist Group in seeing how *their* thoughts relate to Christ
3. Assist group in developing meaningful fellowship within the group.



## **STEP 1: PRAY !!**

- **For Yourself**
- **For the Group Members**
- **For the Other Group Leaders**

## **STEP 2: AIM FOR AN ATMOSPHERE OF WARMTH, ACCEPTANCE AND EAGERNESS TO LEARN FROM ONE ANOTHER**

- Have chairs in a circle.
  - Sit facing the door.
- Greet members as they arrive.
  - Begin promptly.
- Open with prayer led by you.
- Encourage the use of nametags.

## **STEP 2: AIM FOR AN ATMOSPHERE OF WARMTH, ACCEPTANCE AND EAGERNESS TO LEARN FROM ONE ANOTHER - CONT.**

- **Reassure members about sharing an answer.**
  - **Stress that this is a sharing discussion**
    - **Establish Holy Ground**
- **Aim for variety in presenting the questions.**
  - **Maintain eye contact with the group.**

# STEP 3: RECOGNIZE AND EMBRACE THE DIVERSITY OF THE GROUP

The group brings to the circle:

- Different life experiences
- Diversified understandings of Christianity
- Different appreciations for the purpose of the group

Seek God's perspective.

## **STEP 4: PROMOTE PARTICIPATION BY ALL GROUP MEMBERS**

- **Be available to all Group members.**



- *Evaluate time spent in the group by how engaged people were.*
- *Stand in awe of the freshness and simplicity of new discovery.*

# STEP 4: PROMOTE PARTICIPATION BY ALL GROUP MEMBERS

- Introduce first question clearly and enthusiastically.
- Aim for variety in presenting questions.
- Listen attentively; offer genuine and encouraging responses.

## **STEP 4: PROMOTE PARTICIPATION BY ALL GROUP MEMBERS**

- Don't enhance the answers you get with your own ideas.
- Go for making them confident.
- Be yourself and let the discussion flow naturally.

## STEP 4: PROMOTE PARTICIPATION BY ALL GROUP MEMBERS

- **When an answer is given that appears to have no relevance** to the question try to repeat the key points of the question to help focus the member and help everyone else.
- **Silences are OK.**

## **STEP 4: PROMOTE PARTICIPATION BY ALL GROUP MEMBERS**

- Do not “go around the circle.”
- Do not be afraid to say “I don’t know”
- Be a real person – one still in the process of being conformed to the image of Christ!

## STEP 4: PROMOTE PARTICIPATION BY ALL GROUP MEMBERS

- If someone's lesson isn't filled in ask them if they had difficulty –but not in front of the group!
- 
- **Shy person:** Give them time

## STEP 4: PROMOTE PARTICIPATION BY ALL GROUP MEMBERS

- **Talkative person:** Don't try to quiet the person as your first strategy
- Mention before the group starts that answers should be brief to give chance to everyone and to finish the questions
- Affirm and redirect.



**STEP 4: PROMOTE PARTICIPATION  
BY ALL GROUP MEMBERS**

**There are no right or wrong answers!**

## STEP 4: PROMOTE PARTICIPATION BY ALL GROUP MEMBERS

If you see pain approach!



# **STEP 4: PROMOTE PARTICIPATION BY ALL GROUP MEMBERS**

**Discourage potentially divisive discussions from continuing.**

**Be careful with discussions about individual churches, denominations, politics, or even Christian TV personalities or programs.**

**We can agree to disagree.**

## **STEP 4: PROMOTE PARTICIPATION BY ALL GROUP MEMBERS**

- **Use time wisely!**

# STEP 4: PROMOTE PARTICIPATION BY ALL GROUP MEMBERS

## When running out of time:

- “Let’s see if we can hurry along”
- When there are simple and direct questions ask one person to answer and move on.
- “Since we are running out of time, I propose we pick 2-3 more questions that people had special interest in . Is that OK? Anyone have a particular question in mind?”
- Go straight to the remaining questions that you feel are particularly important
- “In the interest of time, let’s give one answer only on the rest of the questions”