

Leading the Small Group Meeting (5 min.)



Facilitator Instructions: Using a lecture format, have the participants fill in the spaces in their workbook as you share the following information. Point out the resources provided at the conclusion of this session's material: (1) small group ice breakers, (2) group discussion starters, and (3) example small group activities.

Say, "A typical small group meeting will consist of several elements that occur in the same order every meeting. I am going to share with you now the elements of a typical small group meeting and I will share them in the order in which they happen."

1. Fellowship and sharing between the group members.
2. Worship including prayer, singing and praises to God.
3. Bible study and discussion.
4. Ministry envisioning, where the members discuss personal and group activities to reach friends, neighbors, and perhaps larger groups with the gospel. This may also include prayer time for specific individuals who have not yet been invited to the group.



Small Group Administration (10 min.)

Facilitator Instructions: Lead the large group in a discussion of the following questions about the administrative aspects of leading a small group.

- Why should the small group leader bother to develop a plan for the group in general and for each of the meetings? Why not just let the group move "naturally" in whichever direction it wants?
- What type of preparation is required so that each small group meeting meets the following needs?
 - A. Location
 - B. Fellowship
 - C. Worship
 - D. Prayer
 - E. Bible Discussion
 - F. Discipling
 - G. Evangelism

- Why is it important that each new member of the group be assigned a spiritual “parent” who will disciple him/her?

Small Group Activity (25 min.)



Facilitator Instructions: Divide participants into groups of 5 to 7 people. Assign one member of the group to play the role of the small group leader. Another plays the role of the Apprentice. The rest play the role of small group members. Read the instructions found below to the class. Answer questions participants may have about the assignment.

Instructions:

1. First use the “I’ll Bet You Don’t Know This” game for small group fellowship from Small Group Ice Breakers found below.
2. Then the small group leader and apprentice will choose a question from the list of Group Discussions below. (You might use with, “What was the happiest moment in your life?”)
3. After completing the Ice Breakers and Group Discussion, the small group should then engage in a time of prayer for each other.
4. The group should evaluate and discuss the small group meeting.

Small Group Ice Breakers



“Ice Breakers” are fun, non-threatening ways to get to know people better. These are often used during the fellowship time of a new small group. Some notes:

- An icebreaker should be appropriate for the group. If it’s too childish, people will not feel comfortable. If it’s too threatening, people will draw back.
- Make it clear that everybody is invited and encouraged to participate.
- Some icebreakers can be used more than once.
- Be sensitive to people who might become uncomfortable with the game or activity.
- Icebreakers become shorter and less important as the group becomes tightly knit over the course of the small group life cycle. In the first two meetings, you might spend half the time on an icebreaker but after a few months you may only need to spend 10 or 15 minutes.

Get-to-Know-Each-Other Questions

When you were between the ages of 7 – 12....



1. Where did you live? How many brothers and sisters did you have?
2. What kind of transportation did your family use?
3. Who was the person you felt closest to?
4. When did God become more than a word to you?

Who Am I?*

Write the names of famous and/or Bible characters on slips of paper. Tape them on everyone's back. The person cannot read his or her own slip. They are to go around the room asking one question at a time about who they are until they guess who they are.

*For use only in groups in which all people are familiar with the Bible.

I'll Bet You Don't Know This

Each person in the group writes down on a blank piece of paper something that he/she thinks that nobody in the group would know about him/herself. The pieces of paper are folded, mixed well, and numbered consecutively. Then a designated person starts to read them, saying the number first. Each member of the group begins to compile a list of people that they feel best matches the number of each clue. After the last clue is read, the person with the most correct matches wins.

Introductions

Each person in the group is told they have several minutes to think up a question and ask it of the other people in the group. After everyone has thought of a question, they should begin to mingle with each other, asking their questions. Write down each person's name and answer. After about ten minutes, get back in a circle and have each person tell what they found out about the other people. The better the questions, the more creative and interesting responses you will get.

Two Truths and a Lie

Everyone writes down two true things about themselves and one lie. Everybody then decides which slip of paper went with which person, and which of the statements was the lie. You may leave out the first part (i.e. each person holds up their piece of paper and people just

guess which statement is the lie). (It's not fair if somebody picks a lie very close to the truth).

Weather Report

Go around the circle, beginning with the leader, and describe how you are feeling right now as if it were a weather report— partly cloudy, sunny, etc. Students can explain why they chose that type of weather. The leader sets the example for how deeply to share.

