

Tips for Leading Small Groups

1. Small group ministry can renew a parish: through discipleship, pastoral support, fellowship, and equipping leaders.
2. Why do we need small groups?
 - *People's needs: people need to hear the gospel, 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.*
 - *Biblical Principles: Evangelism (Mk 16:15), make disciples (Matt 28:19-20), Christian Fellowship, build up each other (Eph 4:11-16), care for each other (1 Cor 12:25), suffer together (1 Cor 12:26, Rom 12:15), share our burdens (Gal 6:2)*
3. How to start a small group?
 - *Find an interest group that you have a passion for – such as a young adult group, a singles group, a career group, a book study group, a men's group, a women's group, a new immigrant group, and etc.*
 - *Talk to someone who shares the same passion. Invite him/her to join you as co-leader and form a group.*
 - *Check with your priest/pastor to seek advice and ask for resources, Bible study series, or a book in the Bible to study.*
 - *Set a date, time and place – for the first casual gathering*
 - *Invite potential members to come – both within the church and outside*
 - *Food is always good – potluck or a snack help build a relax and friendly atmosphere*
 - *Always keep within your timeframe – check with the group if you run over time.*
4. The content 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. prayer time*
5. Responsibilities of small group leaders (Like a pastor -- John 21:15-17)
 - *To Lead, to watch, to Support Church Unity, to equip and to reproduce another small group.*
6. What are some 'red flags' to watch for when leading a small group ministry?
 - *When a small group starts to discourage new members from joining*
 - *When a small group becomes an 'opposition party' within a church*
 - *When a small group becomes a social group more than a spiritual group*
 - *When a group leader begins to feel burned out*
 - *When a group brews negativity within themselves*
 - *When it becomes hard to find group leaders – nurture and develop co-leaders*
 - *When there is a lack of ground rules for a small group*

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