

WEEK 1

A VISION FOR LIFE CHANGING  
SMALL GROUPS

## SMALL GROUP DYNAMICS

### VISION FOR LIFE CHANGING SMALL GROUPS

Why Important?

I. Begin at the end

A. Small Groups are a tremendous tool in transforming lives.

B. Transformation, not information, is the goal of a Small Group.

II. Context of Small Groups in our ministry.

A. Small Groups are strategic in a disciple's life.

Disciple defined - A committed Christ-follower who is experiencing fruitful, multiplying ministry.

B. Small Groups are a strategic need in the discipling process.

C. Small Groups can be strategic in helping us reach our campus, community, and lost world around us.

D. ETC (brainstorm)

III. Details about Small Groups

A. Size of Groups: 5-12 people (Groups that get bigger than 12 eventually "birth" into two or more daughter groups)

B. Leadership of Groups: A trained college leader and multiplier (apprentice preparing to lead their own group someday)

Co-leader is also a good option, but it is still important to have a multiplier.

C. Curriculum: Left up to leaders and members to decide. (Should be prayed over and well thought through. Why and what would be best for the group as a whole). Options may include a study of one of the Gospels, (i.e. 24 Hours with John by Jim Petersen) or an Epistle, O.T. Book, N.T. Book, Character Studies, Topical Series, Experiencing God workbook type study, or Purpose Driven Life Book, plus many other resource books we have available or could direct you toward.

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D. Duration: usually one semester or one academic year

E. Frequency of Meetings: Most are 1) Bi-weekly or  
2) Weekly

F. Location: Various places

1. Dorm Rooms
2. Apartments
3. Homes
4. Other

G. Types of Small Groups

1. All guys
2. All Girls
3. Mixed

H. Types of studies

1. Seeker Groups
2. Accountability Groups
3. New Believer groups
4. Life Groups (combination)

IV

LAW OF THE LEARNER  
(notetaking sheet)

## SMALL GROUP DYNAMICS

### DISCUSSION – ‘LAW OF THE LEARNER’

#### MAXIM I

Teachers are responsible to cause the students to \_\_\_\_\_.

#### MAXIM II

Teachers will stand accountable to God for their \_\_\_\_\_.

James 3:1, Hebrews 13:17

#### MAXIM III

Teachers are responsible because they control subject, style, setting,  
and \_\_\_\_\_. (small group leader)

#### MAXIM IV

Teachers should judge their success by the success of their \_\_\_\_\_.

#### MAXIM V

Teachers impact more by their character and commitment than their \_\_\_\_\_.

#### MAXIM VI

Teachers exist to serve the \_\_\_\_\_.

#### MAXIM VII

Teachers who practice APL(Applied Principles of Learning) laws can become  
master \_\_\_\_\_.

#### LEARNER MEANING

“ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

The teacher should accept the responsibility of causing students to learn.

“Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I teach you to observe, that you may live, and go in and possess the land which the Lord God of your fathers is giving you.” Deuteronomy 4:1

“And Moses called all Israel, and said to them: Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your hearing today, that you may learn them and be careful to observe them.” Deuteronomy 5:1

"Personally, I'm always ready to learn, although I do not always like to be taught."  
Winston Churchill

(continued on back)

ISSUE/ KEY QUESTION

How do I cause someone to learn?

Question 1: Can I make someone learn? \_\_\_\_\_

Question 2: Can I make it hard to learn? \_\_\_\_\_

## INTRO TO LIFE GROUPS

Assignment:

**SO WHAT ARE WE CELLIN'?**

Life Groups

- \* Read and highlight first three pages, and be prepared to discuss.
- \* Select several of the Ice Breaker questions, and be prepared to lead the group through one of them. (Write down in class what you learned about each person.)
- \*Read Smal Group Worship Sheet, and write down any additional ideas you might have on Small Group Worship.

# So What Are We Cellin'?

## *Cells Defined...*

A cell is a group of 5 to 12 people who form a community to experience the love of God, grow in relationship with others, and reach out to the lost. We call our cells "Lifegroups."

