

MAKING A BIG DIFFERENCE THROUGH SMALL GROUPS



KYMON HINDS
IDEAS TO LIFE



KymoneHinds.com

CONTENTS

Introduction..... 3

How To Lead Your Small Group.....4

 1. Prepare Yourself..... 4

 2. Plan For Your Group 4

 3. Pray For God’s Power 4

Suggested Group Schedule.....5

 Welcome - Get To Know Each Other 5

 Worship - Turn Our Hearts To God 5

 Word - Discuss The Bible/Lesson 5

 Works - What Do We Do Next? 6



INTRODUCTION

My wife and I were putting together an exercise bike recently and lost one of the washers that connects with a screw. No big deal, we thought until the bike felt wobbly and unstable. It helped us to understand again the lesson that small things can make a big difference.

Small groups have made a big difference in the lives of many. They provide a place for sharing and caring. As you lead your group, I first of all want to thank you for your investment in the lives of others. There is a hunger among us all for genuine connection and the ability to grow together.

Here are some tips for leading your small group effectively.



HOW TO LEAD YOUR SMALL GROUP

1. PREPARE YOURSELF

As the leader, set a good example by going through the material you plan to study. It will prepare you for questions that may come up and, more than that, bless your own devotional life. You may also want to formulate questions to use for discussion.

2. PLAN FOR YOUR GROUP

I would advise you to host your group in a home or comfortable venue if possible. This allows people to feel more open to sharing. Another benefit is you can plan a meal to share together before you get into the discussion of the material you are studying. Most people think more clearly and share more deeply when you feed them. You can even rotate between different homes so different families have an opportunity to host the group. Keep reading to find a suggested format you can use to plan your time together.

Another aspect of planning is monitoring group size. The recommended maximum group size is 12. (Remember Jesus had 12 disciples!) If your group grows beyond 12, seriously consider breaking up into more than one group. This way everyone can have a chance to share and the time together does not have to be too long.

3. PRAY FOR GOD'S POWER

This point was not put in here simply because it went with the alliteration (Prepare & Plan). No, this is the most important tool in ensuring that you lead a small group effectively. As someone said, "Prayer is not our last resort, it's our first resource." Know that the devil will try to block what God wants to do in your group, but God is more powerful and eager to fight all the battles that go on behind and in front of the scenes. You just need to call on Him. So pray for every person in your group regularly, specifically and individually. Pray for God's wisdom to be with you as you lead (He promised if you ask for wisdom He will pour it out on you – James 1:5). Pray for the Holy Spirit to be poured out on your group members so they will be transformed and then be walking testimonies. When things may get rough, don't worry or get discouraged. Pray.



SUGGESTED GROUP SCHEDULE

WELCOME - GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER

This is a time for fellowship, food and even some fun. As your group members are gathering, have some food (something simple is fine) and maybe some music playing in the background. To start things up, you can do an icebreaker (there are great ones available on the internet – Google them) and allow them to loosen up.

Suggested time - 15 minutes

WORSHIP - TURN OUR HEARTS TO GOD

The focus of the group shifts from simply connecting with one another to connecting with God. This is when you can open up with prayer. You can use various forms of prayer – one person, volunteer or designated prayer, sentence prayer in a circle, reading a prayer from Scripture, or something else you come up with.

If your group is comfortable, you can sing a couple songs. Do not feel compelled to sing if you know your group is not the singing type. A lot of people may not be very comfortable singing in small groups.

Another form of worship you can incorporate is a time of sharing or testimony time. Encourage group members to share what God has been doing in their lives over the week. This can be a time where they even celebrate how they've been blessed by the designated reading. Again, don't force testimonies. Model it – share what God has done for you briefly (that is an important word) and encourage others to do the same.

Suggested time - 15 minutes

WORD - DISCUSS THE BIBLE/LESSON

This is your teaching time where the group explores what God is teaching them. If your material has simply a lesson or reading or if you are using scripture, have people volunteer to read. You do not have to re-read everything if it is a long lesson.

Stop the reading along the way to allow for questions or to ask questions. One message you need to send is "Questions are welcome here." Encourage group members to share honestly about their struggles and successes. Create an environment where everyone feels comfortable sharing.



One thing to note, when having reading done out loud, allow people to volunteer but do not make it compulsory for everyone to read.

Suggested time - 30 minutes

WORKS - WHAT DO WE DO NEXT?

After you have connected with each other, connected with God and connected with His word, what's next? That's the question of this last stage – what's next? As your group gets ready to close, you all need to decide what practical steps you will take over the next week to implement what you've learned into your life. Do this jointly as a group and have the group members make commitments. Remember we grow in community, so hold each other accountable for the commitments. This accountability entails not just checking up at the appointed group time, but doing check-ups in the middle of the week with each other.

Suggested time - 15 minutes

