



CODE BLUE

TRAINING FOR LOCAL LEADERS

MODULE SIX

SMALL GROUPS

Session 1 - Discipleship Basics

Session 2 - Small Group Essentials

Session 3 - Small Group Experience



PARTICIPANT'S MANUAL

The Salvation Army

Australia Territory



SMALL GROUPS

SESSION 1: DISCIPLESHIP BASICS

AIM:

The aim of this module is to discover practical ways of making a small group culture an active part of the disciple making process. The main objectives are:

To discover what discipleship is, consider the dynamics and value of a small group approach, study elements of a small group, and learn how to cultivate a small group 'culture'.

Parts of this material have been adapted from Backpack: Small Group Discipleship, produced by the Territorial Corps Programme Department.

INTRODUCTION

Small groups and discipleship – where's the link?

Being part of a small group, home group, cell group – whatever you wish to call it, can be one of the best experiences of Christian community.

Even better than the group itself, is understanding *why* you are part of a group, *why* you may be thinking about starting a group and *what* the group can do for the long-term spiritual development of the people involved.

The short answer to all of that is that being part of a small group is one of the key functions of discipleship. And it's this word 'discipleship' that we are going to unpack in the first part of this session.

When you understand Jesus' call for us to be followers – and to learn everything we can about the practicalities of our faith, you'll see that being part of a small group is one of the best ways you can work through these issues.

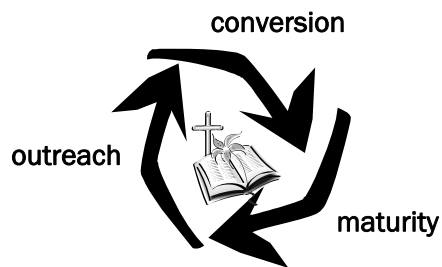
To help get you thinking about the opening activity, turn in your bibles to 2 Timothy 2. Keep that open in front of you, referring to it as you brainstorm.

PART ONE: DISCOVERING DISCIPLESHIP

What?

Discipleship is...

- A p_____ of developing our faith – both in others and ourselves.
- An ongoing c_____ from conversion to maturity to outreach.
- Not e_____, although that is an o_____ of a growing disciple.
- More than I_____ about faith; it is I_____ it.
- The journey of becoming like J_____



The discipleship process:

Growing people in their faith, equipping them for ministry and sending them out into the world to make disciples. All of this is based on God's Word.

(See 2 Timothy 2:2)

Why?

- Discipleship is a B_____ m_____ (see John 15:16).
- Jesus did it (Jesus called, matured, and sent out his disciples – the ultimate model).

Discussion

Look up Matthew 28:18-20

- On whose authority does Jesus make this statement?
- How do you interpret this passage?
- What does “teaching everything I have commanded you” mean?

MAKING DISCIPLESHIP A PRIORITY IN MINISTRY

Consequences of Inadequate Discipleship...

- No d_____!
- Learning happens by r_____ with limited life application.
- The learning/discipleship process does not extend beyond the life of the p_____.
- F_____ -u_ of intermittent attendees is not carried out.
- Lack of l_____.
- People l_____ the C_____.
- Church members b_____ the p_____ and its leaders for not being able to h_____ people through to Christian maturity.
- People are unaware of their s_____ g_____, often resulting in service in inappropriate ministry for an individual.

CHANGING THE MINDSET

Three things are needed to change the mindset from a DISCIPLESHIP PROGRAMME to a LIFESTYLE of DISCIPLESHIP

1. Model c_____ l_____
2. Shift from p_____ -based ministry to r_____ -based ministry
(remember: it's not what you do, it's how you USE what you do)
3. Go for s_____ and d_____ rather than l_____ and s_____
It's the quality of the fruit that counts, not quantity.
Why? Because it lasts!



PART TWO: SMALL GROUPS

HOW SMALL GROUPS ARE DIFFERENT FROM LARGE GROUPS

Discipleship can happen in a large group. It happens on Sundays, at camps, at conferences. The key here is to understand that in any healthy ministry, the discipleship process needs to take place in BOTH the small and large group context.

