

Talk 3: Facilitating an Evangelizing Small Group

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1. A Unique Small Group Experience
 - a. Types of People Attending:
 - i. Faithful Christians
 - ii. Nominal / inactive Christians
 - iii. Non-religious
 - iv. Other religions
2. Purpose of a DC Small Group
 - a. A personal encounter with God's love
 - b. To come to know Jesus in the context of community
 - c. Primarily about relationship
3. Small Groups
 - a. Consist of 8-10 people (including a facilitator and helper)
4. Roles: The Facilitator
 - a. Facilitate the discussion and create a welcoming atmosphere where guests feel comfortable exploring a personal relationship with Jesus.
 - b. Primary Responsibilities:
 - i. Initiate the beginning and end of the session
 - ii. Stimulate discussion about the teaching
 - iii. Lead prayer
5. Roles: The Helper
 - a. Assist the facilitator through being an active and supportive participant while helping to create a welcoming atmosphere.

- b. Primary Responsibilities:
 - i. Personal attention to individuals
 - ii. Help draw quiet people to speak
 - iii. Help the discussion stay on course

6. Roles: The Small Group Coordinator

- a. To recruit, train, oversee, and encourage the small group facilitators and helpers.

- b. Primary Responsibilities:

- i. With the Overall Administrator select facilitators and helpers
- ii. Conduct weekly meeting prior to the beginning of each evening session
- iii. Being a point of contact, encourager, and intercessor for the facilitators and helpers
- iv. Assign registrants into small groups

7. Small Group Dynamics

- a. Dinner
- b. Worship
- c. Teaching
- d. Discussion

8. Dinner: A Critical element

- a. Be aware of others
- b. Show genuine interest
- c. No religious talk
- d. Families, work, hobbies
- e. Take initiative in caring for them

9. Worship

- a. Model this type of prayer for others
- b. Worship progresses over the course of time

10. Small Group Discussion

- a. Open with an icebreaker
- b. An interesting place you've traveled
- c. A unique fact about yourself
- d. Ground Rules

11. Discussion should be focused on the teaching

- a. Basic questions:
 - i. "What do you think about...?"
 - ii. "How do you feel about ...?"
- b. Questions that shift the focus to personal sharing
- c. Listen: people need to be heard
 - i. Confidentiality
 - ii. Hear their problems and concerns
 - iii. Understand their point of view
- d. No fixing, counseling, preaching, or teaching
- e. End with a prayer
- f. End on time

12. Small Group Situations

- a. To start the group
- b. If someone dominates
- c. If group strays from the topic
- d. To draw out quiet members

- e. If sharing is too impersonal or too personal
- f. If you don't know how to respond
- g. To bring closure
- h. Learn more by reading the "Small Group Situations" document at www.christlife.org/discover under "Free Resources"

13. Preparation

- a. Attend all Weekly Prayer/Planning meetings
- b. Time of sharing and encouraging one another
- c. On-going Formation
- d. Communal Prayer
- e. Read Outline and Questions
- f. Intercession!

14. The Fruit of Your Service

- a. Changed Lives
- b. Lasting Friendships
- c. Deepening of your relationship with God
- d. New-found courage to share the Good News