

SMALL GROUP TRAINING WORKSHOP

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Contacts

Names

Home Phone

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Aim

The *Small Group Workshop* is designed help you to start and increase your Small Group, as well as strengthen your facilitation skills.

In this Small Group, you want your members to:

- develop a strong relationship with God
- become like a family with one another

Small Group

Each Small Group leader will be given the Small Group Training packet. This will include instructions on how to prepare and lead a Small Group. The Small Groups you are learning to lead are discussion based, using open-ended questions. Therefore, there will be a variety of answers. It is important to have each member in the group be involved and interact. This small group provides a support family for the group members, who are trying to get closer to Jesus.

Leading A Small Group Lesson

Ask Warm Up Question. The first question of the lesson will serve as an introduction to your topic and your passage.

Ask someone to read the passage.

Break up the passage into smaller bites. Have different people read different chunks of the passage.

Restate each part of the passage in your own words. You are not interpreting the passage, just restating it.

Discussion Questions

Ask someone an open-ended question. These questions will bring out the principle of the passage. If someone is having a hard time answering, restate the question in a simpler way.

Restate the person's answer in your own words. You are not interpreting their answer, just restating it. If they gave a long answer, give a summary of what they said.

Repeat the last two steps as often as desired before you move on. Ask other people the same question, or ask a follow up question that comes to mind to add to the discussion.

Make a transition. Based on what your group has said, make a statement that will lead into the next question.

Make a conclusion. Emphasize the good things that people have said throughout the discussion in order to make a concluding thought to leave them with.

Pray about it. Each lesson has a final prayer that people can make individually. Give them time to pray that sort of prayer. Then end with a short simple prayer to close.

Principles to remember:

- **When it comes to the main questions, always call on someone.** This will eliminate awkward silence.
- **Involve everyone in the discussion.** If you can't remember someone's name, don't let that stop you. Just simply ask.
- **Questions are encouraged.** Show appreciation for questions asked. For a detailed way of responding to questions, please refer to "Dealing With Questions" on the next page.
- **Your group will be as enthusiastic as you are.** If you are dull, the group will feel dull. If you are excited, the group will be excited. Show your happiness and appreciation when someone participates. This will encourage them to participate more.

Dealing with Questions

If someone asks you a question, restate their question in your own words in order to make sure you understand it.

- If the question is not appropriate for this week's study...
 - Tell the person that you can talk to them individually about it so not to distract from the today's lesson.
- If the question is appropriate for this week's study...
 - Turn the question over to the group, so that the group can discuss it. In this case, in order to avoid embarrassment, you don't want to call on someone specific to answer the question. Simply open it to whomever may want to answer.
 - When someone answers, restate the person's answer in your own words. Then see how the person who initially asked the question responds to the answer given.
 - If a good answer isn't provided, then answer the question yourself.
 - If a good answer isn't provided and you don't know the answer, tell the asker that you do not know, but will look into that and provide an answer next week.

Small Group Format

(15-20 minutes) Caring and Sharing
 Wait for people to come (no more than 10 mins)
 Checking Up Time- See how the week went for each member.
 Enquire of how their spiritual life is going. Give advice and
 encouragement when needed.
 (Optional Icebreaker Question)

(5-10 minutes) Season of Prayer
 Prayer Requests and Thanksgiving

(30-40 minutes) Lesson Discussion

(1 Hour Total)

For a detailed explanation, please refer to Small Group Sessions on the next page.

Small Group Sessions

Call your members. The most important thing in getting your members to show up to your Sabbath School Class is to call them to remind them. Even if you think they will remember to come on their own, a phone call will also serve to encourage them to come.

Be there 15 minutes early to pray. You want to be there early to set up if needed and use the remaining time to relax and pray before your members arrive. Prayer is power.

Know that people will be late. Don't let people's tardiness discourage you. Instead of waiting in silence for the people to come, talk to whoever is there and get to know them.

Caring and Sharing. Spend the next 15-20 minutes asking how the week went for each member. Enquire of how their spiritual life is going. Give advice and encouragement when needed. This will create a family atmosphere. If the location allows, food can help lend to this atmosphere. Light refreshments would do.

Season of Prayer. Take the next 5-10 minutes asking for prayer requests and thanksgiving and have a season of prayer. As the people become more comfortable, you can call on some of the members pray, or even have a circle prayer.

Lesson Study. This should take up the majority of the time. Plan and time all the preliminaries in a way that you are leaving yourself enough time (30-40 minutes) for the Lesson Study. When you lead out the Lesson Study, use the methods outlined in this packet. Remember, the best group studies are the ones where the leader speaks the least.

Ask Warm Up Question. The first question of the lesson will serve as an introduction to your topic and your passage.

Ask someone to read the passage.

Break up the passage into smaller bites. Have different people read different chunks of the passage.

Restate each part of the passage in your own words. You are not interpreting the passage, just restating it.

Discussion Questions

Ask someone an open-ended question. These questions will bring out the principle of the passage. If someone is having a hard time answering, restate the question in a simpler way.

Restate the person's answer in your own words. You are not interpreting their answer, just restating it. If they gave a long answer, give a summary of what they said.

Repeat the last two steps as often as desired before you move on. Ask other people the same question, or ask a follow up question that comes to mind to add to the discussion.

Make a transition. Based on what your group has said, make a statement that will lead into the next question.

Make a conclusion. Emphasize the good things that people have said throughout the discussion in order to make a concluding thought to leave them with.

End the lesson discussion on time. Be mindful of the time. Allow the discussion to flow; however, don't lose track of time. After you felt like you've dwelt long enough on a verse, move on to the next passage. Some may want to go longer. That's okay. Leave them wanting more. This will motivate them to study the lesson for themselves and come next week for more dialogue.

Pray about it. Each lesson has a final prayer that people can make individually. Give them time to pray that sort of prayer. Then end with a short simple prayer to close.