



Small Group Leaders Meeting – Overview

Dec 1, 2009

Here’s an overview of what we talked about last night. Thanks to those who made it out. We had some great discussion!

I opened the meeting with a brief devotional on Genesis 1-2, talking about how humans we’re created with a need for human community as well as a relationship with God. When God had created Man He looked at all He had made and said it was “very good.” And yet, in the pre-Fall world where Adam walked and talked with God and there was no sin, God looked at Adam and said it is “not good” for man to be alone. We need to remind our group members about the importance of community; about the importance of building relationships. Small groups are the key tool we’ve chosen to build community at Faith. It’s part of our strategy for leading people to faith and maturity in Jesus Christ.

A Look Back (reviewing Aug 17 meeting)

- **COACHING**
 - We have started a new coaching component to the leadership of our small group ministry at Faith Baptist Church
 - There are 3 coaching teams:
 - Dave and Meredith Hiscox
 - Mark and Christine Tulloch
 - Matt and Christina Kerr
 - Each coaching team is responsible for 5-6 groups
 - The role of the coach is to encourage and assist their leaders in the development and nurturing of their individual small group. In particular, this will be accomplished by focusing on the personal leadership development of the group’s leader(s).
 - Coach contact will include phone calls every few months or face-to-face “how are things going” over a coffee once or twice a year as well as a group visit once-a-year.
 - Coaching is not designed to look over the leaders’ shoulders to see how their doing. It is intended to improve group health by focusing on the development of the leader.
- **IDENTIFYING AND NURTURING NEW LEADERS WITHIN THE GROUP**
 - We need to be identifying and developing new leaders in order for our us to have more groups to accommodate more people into small groups.

- The greatest leaders are going to come from within the small group ministry. They're already on-board with small groups; they recognize the impact it can have on lives.
- We're asking each leader to prayerfully identify someone in their group who they feel has the potential to lead a group in the future
- The group leader would then speak to that person and see if they are interested in taking that path.
- The leader can give the future leader opportunities to take on some leadership (teach a lesson once-in-a-while, organize a group event).
- Down the road, you can lay out a timeline (with the group's knowledge) for that leader along with a few seeder members to be sent out to establish a "sister" group. This can be something that is laid out from the beginning as a goal; something to move towards and celebrate.
- FALL SIGNUP
 - Went well
- WEBSITE
 - Thanks for keeping it up-to-date. Just a few weeks ago I had a couple mention they were going to the site to see which groups were following Pastor Darrell's sermon questions and where the groups were located. So, people are using the site to find groups.
 - If you haven't checked out the groupfinder tool, go to smallgroups.ca and click on some of the links at the bottom, like "list of groups"
- LEADER GET-TOGETHERS
 - We had one just last night ☺ We're going to get together every few months. Our next leaders meeting will be in January ahead of the church-wide study. It looks like the church-wide study will start on Sunday Jan 17th or the following Sunday.

Looking Ahead

- CHURCH-WIDE STUDY 2010
 - We were originally looking at Chip Ingrams R12 study on Discipleship but the book (listed as being published in October 2009) doesn't appear to be out yet.
 - We're now considering "The Prodigal God", based on the book of the same title by Timothy Keller. This is a 6-week study. You can check the book and study info out at www.theprodigalgod.com

Other Items

We finished off the meeting by sharing some stories from our groups (success stories, difficulties we were facing as leaders, things/formats that were working for our groups). It was a great discussion. Getting together as leaders and bouncing ideas/needs off one another can help to sharpen us as leaders. Take opportunities

to talk to other leaders. Ask them how their group is going. Ask them what's going well and what's in need of development. Share your own small group story.

I also challenged the leaders in attendance to cast a vision for their group. Think about the question, "what do you want your group to look like a year from now? (spiritually, dynamically, numerically). We need to be purposed in our groups. We need to lead our groups. Your answer will be different than other leaders. It will be unique for your group. But as the leader I encourage you to seek out a vision for your group that fits with our church's purpose of "leading people to faith and maturity in Jesus Christ" and then share and speak that vision into your group at every opportunity.

The group leaders at Faith are doing a phenomenal job with their groups. Thank you to all those who taken on this important role. Please pass along our thanks to the hosts as well, for opening their homes to the groups.

Also thank you to our coaches!

Have a great week!