

WEEK 3

LEADING A LIFE CHANGING  
SMALL GROUP

SMALL GROUP DYNAMICS  
Leading a Life Changing Small Group

## I. Planning for Spiritual Growth

Why is it important to plan and be intentional when leading a Life-Changing Small Group?

*Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the Word of Truth. 2 Tim. 2:15*

### A. The Context for Spiritual Growth – Disciplemaking

Q: What is a disciple?

A: An apprentice of Jesus

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:19, 20*

Disciples are “made”, and are not simply “born”. Nor do they develop over time on their own. It requires one person following Jesus, to teach another person to also follow Jesus.

### B. What’s your P.L.A.N.?

Purpose: With God’s help and guidance, what are you trying to achieve?

Logistics: What requires our attention to ensure a focused, distraction-free environment?  
Can the Spirit work freely?

- People problems – How do you handle these?
- What other problems may arise?

Activities: What will we actually do and how much time will be devoted to it?

W – Worship  
I – Instruction  
F – Fellowship  
E – Evangelism

Needs: What needs exist among our group members that will require our prayer and attention?

**SMALL GROUP DYNAMICS**  
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## **II. Leading Dynamic Discussions**

### **A. Our Goal: Transformation vs. Information**

Only passing on information is like rain landing on a piece of glass. The water can easily be wiped off. However, when rain falls on a sponge, the sponge gradually absorbs the water and is transformed into a useful 'tool'. It is hard to get the water out of a sponge.

We want to create a hunger and desire in their hearts to take hold of God's Word and walk in obedience to it.

### **B. Focusing on the place where truth meets life**

1. Maintain a \_\_\_\_\_ dynamic
2. Capture the Power of \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Remain open to the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Focus on a \_\_\_\_\_ subject.

### **C. Icebreakers are Essential to Small Group Discipleship.**

Effective small group leaders understand the architecture of care. People don't feel loved until they have been listened to. Icebreakers are a key tool in the small group leaders tool box.

1. Make the questions be on topics that are easy and comfortable for people to talk about.
2. Move from the outside to the inside. (Design the questions so that people will share a bit of who they are inside.)
3. Set the tone.
4. Warm up: Everyone says something.
5. Subtle but strong message: Everyone is expected to participate.
6. Be sensitive to new people and make them feel especially welcome during this time.

## SMALL GROUP DYNAMICS

### Leading a Life-Changing Small Group

#### D. Crafting Creative Questions

1. Learn to turn a \_\_\_\_\_ into a \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Make it \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Make it \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Make it \_\_\_\_\_
2. Questions should engage both the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_.

#### E. Questions that Create Life-Changing Discussion

1. Asking the right kinds of questions - Closed vs Open-ended Questions:

##### a. Close-ended questions

- Questions of \_\_\_\_\_  
(good for background information, not for discussion questions.)
- Can be answered \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ (kills discussion and interaction)
- Are either \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ (too much like a test)
- Fish for \_\_\_\_\_ and can make you feel \_\_\_\_\_.

(Instead, direct questions in a way that allows people to make observations and contributes to the discovery process.)

- Involve \_\_\_\_\_  
(The person who answers, risks being wrong or embarrassed)
- \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_  
(Instead, use questions that guide them to discovery and insight.)

##### b. Open-ended questions

- Are questions of \_\_\_\_\_  
(Helps you get to know people and makes everyone a contributor.)
- Have no \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ answer.  
(Instead, guide people and give them tools of discovery.)
- Make everyone an \_\_\_\_\_.  
(The teacher should lead in a way that he or she is learning along with the members of the group.)

#### 2. Discussion Killers

- \_\_\_\_\_ (rarely if ever helpful)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (not appropriate in small groups)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (can be helpful if done correctly. Caution: if done too early or often, can kill discussion.)

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3. Four Keys to Creative Sharing:

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_

**EXERCISE: Crafting Questions**

Using the above three guidelines (personal, interactive, creative), rephrase the following study guide question so that it creates a lively group interaction with the truth. You may partner up with others for the exercise.

*Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.*

Question: What are some things that get in the way of some Christians as they seek to run the race?

Rephrase:

**G. Exercise Good Listening Skills**

1. What is the difference between Active and Passive Listening?
2. How do the following let a person know he is genuinely being listened to?
  - ◆ Body Language
  - ◆ Facial Expressions
  - ◆ Tone of Voice
  - ◆ Choice of Words

THE LAW OF APPLICATION

PART I VIDEO NOTES

THE LAW OF APPLICATION  
7 MAXIMS

1. Application Maxim 1:

Application is the central reason for God's \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Application Maxim 2:

Application is the responsibility of the \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Application Maxim 3:

Application and information should be appropriately \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Application Maxim 4:

Application focuses Scripture on the student's \_\_\_\_\_.

5. Application Maxim 5:

Application has maximum influence where the student personally sees its Biblical  
\_\_\_\_\_.

6. Application Maxim 6:

Application that has impacted the teacher tends to impact the student more  
\_\_\_\_\_.

7. Application Maxim 7:

Application must ultimately lead the student from studying the Bible to obeying the  
\_\_\_\_\_. (not just the Bible but the God who wrote the Bible)

Application meaning

\_\_\_\_\_

The teacher should stimulate life change in students by properly applying the Scriptures.

"The Scriptures were not given for our information but for our transformation." (D.L. Moody)