

Three Month Check-Up

BIG QUESTIONS:

- What are your class goals?
- Do you feel your class is growing spiritually?
- Is your class larger or smaller than it was three months ago?
- How well do you feel you know your students individually?
- How well do you feel you've connected with your students?

Two questions to help you see how connected you are:

- What specifically are you praying for your students—is this general for all or are there specific needs?
- What success stories can you share about how your group-time is making a difference in the lives of your students?

What do we hope to achieve through small groups?

Our Vision Statement:

Our purpose is to reach and teach students and families with the Gospel of Christ.

1. Reach—Small groups create a perfect environment for outreach.
2. Teach— Small groups create a catalyst for spiritual growth.

There are six things every effective small group leader must do:

Acrostic—BE REAL

B—Be Real

- (1) Be Genuine—If Christ isn't real in your life, if you're not growing in a daily relationship with Christ, how do you expect your students to grow under your guidance? Every leader must first live what he desire to lead.
- (2) Be Holy—If there is sin in your life, you shouldn't be leading. Someone who is going the wrong way cannot lead the right way.
- (3) Be Transparent—it's okay to let your students see that you have struggles, just be careful you don't share more than they need to know.

E—Encourage—Smile. Your face and voice and how you treat students sets the tone of your small group and whether or not students want to come back and feel welcome. You are a student's first connection to the group. How welcome they feel begins with you.

“Of the more than 200 teenagers I surveyed, one of every three identified issues with peers that made them feel less-than-welcome in the group. A few of these kids even responded that their peers were ‘unpleasant to interact with.’ Despite this problem, these students were still attending their youth group—that’s because an astounding nine out of 10 (92 percent) experienced the adult staffers as ‘warm and welcoming’...when students feel as if they know a leader, they’re more likely to return. A warm, engaged adult leader functions like a door into the group.” (From Group Magazine, Nov/Dec 2005 issue., p 99, 100.)

Ways to make others feel welcome:

- Sit among the students.
- Sit by newcomers.
- Don’t just pass off newcomers to other students.
- Avoid adult clumping.
- Keep the students as your focus.
- Learn names, even of those not in your group.
- Remember why you are here.

R—Relationship—

- (1) What do you think is the most important word in the English language?
- (2) Teenagers are far more likely to engage in discussions about spiritual truth if they know you’re already plugged into their lives. Students listen and want to hear what you have to say when they know you care about them as an individual.

E—Equip—Make real-world applications a priority. Bible study should never be for the sake of Bible study. True Bible study leads to activity in a person’s life. Small group success doesn’t result with students knowing more about God. Success is when the knowledge they receive affects how they live. Ask: “What does this mean?” “How will this affect your life?”

A—Adopt God’s Heart of Love—Show you care about your students: give them a call during the week about a prayer concern, remember their birthdays, attend a special event in which they are a part. God never confined His love to the walls of a church building and neither should we. This heart of love will also give you an urge to reach out to students who are not a part of your group—It creates the difference between a group feeling “invaded” by a newcomer or “inviting” newcomers.

L—Listen—Never teach for the purpose of teaching. Small groups are not about covering a lesson but connecting the concepts of Christ to student’s lives. This requires a listening ear both in and out of the classroom.