

Season of Spiritual Renewal  
Small Group Ministry and Parish Renewal  
Wednesday, October 9, 2024 1pm  
Molly Finlay & Philip Der

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A. Welcome/Introductions of Molly & Philip

B. Opening Prayer

**C. Teaching Segment #1: Philip Der (20 minutes)**

1. Why do we need small groups?

a. People's need

- The unchurched need to hear the gospel and friendship
- Christians need fellowship, to be encouraged, to be equipped, and to serve
- Christians need trusted friends to be reminded and to be more like Christ

b. Biblical Principles

- Evangelism (*Mark 16:15*)
- Make disciples (*Matt 28:19-20*)
- Christian Fellowship
  - Build up each other (*Ephesians 4:11-16*)
  - Care for each other (*1 Corinthians 12:25*)
  - Suffer together (*1 Corinthians 12:26, Romans 12:15*)
  - Share our burdens (*Galatians 6:2*)

2. Biblical Pastoral Model – Small group ministry

a. Old Testament – Moses led Israelites in Sinai wilderness

(*Exodus 18:13-27, Numbers 11:16*)

i. 70 Elders → Chiefs of thousands → Chief of hundreds → Chiefs of fifties → Chiefs of tens

b. New Testament – The Early Church

i. Peter → 12 Apostles → 120 disciples → believers

c. In today's banquet of hundreds or thousands, we also sit in a group of 10

3. Characteristics of a small group

- It is important to format your small group gathering
  - a. Ice-breaking (singsong, checking in, simple games)
  - b. Bible Study/ topical discussion
  - c. Sharing
  - d. Prayer time

**D. Breakout Groups: Philip (15 minutes)**

Read *Ephesians 4:11-13*

1. What does this passage tell us about building up the body of Christ, the Church?

**E. Teaching Segment #2: Molly (20 minutes)**

1. Small Group Ministry: How does this start? How does it evolve?
  - a. What is a Discipleship Path?
  - b. Seeker, Small Group, Service
  - c. Growing lay leadership in the parish
2. Parish Renewal: How does Small Group Ministry nourish revitalization & growth
  - a. Keeping the community connected
  - b. Building a ministry team
  - c. Refreshing and renewing the liturgical life of the parish

**F. Breakout Group #2: Discipleship Path exercise-Molly (15 minutes)**

Question: What could your parish try on each step of the Discipleship Path?

3. Vision and Planning
  - a. Acts 2:43-47; having scripture as your base
  - b. Making it happen & celebrating success: *"Well done, good and faithful servant!"*
  - c. Troubleshooting (maintaining unity in the group and confidentiality)

**G. Q&A (20 minutes)**

**H. Closing Prayer**

**Resources:**

Revive: Small Group Discipleship Program

(<https://www.forwardmovement.org/Products/2497/revive--smallgroup-discipleship-program.aspx?bCategory=FMGROUP>)

“Focus on...” series; includes bible studies on all four Gospels. Available here:

<https://www.churchpublishing.org/products/focusonmark>

NT Wright for Everyone Bible Study Guides; Available here:

[https://www.christianbook.com/apps/easyfind?action=Search&Ntk=multiple.series&Nso=1&Ns=product.published\\_date&Ntt=NT%20Wright%20for%20Everyone%20Bible%20Study%20Guides](https://www.christianbook.com/apps/easyfind?action=Search&Ntk=multiple.series&Nso=1&Ns=product.published_date&Ntt=NT%20Wright%20for%20Everyone%20Bible%20Study%20Guides)

John Stott's Bible Studies for Small Groups, available here:

[https://www.christianbook.com/apps/easyfind?Ntt=john+stott+bibles+studies&Ntk=key+words&action=Search&Ne=0&event=ESRCQ&nav\\_search=1&cms=1&ps\\_exit=KEYWORD%7Clegacy&ps\\_domain=www&aq=John+Stott](https://www.christianbook.com/apps/easyfind?Ntt=john+stott+bibles+studies&Ntk=key+words&action=Search&Ne=0&event=ESRCQ&nav_search=1&cms=1&ps_exit=KEYWORD%7Clegacy&ps_domain=www&aq=John+Stott)

**References:**

*Prepare Your Church for the Future* by Carl George

*Nine Keys to Effective Small Group Leadership* by Carl George

*Leading Life-Changing Small Group* by Bill Donahue

*Coaches Handbook: small group* by Willow Creek Community Church, 1995

*Making Small Groups Work: What Every Small Group Leader Needs to Know* by Henry Cloud and John Townsend

[www.smallgroups.com](http://www.smallgroups.com)