



GROUPS MATTER.

10 Essentials for Producing Mature Disciples

The goal of every small group leader should be to grow mature disciples who also make disciples.

BY: *Rick Howerton*

FROM: *GroupsMatter.com/Launch*

Most small group leaders have as their responsibility to “lead a small group.” In most churches the inference is that the small group leader will host a weekly gathering where there is Bible study, prayer, and an open, authentic life-transforming conversation. The group leader is also responsible for making sure no need goes unmet and connecting group members through social gatherings between meetings, when possible. If a church wants to raise the bar, the goal of every small group leader becomes the making of mature disciples who make disciples.

In order for this to happen a few necessities must be in place.

1. Church leaders must create an environment where making disciples who make disciples is the DNA of the small group ministry.
2. Every small group leader needs to have been discipled so that they instinctively and strategically do what they have, themselves, experienced.
3. Every small group leader must be aware of the stages of spiritual maturity, the markers in each stage, and what is necessary to take someone to the next level of maturity.
4. Every small group leader must model the life of a mature disciple.
5. Every small group leader must consistently affirm the growth they are seeing in each group member so that group members remain motivated to continue their journey.
6. Every small group leader should, when possible, invite a small group member in process to join them when they are ministering to others.
7. Small group members need to agree that the goal for their lives is to be, not just a church member, but a mature, reproducing disciple of Jesus Christ.
8. Small group members must commit to do their part in the process so that they become mature followers of Christ and someday make disciples themselves.
9. Small group meetings should include opportunities for persons other than the group leader to take on a role or carry out a responsibility in sync with the

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group members' stage of spiritual growth.

- 10.** Every small group leader must be taught how to empower group members as they set them free to make disciples themselves.

If you want to read a premiere book on making disciples through small groups, get a copy of *Real Life Discipleship* by Jim Putman. You'll have the entire plan in your hands and will find other supplementary resources that will make it possible for you to create a church that makes disciples who make disciples. ■

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