Trust Walk

Divide the group into pairs. Blindfold one person in each pair. Each unblindfolded person leads a blindfolded person around the area of the meeting place. Try to provide many different experiences—take them up some stairs, go outside and inside, help them feel different objects, walk at different paces, walk on different materials (grass, floors, dirt) but say nothing after the walk has started. You must communicate all messages without using words. After about five minutes, change places. After another five minutes the group re-gathers. Share what kinds of feelings you had as you were blindfolded and as you touched objects, etc. How did you feel about the other person? What was it like to have no control over what was happening? What did you learn about yourself? How does this apply to your relationship with God? With others?

Coin Game

If you have new people in your meeting sometime, you might keep the Coin Game in mind for an icebreaker. Give everyone ten coins. Each person must name one thing about himself/herself that is different from everyone else. (For example, an adventurous group member might say, "I have climbed Pikes Peak.") The speaker puts a coin in the middle. If another player has also climbed Pikes Peak, he/she can put in a coin as well. The first person to get rid of all his/her coins wins.

Team Charades

For this activity, you need two teams and two rooms. Divide the group into two teams. Team A thinks up some sort of action or activity for Team B to act out (e.g. eating breakfast) without using any words. Team A tells only one person (we'll call her "Laura") from Team B what the activity is, and Laura is not allowed to tell anyone else on her team. Team B waits in the first room, while Laura takes one other person from

her team (we'll call him "Michael") into the second room. In the second room, Team A watches while Laura acts out the activity for Michael (remember, no words!) Then Laura returns to the first room and sends in someone else from Team B. Michael then acts out the activity for the next person, and Michael returns to the first room and sends in someone else from his team. This process is repeated, until the last person from Team B watches the activity. This last person then must guess what the activity is. The teams then switch roles and Team B thinks up an activity for Team A to act out.

Answers and Authors

On pieces of paper, write down four or five questions that will not cause discomfort but that might reveal something about a person (e.g. What's your favorite possession? What do you wish you could do that you can't do now? What's your ideal vacation?) People should answer all of them, or at least three, but instruct them not to put their names on the sheet. The leader then collects the sheets and reads out the answers, and everyone tries to guess who gave those answers.

All My Neighbors

Everyone begins by sitting in chairs arranged in a circle, except one person who begins by standing in the middle. The person in the middle needs to find some "neighbors." To do this, he needs to make a true statement about himself, which hopefully will also be true about someone else in the group (e.g. "All my neighbors play the piano" or "All my neighbors are right-handed"). Every person who can also truthfully say this statement must stand up and find a new seat. He cannot return to the seat where he was sitting. The person in the middle is also looking for a chair, so each time there will be one person who remains in the middle without a seat. He or she must then make a true statement and look for some "neighbors" for whom this statement is also true.

Group Discussions

Below are many options for questions that can be used during the ice-breaker time. Notice that some of these questions are better for new groups, and some questions are better suited for groups in which the members already know each other a little. Normally, only one question will be used in each small group meeting. Questions can be selected because they will help people get to know each other better or because

they connect to the topic of the Bible study for that meeting.



1. What was the happiest moment in your life?
2. What is the greatest regret of your life?
3. What was the hardest thing you have ever done?
4. What was the greatest compliment you ever received?
5. Who is your best earthly friend? Describe him or her.
6. Which room in your house do you like best?
7. What is the one thing you want to accomplish next week?
8. Where did you feel warmest and safest as a child?
9. If you had a time machine that would work only once, what point in the future or in history would you visit?
10. When was the last time you did something for the first time?
11. If you could take a pill that would enable you to live until you reach 1,000 years, would you do it? Why?
12. Would you like to know the exact date of your death?
13. Who is a relative you get along well with? Why?
14. What is your favorite memory of time spent, as a child, with your father? Your mother?
15. Who did God use to bring you to the point where you knew you needed Jesus?
16. If you could change places with a Bible character, whom would you choose? Why?
17. What is your favorite book of the Bible ? Why?
18. If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go?
19. Imagine your house is on fire and your family is all safe but you only have time to take one possession out with you. What would you take?
20. What is your favorite movie or TV show?
21. Who has had the greatest influence on your life since we last gathered?
22. What was the best thing that happened to you this past week?
23. Name someone you admire who had to overcome great obstacles to get where they are now.
24. What do you value most in a human relationship? In your relationship with Christ? Your parents?
25. What is your favorite time of day?
26. (Singles) Describe the kind of person you want to marry. (Couples) What led you to marry your spouse?
27. What gift (apart from your conversion) will you never forget?

