

# Small Groups - BIG Impact

## Group Members Training



### ► Devotional Thought: “Special Effects”

*Directions: Read each numbered statement below and match it with its corresponding “effect” name from the lettered list at the very bottom. Each name will be used only once.*

1. The idea that some change, small in itself, will cause a similar change nearby, which then will cause another similar change, and so on in linear sequence. \_\_\_\_
2. The change in frequency and wavelength of a wave for an observer moving relative to the source of the waves. It is commonly heard when a vehicle sounding a siren approaches, passes and recedes from an observer. \_\_\_\_
3. A body suspended from a fixed point will swing freely to and fro by the alternate action of gravity and momentum. \_\_\_\_
4. Repetition of a sound by reflection of sound waves from a surface. \_\_\_\_
5. Small variations of the initial condition of a dynamic system may produce large variations in the long term behavior of the system. \_\_\_\_
6. A short-term improvement in worker behavior and performance caused by observing worker behavior and performance. \_\_\_\_
7. A deliberate change to a system, resulting in effects escaping the control of those who introduced them. Example: The draining of American wetlands since colonial times, resulting in flash-flooding and seasonal droughts. \_\_\_\_
8. Listening to classical music may induce a short-term improvement on the performance of certain kinds of mental tasks. \_\_\_\_
9. The phenomenon of ignoring an obvious situation. \_\_\_\_
10. Positive thoughts and actions expand outward to effect other's lives, who in turn will respond with their own positive thoughts and actions to others. \_\_\_\_
11. Benefits to the wealthy will be realized due to an increase in sales relative to the amount of benefits that are given to the poor. \_\_\_\_
12. People will try to perform to the level of the expectations given by their superiors. \_\_\_\_

A) Pygmalion Effect

E) Doppler Effect

I) Hawthorne Effect

B) Pendulum Effect

F) Echo Effect

J) Mozart Effect

C) Domino Effect

G) Ripple Effect

K) Ostrich Effect

D) Trickle-up Effect

H) Butterfly Effect

L) Boomerang Effect

- *On the previous page, you matched special effects statements with their scientific names. Next, read the Bible passages below and answer the questions that come after them.*

**2 Corinthians 5:17**

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

**Galatians 5:24-25**

"Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit."

**Psalms 40:8**

"To do your will, O my God, is my desire."

**Galatians 2: 20**

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

**1 John 4:19**

"We love because he first loved us."

- *The Bible passages above really speak about the "Gospel Effect." In the space below, write how you would define/describe this effect?*
  
- *Why could we also call the "Gospel Effect" the "Amazing-Grace" effect?*
  
- *An effect-statement that could be used to describe small group ministry is the "Ripple Effect" (#10 on the first page). Why might someone use the "Ripple Effect" to describe small group ministry?*
  
- *What connections/parallels could you make between the "Ripple Effect" and the "Gospel Effect?"*



► The Goals of St. Paul's Small Group Ministry

**ASSIMILATION** = Engaging more people\_\_\_\_\_

**EDUCATION** = Encouraging more people\_\_\_\_\_

**CONVERSION** = Bringing more people\_\_\_\_\_

**MULTIPLICATION** = Growing more people\_\_\_\_\_



► Small Groups Need Leaders, But What Is A Leader?

A Leader Is...	A Leader Is Not...
	<i>A trained theologian</i>
	<i>A faith-healer</i>
	<i>A seminary professor</i>
	<i>A cruise ship concierge</i>
	<i>A psychologist or life coach</i>
	<i>A perfect person</i>
	<i>A party animal</i>

► **Small Groups Faithfully Focus on Five Factors**

**S**

\_\_\_\_\_

Exploring the Bible to increase personal knowledge,  
strengthen faith, and see God's plan for living.

**P**

\_\_\_\_\_

Taking time to personally communicate with God and lifting  
group members and non-Christian friends to God.

**R**

\_\_\_\_\_

Relational evangelism. Inviting and bringing friends,  
family members, co-workers, etc.

**C**

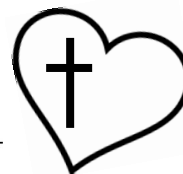
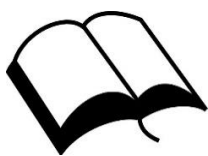
\_\_\_\_\_

Praying for each other, helping in time of need, spending  
time together outside of the group, having fun together.

**E**

\_\_\_\_\_

Identifying and encouraging group members to  
use their gifts and leadership potential.



## STUDY Is the **Strength** for Small Groups



*To get the full flavor of an herb, it must be pressed between the fingers,  
so it is the same with the Scriptures; the more familiar they become,  
the more they reveal their hidden treasures and yield their indescribable riches.*

*"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." Psalm 119:105*

*"Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it." Luke 11:28*

*"For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."  
Hebrews 4:12*



## PRAYER Is the **Power** for Small Groups

Group members experience \_\_\_\_\_

Group members sense genuine \_\_\_\_\_

Group members see \_\_\_\_\_

Group leaders receive \_\_\_\_\_

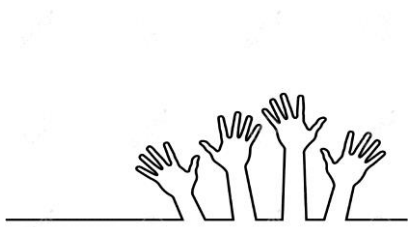
*If there are any tears shed in heaven, they will be over the fact that we prayed so little.*

*Heaven is full of answers to prayers for which no one ever bothered to ask!*

*"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." Romans 12:12.*

*"Pray continually." I Thessalonians 5:17*

*"The Lord is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the righteous." Proverbs 15:29*



## REACH Is the Reality for Small Groups

*Community usually precedes conversion and belonging usually comes before belief.*

**MATCH:** Draw a line to connect the left column item with its corresponding right column item.

Most people are influenced to follow Christ by friends and relatives.

