



GROUPS MATTER.

The Role of the Senior Pastor in Getting Started

Getting started: learn the role of the Senior Pastor, steps for starting new groups, and the types of groups your church can start.

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When a church determines she is going to give major emphasis to starting new groups, the senior pastor is the key player. If he does what needs to be done, many new groups will be started that will bring about life change in those under his care.

Some of the most important responsibilities of the senior pastor when starting new groups are noted below:

Be the primary promoter of new small groups. The senior pastor needs to, as often as possible, tell people about groups and how they can join a group.

Tell his story. Few things are more effective in getting people to join a small group than the pastor telling how the group he is in, or a group he has been in, has enhanced his life, carried him through a hard time, or given him a chance to see where his blind spots were.

Encourage and expect the rest of the staff to be in a small group.

Work with the finance team to set aside the resources necessary to start new groups.

Encourage existing small groups to multiply so that there are more groups available for those who are not presently in a group.

If necessary, aid in the training of small group leaders, find the resources to bring in a trainer to lead small group leader training, or encourage the church to sign up for LifeWay's Ministry Grid where training is available to small group leaders 24/7.

Utilize stories of lives changed through groups as sermon illustrations.

When planning worship services, make time for live or video testimonials of people whose lives have been changed through being in a small group. ■