

EFFECTIVELY MAKING DISCIPLES THROUGH SMALL GROUPS
The Church at Brook Hills

Seven Essentials for Small Group Leaders...

- We must have a _____ living _____ relationship with Jesus Christ.
 - Jesus' initial command: _____ Follow me _____.
 - "To live is Christ..." Phil. 1:21
 - "I know _____ whom I have believed..." 2 Tim. 1:12
 - Not _____ what _____ - our "what" will increase over time, but how tight of a grasp do we have on "who" we believe?
 - Zeal for the Kingdom is fueled by zeal for the _____ King _____.

"The greatest single hindrance to evangelism today is the secret poverty of our own spiritual experience."
John Stott

- We must recognize the need of the _____ lost _____.
 - Our lives are all too often functionally _____ universalistic _____.
 - "...those who are perishing." 2 Cor. 4:3
 - Do we have a _____ burden _____ for the lost?
 - Romans 9:1-5
- We must be aware of the spiritual _____ battle _____ around us.
 - 2 Cor. 4 - There is a battle between the god who blinds the mind and the God who shines light into the heart.
 - In the middle of the battle - "We preach Christ..." 2 Cor. 4:5
 - Extreme _____ dependence _____.
 - We are completely dependent on the _____ Holy Spirit _____.
 - Extreme _____ diligence _____.
 - We will get nowhere without prayer, _____ fasting _____, and steadfast discipline.
- We must understand God's _____ global _____ purpose for our lives.
 - God has created and saved you to impact nations for the glory of Christ.
 - The present world population is _____ 6.5 billion _____ people.
 - How in the world can I have a global impact?
 - In order to fulfill God's purpose in our lives, we must be _____ world _____ Christians - men and women with a vision for world evangelization.

"An enterprise which aims at the evangelization of the whole world in a generation, and contemplates the ultimate establishment of the Kingdom of Christ, requires that its leaders be Christian statesmen with far-seeing views, with comprehensive plans, with the power of initiative, and with victorious faith."
John R. Mott

Session 1: Effectively Making Disciples Through Small Groups

February 29, 2008 - David Platt

- We must have a sacrificial commitment to multiplication ministry.
 - We were created to multiply the life of Christ in the lives of others.
 - People are God's method for winning the world to Himself.
 - John 17:1-19 - "I have finished the work..."
 - Jesus does not mention miracles or multitudes, but 40 times he mentions the men whom God had given him out of the world!
 - Acts 1:15 - Only 120 people? Is this a failure?
 - One cannot transform the world except as individuals in the world are transformed.
 - The men or the masses?
 - Jesus spent more time with His disciples than with everyone else in the world put together.
 - Jesus devoted Himself to a few men, rather than the masses, so that the masses might be saved.
 - He looked at the masses through the man; then He built the man to impact the masses.
 - The strategy of Jesus on earth revolved around two main aspects:
 - John 19:30 - A message of redemption.
 - John 17:4 - A method of reproduction.
 - Jesus' strategy depended on a few disciples' faithfulness to advance the message of redemption by following His method of reproduction.
 - The urgent need...
 - If we do not reproduce ourselves in disciple-making, then we will do a pitiful job of advancing the message of redemption.
 - The urgent question...
 - Will we be faithful to obey His plan?
- We must have a clear understanding of what it means to be a disciple and what it means to make disciples.
 - What is a disciple?
 - A casual listener.
 - A convinced listener.
 - A committed, lifelong learner and follower.
 - Disciple-making is done by someone, not by something.
 - We miss this when we limit "discipleship" to what happens in one hour of the week at a church location.
 - This dramatically reduces the plan of Christ.
 - This takes away any hope of reproduction.
 - Four components of disciple-making...
 - Share the Word.
 - Introducing people to the person of Christ.
 - Evangelism is disciple-making's starting point.
 - Show the Word.
 - Modeling the character of Christ.
 - Building men and women requires personal attention, and disciple-making can only be done by persons staying close to those whom they seek to lead.

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- We cannot shirk our personal responsibility to show the way to those we are discipling.
- Our people will never be what they cannot see.
- Teach the Word.
 - Multiplying the Word of Christ in the lives of others.
 - Truth is the means by which the Holy Spirit transforms lives.
 - Two Questions:
 - What is your intentional plan for teaching the Word of Christ to those you are discipling?
 - Are the people that you are teaching learning to receive the Word or reproduce the Word?
- Serve the World.
 - Getting our hands dirty in the needs of those around us.
 - Are we discipling or disinfecting?
 - Disinfecting...
 - Isolates a Christian in a spiritual safety deposit box called the church building and teaches him or her to be good.
 - Discipling...
 - Propels a Christian into the world to risk his or her life for the sake of others.
 - The best kind of training to impact the world is on the job training.
- We must be radically confident in the strategy of Christ for impacting the world.
 - Disciple-making is a slow, tedious, even painful process.
 - We must decide where we want our lives to count - in the applause of popular recognition or in the reproduction of our lives.
 - The all-important question for every small group leader...
 - Do you see an ever-expanding company of dedicated people reaching the world with the Gospel as a result of your life and ministry?
 - The all-important truth for every small group leader...
 - A few individuals can shake the world for God.

"This is the new evangelism we need. It is not better methods, but better men and women who know their Redeemer from personal experience - men and women who see His vision and feel His passion for the world - men and women who are willing to be nothing so that He might be everything - men and women who want only for Christ to produce His life in and through them according to His own good pleasure. This finally is the way the Master planned for His objective to be realized on earth, and where it is carried through by His strategy, the gates of hell cannot prevail against the evangelization of the world."

Robert Coleman