

Crafting and Leading Small Groups that Matter

Practical tips, philosophical ideals, and the place of the Bible and prayer in your small group contexts.

Sam Kilpatrick | Carey Baptist College

MATTHEW 18:20, HEBREWS 10:24-25, 1 THESSALONIANS 5:11, PROVERBS 27:17, 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-27

Key Takeaways

Scripture Union Ireland

Direction

- Treat small groups like a road trip. Have a final destination in mind, even if detours arise along the way. Clarity of purpose keeps the group focused.

Down to Earth

- Create an atmosphere that feels comfortable and real. Think of a living room rather than a lecture room. Sit in a circle, not a row.

Diverse Participation

- Ensure that everyone in the group has an opportunity to share and participate. Use open-ended questions to facilitate meaningful discussions.

Continuous Improvement: Review (Always)

Even if things went really well it is an important skill and practice to always reflect and review. After every small group ask yourself these three questions:

1. What went well?
2. What did I learn?
3. What can we learn?

Bible

- Apps
- Solo Time
- Dialogue read like a script
- “Give them something to look for”
- Audio Versions
- Pre Reading

Youthworks

Preparation

Adequate preparation is essential for effective small group leadership. Leaders should come equipped with formulated thoughts rather than relying solely on improvisation during discussions

Intentionality

Move beyond passive hopes to active intentionality. Leaders should actively work toward meaningful outcomes within the group.

Relational Trust

Trust is foundational. When trust is high, members feel comfortable opening up and contributing authentically. Leaders must invest time in building trust.

Meaningful Discussion

The aim of a small group is for members to go on a journey to learn and discover truths together and how they apply to life. This happens most effectively as leaders facilitate meaningful discussion amongst all members of the group rather than simply getting to the ‘right answer’.

Prayer

- Round We Go
- The Acronyms
- Written
- Pre-asked and prepared
- Quietness
- Music and the Art

Resources

Application

What is one thing from this workshop that you think might influence how you engage with small groups in your context?