

# Kingdom Creativity in Your Small Group

*Three things: 1. God is unbelievably creative. 2. We are made in His image. 3. We should replicate His creativity in all that we do... including small groups*

## **Keeping it Fresh**

- **Mix it up every now and then!** God is extremely creative in His ways of doing things. From creation itself to Jericho's walls coming down through marching and trumpets to healing blindness with nothing more than spit and mud, God is wonderfully creative. Small groups should mirror this Kingdom creativity in the way we love God, insiders, and outsiders. Small group does not have to look the same every single week... disciples enjoy encountering God in different ways! Here are some suggestions on how to mix it up while still "living in the green."
  - **Loving God** – have a night exclusively dedicated to worship, do lectio divina with the group instead of a traditional bible study, fast together all day and then hold a prayer meeting instead of a typical small group, go to Payne's Prairie and silently contemplate God's majesty through nature...
    - *What are other creative ways your group would connect with God?*
  - **Loving Insiders** – instead of your typical small group evening just have a potluck and fellowship night, fast and then come together to take communion as a group, grill out or have a picnic together at a new place, play games or sports together if you think that will build a closer sense of community...
    - *What are some activities that would deepen fellowship in your group?*
  - **Loving Outsiders** –make small group a night to go downtown and hang out with the homeless, serve together at a local ministry like St. Francis House or Gainesville Community Ministries, volunteer together at a nursing home, go evangelizing one night instead of meeting together at your regular meeting place, go prayer walk the UF campus...
    - *Which way of loving the lost and least would spark some of your members into action?*
- **You can break the routine by getting others involved.** We all get comfortable leading in a certain way, but sometimes this can get predictable and monotonous. Instead of trying to throw everything on your own shoulders, inject some fresh energy and different teaching styles into your group by letting your apprentice or other members teach a few weeks on a Scripture or topic that is really exciting to them. Not only will you get some fresh insight and new angles, you will also be raising up other leaders and allowing others with the gift of teaching to function in their gift!

## **Creativity = No Disciple Left Behind!**

- **Failure is a disciple maker's best friend.** Nothing new comes out of doing things the same. If your group is not connecting through the way you have always been doing it, then maybe it is time to mix it up. Yes, this may mean you fail a few times, but if those failures lead to eventually finding a method or style that creates a massive discipleship breakthrough, then friends, it is worth it!
  - *The people who make disciples do so because they are not afraid of trying to find the most effective way of doing so, even if that means failing before succeeding.* Don't be afraid to step out and try new discipleship tactics!
- **Discipleship happens different ways for different people.** You probably have a wide range of personalities in your small group who all connect, learn, and grow in different ways. Jesus created some discipleship moments that connected with all the disciples, but there were also unique ways Jesus had to disciple Peter that was very different than the way He disciplined John or the others. In order to find out how people respond to different discipleship tactics, you have to try and see what works. Make sure you are praying and asking the Lord to show you creative ways to disciple all the members of your small group, not just the ones who connect to God the same way you do!