



# GROUPS MATTER.

## Overcoming the Fear of Joining a Small Group

Help potential group members overcome their fear of small group Bible studies.

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Small Groupophobia is when someone is frightened of a small group, and that prevents them from joining one. There are six things that you can do to help people overcome this debilitating fear:

1. Have someone who once feared joining a small group give their testimony in weekend worship services. A video testimony will be just as effective or more effective as you can edit it.
2. Have sign-ups for groups at a kiosk in the church lobby. Have someone there who can answer the questions that people who are hesitant to sign up for a group may need answered.
3. Remind hesitant group members that they are going to be able to climb into the conversation when they feel comfortable doing so, that they won't be forced into it before they choose to.
4. Remind people frequently that they don't need a deep understanding of the Bible to be involved in a group.
5. Let people know that they will not have to read aloud or pray aloud until they are ready to do so.
6. Ask people what obstacles would need to be removed before they would feel confident enough to join a group. Find a group leader for them that will remove all of those obstacles, if possible. ■