

Small Group Evangelism

An Integral Part of the Discipleship Puzzle: Loving Outsiders

- Living in the Green is not just a catchy slogan: it is the life-giving compass for small groups. If one of the three aspects of living in the green is neglected, the small group and the holistic discipleship that is supposed to be going on suffers because of it. Most small groups are fruitful in loving God and loving each other, but how well is your small group doing in loving outsiders?
- **Read Matthew 28:19-20.** When we neglect evangelism, we run the risk of raising disciples that begin to twist the call of Jesus to “go and make disciples” into “stay in your living room and hoard the Kingdom.” Small groups are *inclusive*, not *exclusive*. They are house churches that should replicate our church’s heart to reach out to the lost and least. How does your small group represent the church’s heart in this way?

Fishing with Nets...

- *Vision Cast!!* As the small group leader, it is your responsibility to keep evangelism in the forefront of your members’ minds. You can do this in a number of ways:
 - Have a “VIP board” up and in sight every week with the names of people you are praying for in regards to their salvation
 - Pray weekly as a small group for people to invite and plug into your group
 - Keep an empty chair out every small group to pray over it to help remind members to continue to invite unsaved friends and family
 - Start encouraging members to meet their neighbors or the neighbors around the house/apartment you meet in and begin to build relationships with them.
- **Read Philemon 6.** True community needs to be shared with others and given away. Some small groups are concerned that if they begin evangelizing that the community that they have built will be eroded, but stats and examples here at the church show that small groups that evangelize together actually grow deeper faster and remain that way while small groups that don’t evangelize together have a greater risk of growing inward and stagnating.
- **Read Luke 10:1-2.** Less than 10% of Christians claim to have the spiritual gift of evangelism and the majority of Christians don’t evangelize period. The concept of “pole fishing”, evangelizing by yourself, can be a daunting task. “Net fishing” is what happens when small groups of believers come together for the purpose of reaching souls together. Using nets to fish also means a greater harvest potential. The system is in place via small groups, so start using the skills and gifts of your small group to reach out to those around you! Small group evangelism is *very* Biblical!
- Have everyone invite lost friends, family, neighbors, classmates, and co-workers and then let your extroverts welcome them, let your intercessors pray before and after, let your listeners listen, let your teachers teach, let the love and community of your small group draw people into the Kingdom, and when the time is right, share the Gospel. Everyone plays an integral part in winning souls in small groups! In our small groups, our goal should be to win souls and make disciples.

Naturally Reaching Out – How Do We Do It?

- *Begin with your “oikos”.* Throughout the New Testament you find the Greek word “oikos”, which is usually translated as “household.” A “household” in the New Testament sense includes the primary group of people who relate to you directly through your family, work, recreation, hobbies, proximity (neighbors), etc. It is anyone that is already in your direct sphere of influence. They are relationships that are already built and in most cases, trust and credibility are already in place making the invitation to small group that much easier!
- *Be creative!* There are many ways to get people to come to and enjoy small group.
 - Plan barbeques, picnics, sports, and other non-threatening, non-church environments that are welcoming to new people and non-Christians who may not be comfortable walking right into your regular group structure.
 - Welcome, meet and invite visitors at Sunday services to your small group.
 - Have a dinner instead of small group where you simply invite unsaved friends over for dinner to meet the small group and get a taste of the community... follow up with them and invite them back!
 - Outreach evangelism – meet felt needs of neighbors and friends as a group

Constantly Assess and Revamp Your Evangelism Strategies

- Is your small group being fruitful in your evangelistic outreach? If the answer is no, then try something new! Prayerfully seek to discern the Lord’s will for your group and their evangelistic focus. Constantly pray and brainstorm *as a small group* (not just you, the leader!) about the ways the Lord wants you to move in regards to evangelism.
- Use the following guide to assess your evangelistic openness as a small group on the next page as a way of cultivating more of an evangelistic heart in your group.



Is Your Group Evangelistically Open?

Evaluate your group's strengths and weaknesses in light of different types of evangelism.

Philemon 6

Discuss the following questions with your small group:

- **In which method of evangelism is our group the strongest? Weakest?**
- **Which of the principles below excites me the most? Why?**
- **What three steps can our group take to improve our evangelistic effectiveness?**

	Does Not Describe	Somewhat Describes	Completely Describes
Prayer Evangelism			
➤ On a regular basis (at least every other meeting), our group prays for the salvation of specific individuals.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
➤ Our prayers go beyond mentioning people who need salvation—they could be described as “heartfelt” or “fervent.”	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
➤ Our group regularly engages in spiritual warfare, asking the Holy Spirit to prevent the god of this age from blinding the minds of those in need of salvation (2 Corinthians 4:4).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
➤ Members of our group regularly combine prayer with fasting.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evangelism as a Group Event			
➤ The group leader does not take on the bulk of the responsibility and work when it comes to inviting new members.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
➤ Our small group regularly hears about the Biblical call and the need for our small group to reach out, invite, and evangelize.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
➤ Our group varies its approach to evangelism, including personal invitations, social events, “the empty chair,” and so on.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Honesty and Transparency			
➤ Group members regularly talk about struggles and weaknesses, including the confession of temptation and sin.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
➤ Group members listen to each other respectfully; they do not judge others or offer unwanted advice.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Service Evangelism			
➤ Our group regularly plans and carries out service projects within our community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
➤ We pray for the people we serve and are faithful to invite them to the group.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
➤ From time to time, our group joins with other groups to plan larger and more detailed service projects or events.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Church Partnership			
➤ During regular worship services at our church, group members welcome visitors and invite them to the group when appropriate.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
➤ Our pastor regularly preaches evangelistic sermons, and group members invite unsaved friends and family to attend.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Scriptures to Pray For Non-Christians

1. That God draws them to Himself (John 6.44)
2. That they seek to know God (Acts 17.27, Deut. 4.29)
3. That they believe the Scriptures (1st Thessalonians 2.13, Romans 10.17)
4. That Satan is bound from blinding them to the truth (Matt. 13.19, 2nd Cor. 4.4)
5. That the Holy Spirit works in them (John 16.8-13)
6. That God sends someone to lead them to Christ (Matthew 9.37-38)
7. That they believe in Christ as Savior (John 1.12, John 5.24)
8. That they turn from sin (Acts 17.30-31)
9. That they confess Christ as Lord (Romans 9.9-10)
10. That they yield all to follow Christ (2nd Cor. 5.15, Philippians 3.7-8)
11. That they take root and know Jesus (Colossians 2.6-7)