28. What was the most important event in your life this past week?
29. If you could choose to go anywhere in the world for three days, where would you go and why?
30. If you could choose to meet anyone who ever lived in your country, who would that be, and why would you like to meet him/her?
31. If you could choose to live anywhere in the world, where would you live and why?
32. What gift (spiritual, emotional, mental, etc.) do you believe you are bringing to this group? (In other words, what do you think you are bringing that might contribute to the encouragement of others?)
33. What was an experience in your life that changed your value system?
34. What are some of your goals for the year ahead?
35. Who are your parents, what do they do, and what do you respect most about them?
36. If you could choose your career over again, what would you do?
37. If you could become the leader of any country in the world, which would it be and why?
38. What were the best and worst experiences of this past week?
39. If you could take a free two-week trip to any place in the world, where would it be and why?
40. If you could talk to any one person now living, who would it be and why?
41. Give everyone a piece of paper and ask them to draw a picture of their jobs or whatever they do on a daily basis. Explain your sketches.
42. Why are you glad to be in this small group tonight?
43. Inform everyone that they have just been given one million dollars. Let each share how they would use their newly gained fortune.
44. Do you have a nickname and if so what is it? What nicknames do you have for your spouse and children or siblings?
45. Is there a different period in history that you would have liked to have lived in? If so, why?
46. How has the small group been a help to you? Share how and thank each other.
47. Tell the small group three things you appreciate about your family and three ways in which you find them difficult at times.
48. What is one thing you would really like see happen at the moment in your family? your church? your small group? the world?
49. Who is the best friend you have at this point in your life?
50. Have you had an answered prayer recently? Share the story.



51. What is your occupation? What do you enjoy about it?
52. Who has been the greatest influence on your Christian life and why?
53. What book, movie, or video have you seen/read that you would recommend to others? Why?
54. What do you think delights God above everything else in your life?
55. What is the most encouraging thing said to you this week?
56. What encouraging act have you done for someone this week?
57. What made you decide to attend this church?
58. What do you still want to accomplish with your life?
59. For what are you thankful?
60. What is the most memorable event of your life and why?
61. Share the most meaningful Scripture to you and why it is so meaningful.
62. How would your life be different if you knew Jesus was returning in one week?
63. Who is the most interesting person you have met?
64. What is your favorite holiday spot and why do you enjoy it?
65. Share about a spiritual experience you have had.
66. How do you relax?
67. What is your favorite type of music/song, etc.?
68. What has happened to you during this week that you would like to tell the rest of the group?
69. If you could not fail, what would you like to do?
70. If you had to live your life over what would you change?
71. What do you want written on your tombstone?
72. What do you want said at your funeral?
73. If you were to go and live on the moon and could carry only one thing, what would it be?
74. What would you do if you were to see (1) a person being robbed (2) a person drowning and (3) a house on fire?
75. What is one thing that you do not understand about men (if you are a woman) or about women (if you are a man)?
76. If you had this week to do over again, what would you do differently?
77. Describe another small group that you were a member of outside of your church. Why do you think the group worked (or didn't work)? You're not limited to "religious" groups. Most of us meet in small groups at work.
78. What is the most memorable Bible you have received (e.g. at your baptism, wedding, conversion, etc.)? Tell us about why it is meaningful to you.

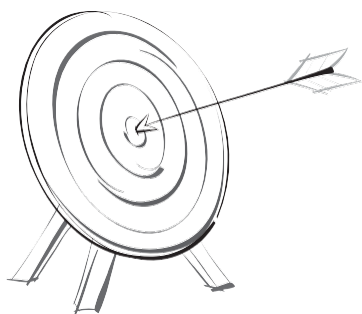


79. What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think about God?
80. What are the biggest questions that you have about your relationship with God?

Sample Activities for Small Group Meetings

Following are some sample activities for each of the four parts of a small group meeting. The times listed for each function are approximate:

Fellowship	Worship	Edification	Evangelism
Person to Person	Person to God	God to Person	Body of Christ to the world
"Inward"	"Upward"	"Downward"	"Outward"
20 minutes	20 minutes	30 minutes	20 minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enjoy fun activities together. • Eat meals together. • Get to know one another better. • Encourage one another. • Share joys with each other. • Share problems with each other. • Pray for one another. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sing songs of praise. • Thank God for His greatness. • Thank God for all He has done. • Pray aloud or silently. • Read passages of worship (for example, the Psalms). • Read Christian poetry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study passages of Scripture as a group. • Apply biblical truth to everyday situations. • Be involved in ministry with the group. • Discover and use spiritual giftedness. • Memorize Bible verses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form a "prayer triplet" and pray for unsaved friends. • Invite unbelievers to the group. • As a group, meet the needs of people around you. • Develop friendships with unbelievers. • Share the Good News of Christ with others.



Lunch (60 min.)