Consider the table below:

LARGE GROUPS <i>(Worship services, rallies, camps, etc.)</i>	SMALL GROUPS <i>(cell groups, training sessions, prayer groups, etc.)</i>
Hype and momentum	Intimacy and sharing
Decision making opportunities	Decision follow-up opportunities
Continual growth	Continual multiplication
Direct challenge	Direct accountability
Common teaching	Specific teaching
Limited participation	Full participation
Formal atmosphere	Casual atmosphere

Some small groups that may already exist in our Corps

- Senior pastoral care council meetings
- YP teachers' meetings
- Bible study groups
- Pre-worship service prayer meetings
- Membership classes
-
-

Add your own
thoughts here



MORE THAN A BIBLE STUDY

When some people think of a small group, they immediately think of a group of people who meet each week to study the Bible. This is true, but a small group can, and should be, MUCH MORE than this.

If we take the Acts 2 early church model and put it under a microscope, we will see that there is much more to be experienced in a small group.



CHARACTERISTICS OF SMALL GROUPS AND THEIR MEMBERS

ACTS 2:42-47 (NIV)

“They devoted themselves to the Apostles’ teaching...”

- A desire to l_____

“...and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread...”

- Eating and sharing l_____

“...and to prayer.”

- C_____ to prayer; sharing requests

“Everyone was filled with awe...”

- R_____ and praise for God

“...and many miraculous signs and wonders were done by the apostles.”

- An e_____ that God would work in their midst
- M_____ to one another

“All the believers were together and had everything in common,”

- U_____ of purpose

“...selling their possessions and goods, they gave to everyone as he had need.”

- S_____ each other and the community in p_____ ways

“Everyday they continued to meet together in the temple courts.”

- Committed to c_____ worship
- Balance of l_____ and s_____

“They broke bread together in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts...”

- Sharing of m_____
- A g_____ concern for one another

“...praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people.”

- A w_____ and lifestyle that is a_____, even to non-Christians

“And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

- Multiplication and g _____



PART THREE: MAKING DISCIPLES

A small group doesn't mean much if it doesn't result in disciples being made. A group that morphs into something else or that refuses to change its membership is not doing its job as a group.

In groups of 3, write down your 'top 3' qualifications for a small group leader.

Characteristics of a Small Group (or any) Leader

F_____

Matthew 25:21

- What do you regard as little?
- Learn to L_____ your "little".

A_____

- Doesn't make e_____
- R_____ a_____ w_____ to serve.
- Makes a deliberate c_____.

T_____

- Willing to l_____.
- Doesn't have to be a Bible e_____.
- Desire to t_____ others (2 Timothy 2:2).
- The best small group leaders are those who have been regular small group attendees.

RAISING LEADERS AND APPRENTICES (REPRODUCTION)

One of the most overlooked parts of discipleship is actually the most important. Scientifically, it's called reproduction. Basically it means that people keep growing by 'reproducing' their life in another.

A good analogy is the apprentice:

Every good leader has an apprentice, an assistant, a protégé. A small group is a perfect way to develop leaders and lends itself to the apprentice model.

The apprentice model is a basic discipleship model that looks like this:

I do → you watch
You do → I watch
You do



The apprentice model is one where each small group has an apprentice leader who is learning to lead the group.

List some ways you could use an apprentice leader...

CLOSE & PRAYER

This is the end of 'part one' of small groups. Next session we will discuss:

- Dividing groups
- Creating new small groups
- Choosing material and curriculum for your group
- Dealing with communication in groups – difficult, talkative and quiet people

2 PRAYER IDEAS:

1. Go back to the Acts 2 list and choose a CHARACTERISTIC that you would like to cultivate in a small group you are currently part of or soon to be part of. *Pray with a partner for this characteristic to be developed in you.*
2. If you are not part of a small group, but are just discovering what DISCIPLESHIP may mean for you, go to the Acts 2 list and choose a CHARACTERISTIC that you would like to be developed in your life.

You may pray to be more: hospitable, focused on worshipping God, outward looking. Again, find a friend in the group and pray for this for one another.