How to Launch and Grow a Small Group

Be Fruitful and Multiply!

The fruit of an apple tree is not an apple but an apple tree. The real fruit of your small group leadership is more small group leaders and groups.

God destined us to multiply His life.

1. Repeatedly God commands His people to "be fruitful and increase in number." (Genesis 1:28; 9:1; 9:8; 35:11)
2. God's Kingdom is like a mustard seed or yeast that begins small but grows and permeates its environment. (Matthew 13:31-33)
3. God's word, like seed sown on good soil, is to produce "thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times what was sown." (Mark 4:20)
4. Jesus said, "This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." (John 15:8)

Be Creative—There are Many Ways to Begin a Small Group

Internal Multiplication: The group divides into two groups, roughly of equal size – one led by the previous leader and one led by the intern.

Birth: The original group stays intact but sends out one to four members to begin a new group.

Shotgun: The leader of the groups becomes a coach to two or three groups that begin simultaneously out of the original group.

Small Group Plant: The group leader leaves to begin a new group, turning the original group over to their intern.

Launch: A new group is created from scratch under the leadership of the Small Group ministry but not from a specific existing group. When this takes place the leaders usually have had previous Small Group leadership experience.

Get Ready

Begin going through whatever Leadership or Small Group training your church offers.

Pray consistently for your Small Group Members and your unbelieving friends.

Tell your Small Group Leader that you want to learn leadership skills and ask to be involved in serving and leading.

Receive God's vision for your life and your Small Group.

Get Set

Talk to your Small Group Leader, Coach, or Pastor to express your willingness to lead or help start a new group.

Meet with your core people and your Small Group Leader or Coach to pray and

plan the beginning of your new group.

Set dates to be commissioned by your current group and for the start of your new group. You might plan a party or cookout one or two months from now that includes both the parent group and the new group.

Plan:

1. Where your group will meet.
2. Whether you need to make arrangements for children's ministry.
3. Who can be responsible for worship.
4. What other responsibilities can be delegated: organizing parties, leading the Bible discussion, etc.

Target:

1. Potential leaders
2. Non-Christians
3. New people who have recently come to the Lord or become involved in the church

Do parties and social activities with your definite and potential Small Group members (Christians and non-Christians).

Keep praying and listening to God.

Go!

When you start your new group:

1. Explain the goals and vision of the group to reach upward, inward, outward, and forward, and the special focus that your group will have.
2. Welcome ideas and suggestions from others as they come, but don't feel you need to incorporate them—your calling from God gives you vision; someone else's idea or calling will only be a burden.
3. Invite people to pray for the group and invest themselves in making it work by giving themselves to the group if they choose to be involved.

Keep reaching...

1. **Pray—Reach Upward:** Grow in Christ and keep praying for the group and for non-Christian friends.
2. **Care—Reach Inward:** Building relationships with group members and the lost— party!
3. **Reach—Move Outward:** Set goals for launching a new group or groups—focus people on praying for and reaching out to friends.
   - What was most influential in bringing you to Christ?
   - How did they influence you?
   - How many times did you hear the gospel before you responded?
   - Can they reach out to others as others reached out to them?
4. **Empower—Reach Forward:** Consistently pray for new leaders and increasingly involve others in ministry—send people all potential leaders to the Small Group leader training events.