

Purpose Driven Discipleship Groups

CONNECTION PROCESS

(Connection facilitator instructions in BOLD)

INTRODUCTION AND ORIENTATION: 10 minutes

"God's Heart for Small Groups"

Hold up an envelope with \$10 in it. Don't tell them what is in it - Ask for someone to give you \$5 for it... Shift from what it costs to what they received... "To be successful in change, you need to shift your paradigm from what you will lose to what you will gain." Same with small groups - shift focus from "what I must give up (time, etc.) to what I will gain (new friends, spiritual growth, etc.)".

ROUND #1 (2 to 4 people): 10-15 minutes

Get up and move! Find someone else in your similar life stage in the tables in your area and ask the following questions:

1. Introduce yourself. Tell where you were born and how you ended up where you live?
2. What are your favorite hobbies or interests?

Interview responses: Have FUN!

ROUND #2 (4 to 8 people): 20-25 minutes

Now - you two find two others. Have members in one group introduce their members to their new group. Ask each other:

1. How did you end up coming to this [conference or meeting] and what are you looking forward to learning or gaining from it?
2. What was your favorite vacation, and why?

Interview responses: Talk to them about what they learned!

ROUND #3 (8 to 16 people): 30-35 minutes

Find another group near you and sit down at a table. Have members from your second group (Round #2) introduce your group to the others.

Share an example of a 1 MINUTE spiritual journey - how God brought you to Himself and to where you are now spiritually. Then have them do this...

1. Briefly share (one minute version) about your spiritual journey. How you accepted Christ in your life or where you are at in your spiritual quest.

Interview People and affirm their taking a risk!

2. Briefly share about your primary church/ministry involvement and small group experiences (especially any leadership experience).
3. What area in your life would you like someone to pray for you about?

FACILLITATOR TEACHING & SELECTION: 30-35 minutes

(Teach)

You have just had a taste of small group life. You have taken a small step in connecting with other people around your table tonight. It is our desire tonight that you would take next step of committing to a six week small group experience with the people around your table. After six weeks, you decide whether or not you will continue.

We will talk more about that in a minute. But first, let me try to paint an accurate picture of a small group. What are the critical components?

- Acceptance
- Support
- Confidentiality
- Faithful attendance

- Encourage growth
- Invite and welcome newcomers
- Share ownership
- Work through the curriculum

We believe that you are not here by accident. We trust that in God's providence, he has brought you here. He is leading, guiding, and moving.

The last piece for us to put into place tonight is the facilitator piece. Let's be honest, that might be a scary thought for a lot of us. We think to ourselves "I can't do that... I don't have teaching gifts. I don't have a charismatic personality." But what we're looking for is someone who can humbly keep your group conversation going - facilitate your group growth - and let the Holy Spirit through the curriculum do the leading.

The biblical model of shepherd leadership is more about servanthood than it is about a certain type of personality. It is my experience that some of the very best leaders in the kingdom are people who simply love God and love people.

In Acts 6 the early church faced a problem. The apostles were frantically trying to lead and manage the church as it was exploding in growth. The result was that some of the widows in the church were being neglected. The apostles told the church "choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom."

In the same spirit, we are going to ask you to select a facilitator from among your group tonight. Now, some of your tables already have someone who has felt God tap them on the shoulder. They have volunteered to facilitate a group.

The rest of the groups need to select a facilitator tonight. As you process this tonight, here is a question I want you to consider "Who at this table do I think would be a good SPIRITUAL facilitator for the next 6-weeks? Who has a SERVANT'S HEART & a SHEPHERD'S PASSION?"

God may have already begun to reveal this person's name to you as I have been speaking - let's ask Him to speak to our hearts about this now...

PRAY (wisdom, Divine guidance & providence, review criteria, reveal name)

Now, here is how we are going to try this tonight. On the count of 3, I am going to ask you to point at the person at your table that you pictured in your mind.

DO THAT NOW!! POINT AND KEEP POINTING!

(make sure each table selects a facilitator AND an apprentice) Have leaders stand and applaud them.

Would you now go around your table and begin to share with each other why you think this person would be a good shepherd leader for the next 6 weeks. Let's trust God to lead you and your group to make a wise decision.

Make sure each table has selected a leader

Now, come to a conclusion about:

Night of the week?

Contact information? (Fill out rosters if not done already)

Host home?

Curriculum choice?

Ask leaders to stay around for a 5 minute meeting at the front of the platform.