## *Why Cells?*

- They translate to anywhere in the world. In any culture or situation, cell groups and the relationships involved in them are an effective way to share the Gospel.
- They provide a great training ground (for our college students) giving them practical leadership training and ministry responsibility.
- Cell groups foster a practical spirituality, not just a faith based on church attendance.
- Cells are incredibly effective because they are based on relationships not a personality or program.

**The Key to Effective Cell Ministry is  
RELATIONSHIPS!!**

## *Relationships*

When a Gallop poll survey asked what reasons people had for going to church, they answered:

1. To believe life is meaningful and has a purpose.
2. To have a sense of community and deeper relationships.
3. To be appreciated and respected.
4. To be listened to and heard.
5. To feel that one is growing in the faith.
6. To have practical help in developing a mature faith.



# **What is Cell Ministry??**

The human body is composed of many units that join to form the body as a whole. These units are called cells. A baby starts out as a single cell in its mother's womb, and then grows and multiplies into two cells. These two cells then become four, and the four become eight, and the eight become sixteen, and so on... Soon, one cell has become a human body, full of life and wonder!

A cell group is a group of 5 to 12 people who form a community to experience the love of God, grow in relationship with others and reach out to the lost.

Sharing our lives and hearts with one another in the presence of Jesus will knit us together into a strong fabric that cannot be broken. The strength of the individual is no longer the only factor determining his/her walk with God. The rest of the cell undergirds each member with prayer, encouragement and vision for the lost to keep them growing in Christ.

Jesus in the midst, is the strength of the group. Jesus is the only one that can provide the power and vision to walk out the Christian life. When the cell comes together for edification, the focus is on experiencing Jesus in every part of the meaning.

Cells are for both evangelism and edification. If a cell does not bring in others, grow and multiply, it will become a self-focused care group that will eventually grow bored and die. If a cell does not pastor and edify its people, it will not develop leadership, it won't develop character in its people, and people will eventually fall away from walking with God (or they will go somewhere else where they can be fed). The group must focus both on building one another up and targeting, praying for, and reaching out to the lost.

# Small Group Worship

## Goal:

To exalt the Lord Jesus and provide a time of worship that incorporates every individual regardless of their level of freedom in worship.

## Key Word: SIMPLICITY

## Examples of Worship:

- singing (structured and non-structured)
- reading scripture
- sitting quietly
- encouraging each other
- giving testimonies of praise
- making expression of the heart
- using the Psalms



## Practicals for Worship Leaders:

### *While in Private*

1. Daily be involved in private worship, but it should not replace Bible Study and prayer time.
2. Pray, pray, pray, and pray some more.
3. Find out what God has to say about worship and commit to memorizing those scriptures.  
(Use the Psalms to start.)
4. Practice! The more comfortable that you become playing your instrument, the greater freedom you will feel in trying new ideas.

### *While in Lifegroup*

1. Only introduce one new song at a time.
2. Don't do a completely different set of songs each week. In other words, overlap a lot from week to week.
3. Repetition is your friend!
4. Slower songs usually work best, especially for the less skilled guitarist.
5. Discern where levels of freedom are. Allow the Holy Spirit to move the group on at His pace.
6. Pick songs that you are comfortable with and have already incorporated into your private worship time.
7. Pick songs that don't have many verses or complicated echo parts.
8. Only have two to four songs on the song sheet. Don't hand out a song book!
9. Tune your guitar before the LG.
10. Try not to use sheet music when playing.
11. Allow Lifegroupers to make requests from week to week.
12. You need to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit.
13. Use a pick when you are playing, because the louder sound will let people feel more comfortable to sing.
14. Sing loudly, because you are the leader.

## How to evaluate the potential of a particular song for LG:

1. Does this song exalt Jesus? Is it understandable and is it simple?
2. Is this song too long? Can we grasp the theme in the short time that we have?
3. Is this song difficult or easy to sing? Does it have tricky rhythms? Is it too high or too low?
4. Does the group know this song and can they as a group, sing it?