People are impacted by active love.

Most people's coming to Christ is more of a process than a one-time event.

Usually, multiple people are involved in someone's becoming a follower of Christ.

Listening and serving must accompany our Jesus-talking.

We need to be patient as we share our testimony with others.

One person plants, another waters, another harvests.

It is rare for someone to come to Christ via a stranger.

*"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..." Matthew 28:19*

*"As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard." Acts 4:20*

*"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Mark 16:15*

*"We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ." 1 John 1:3*

## CARE Is the Currency for Small Groups

*I don't care how much you know until I know how much you care.*

DEFINE: Unconditional love. \_\_\_\_\_



## If I don't show UNCONDITIONAL LOVE to others...

**Nothing I s \_\_\_\_\_ will matter**

*1 Corinthians 13:1* If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.

**Nothing I k \_\_\_\_\_ will matter**

*1 Corinthians 13:2a* If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge...but have not love, I am nothing.

**Nothing I b \_\_\_\_\_ will matter**

*1 Corinthians 13:2b* And if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

**Nothing I g \_\_\_\_\_ will matter**

*1 Corinthians 13:3* If I give all I possess to the poor... but have not love, I gain nothing.

**Nothing I a \_\_\_\_\_ will matter**

*1 Corinthians 13:3* If I...surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.



**EMPOWER** Is the **Effect** for Small Groups

*Ineffective leaders plan how they themselves are going to lead the meeting.*

*Effective leaders plan how \_\_\_\_\_.*

*"So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up..."*

*Ephesians 4:11*

*"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness..." 2 Timothy 3:16*

*"For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures..." 1 Corinthians 15:3*

## ► What A Small Group Is and What It Accomplishes

*Responses from the 2015 St. Paul's Small Group Survey help provide valuable insights.*

- Small group has helped me feel I have friends from church, like I am not alone in the challenges I face. It is comforting to hear what others struggle with in life and see them find strength in God and his Word like I do.
- Connecting with other Christians to share and strengthen faith.
- Getting the support of other members of the household of faith during difficult times to remind you that heaven is our home.
- You will meet other Lutherans like yourself who will be friends and supports for you for years to come.
- It's fun and engaging. You are always learning something new.
- It's great to discuss God's Word with other people. I greatly value the insights and experiences of members in my group who are more spiritually mature than me.
- To get to know other Christians. The bonds of friendship that our group has developed are the best.
- For me, I get to practice talking about Jesus in a comfortable setting. Then, when I get out in an uncomfortable world, I feel more at ease about speaking of Jesus.
- The small group experience helps you to become more comfortable in speaking your faith.
- It's hard to meet people in a big church. Small groups make the church feel smaller and friendlier. You will have people who know you and will be there when you need them, when you hit a crisis point in your life.
- To grow in God's Word and connect with others outside of the church setting.
- In our group you can candidly share, both problems and successes, in an environment of confidentiality. Because of this, people are excited to be there.
- The edifying of God's Word in my life obtained through the studying of God's Word with others of similar interests.
- To learn about God's will and his ways in a relaxed setting with other Christians.
- Being in a small group brings you into regular contact with like-minded Christians for support and encouragement.
- It is a great support and escape from daily life to be amongst Christians and be able to openly talk about the challenges faced.
- The best part for me, besides making deeper connections with people, is the ability to be able to ask specific questions.





## ► What A Small Group Is Not

- ✓ A small group is not a \_\_\_\_\_ meeting in a living room.
- ✓ A small group is not a “Twelve-Step” \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ group.
- ✓ A small group is not a church members’ \_\_\_\_\_ .
- ✓ A small group is not a \_\_\_\_\_ club.



## ► What A Good Small Group Meeting Might Look Like

<b>Greet</b>	Welcome any new as well as regular attendees. “Catch up” since last meeting. Share “highs” and “lows.”	<b>15 Min.</b>
<b>Open</b>	Begin session in God’s name and with thanksgiving. Pray for God’s blessings on the meeting and on any “highs” and “lows” shared.	<b>5 Min.</b>
<b>Study</b>	Work through St. Paul’s-produced <i>GroupWork</i> or a section of other, biblically sound study materials.	<b>35 Min.</b>
<b>Pray</b>	Pray for friends and others who need Jesus, current event issues, local-state-national-world matters, congregation needs, etc.	<b>10 Min.</b>
<b>Plan</b>	Plan any future service projects or social activities for the group to engage in outside of its regular, study meetings.	<b>10 Min.</b>
<b>Close</b>	Serve refreshments (These could also be available at the beginning or throughout the entire session.)	<b>15 Min.</b>

## ► What Behaviors Everyone Must Try to Uphold in The Group

- 1) To develop friendships within our small group to help us live out our Christian faith.
- 2) To give priority to the group meeting date and time.
- 3) To help create a safe place where people can be heard and feel loved (no quick answers, snap judgments or simple fixes).
- 4) To keep anything that is shared strictly confidential and within the group.
- 5) To do the *GroupWork* or other homework before the meeting, so that you are prepared to participate in the discussion.
- 6) To plan a fun outing at least once during the fall and spring.
- 7) To plan a ministry or outreach project to serve the congregation or community as a group at least once per year.
- 8) To get to know the other members of the group and pray for them.

**Small groups have a BIG impact!**