# Eight Benefits of Cell Ministry

Bethany World Prayer Center Lists Eight Benefits of doing cell ministry:

1. To Make Disciples- Christianity is easily modeled and reproduced in others in cell based ministry. There is absolutely no substitute for modeling and example.
2. To Develop a Life of Prayer- The disciples learned to pray by watching Jesus pray and asking questions. Cell ministry facilitates both praying for specific things and watching God accomplish them.
3. To Develop Strong Fellowship- Today's consumer based church does not encourage strong relationships to be formed. American people learn independence and isolation from the church as well as society at large. In cell ministry, the body of Christ works together. Relationships and community are stressed. People have a place to serve and use their gifts.
4. Body Ministry- Every person ministering on Sunday morning is impossible, but the cell provides a place for every person to minister to the body of Christ for edification! Large groups are to equip the saints, small groups are to practice what is taught. Cell ministry uses both.
5. Pastoral Care- When Moses was breaking under the strain of ministering to all of the Israelites, his father-in-law gave him a plan that broke the Israelites down into groups of thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens. Cell groups use this kind of model to allow everyone to be shepherded effectively.
6. Raising Up Ministers- Gifts can be developed in hands on practice in cell ministry, and things that one learns will be passed on to many.
7. Evangelism- Through cell groups, souls can be saved daily. Fishers of men can be trained up for the harvest. Those that are wounded and hurting will respond and communities can be penetrated with the gospel.
8. The Return of the Ministry to the Lay Church- Jesus did not just call us to be reconciled to God, but to take this ministry of reconciliation to the world. Cell groups give a place for the lay person to put this into practice!

# ICE BREAKIN' QUESTIONS

Where did you live between the ages of 9 and 12?  
Who is the person closest to you?  
When did God become real to you?  
What was the most important event in your life last week?  
What was the happiest moment in your life?  
Tell about your first date.  
Who has been the greatest influence in your life since we last met?  
What is the best gift you've ever received?  
What was the best compliment you received?  
Who is the best friend you have at this point in your life?  
Who is your best friend from your hometown?  
Describe the worst/weirdest haircut you've ever had.  
Who was your favorite music group in high school?  
Describe the worst thing you ever had to wear to school.  
Who was your favorite grade school/high school teacher?  
What is your least favorite sport to play/watch?  
What is your favorite sport to play/watch?  
What was your favorite Saturday morning cartoon as a child?  
What was your favorite movie as a child?  
What is the worst thing your mother ever made you eat as a child?  
What was your favorite food as a child?  
Who is the best teacher/class you've had?  
Who is the worst teacher/class you've had?  
What is the most fun thing you did in school?  
What was the most fun thing you did your senior year of high school?  
What was the best vacation you have ever had?  
What is your most embarrassing moment?  
Name the foreign countries you've been to.  
What would you do if you had a million dollars? (can't be practical or spiritual)  
What time period would you live in if you could have lived at any time? Why?  
What Biblical character inspires you the most? (excluding Jesus)  
What historical (non-Biblical) figure interests you the most?  
Describe your favorite cousin.  
Describe your favorite grandparent.  
What is the most beautiful thing you've ever seen in nature?  
What is your favorite style of music? (Christian isn't a style)

What is your favorite piece of art? (it doesn't have to be famous)  
Whose eyes are most like yours in the room?  
How are you like your mom? Your dad?  
What is your favorite worship chorus? Hymn?  
If you were unlimited by money, where would you spend one week's vacation?  
What planet would you visit if you could go to any one?  
What was your favorite bed-time story as a child?  
What is your favorite hobby?  
What is the meaning of your name?  
What is your favorite book? (Christian and non)  
What is your favorite Bible verse?  
How did you end up at Highland?  
How did you meet your best friend or boy/girl friend or spouse?  
What would you like to be known for?  
Where were you born?  
What is your favorite family Christmas tradition?  
Tell an unusual fact about yourself.  
Describe the favorite place/house you've lived in.  
What kind of car did your family have when you were growing up?  
What is your dream car?  
How many brothers and sisters do you have?  
If you could not fail, what would you do?  
If you were going to live on the moon and could take one thing with you, what would you take? (besides the Bible)  
If your house was on fire, what is the one thing you would grab (assuming all family and pets were safely out)?  
What is the hardest thing you ever had to do?  
Do you have any phobias?  
What do you do when you have free-time?

