



TED Elders Training Curriculum

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Nurture

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Disciple-making

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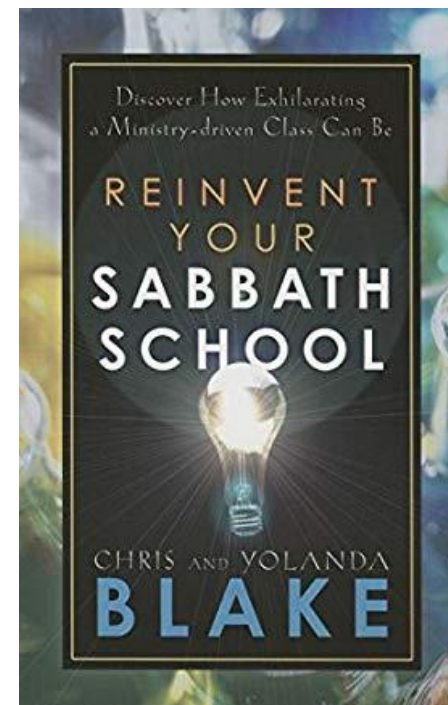
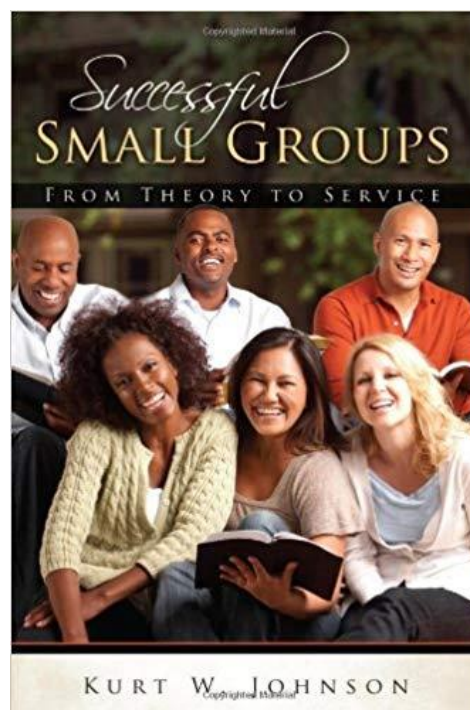
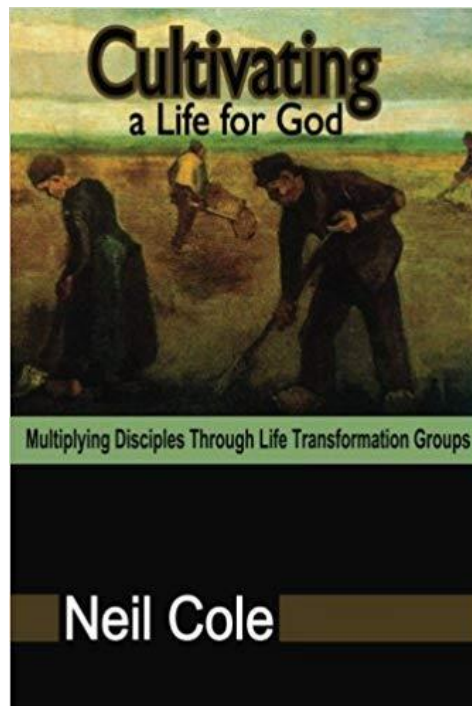
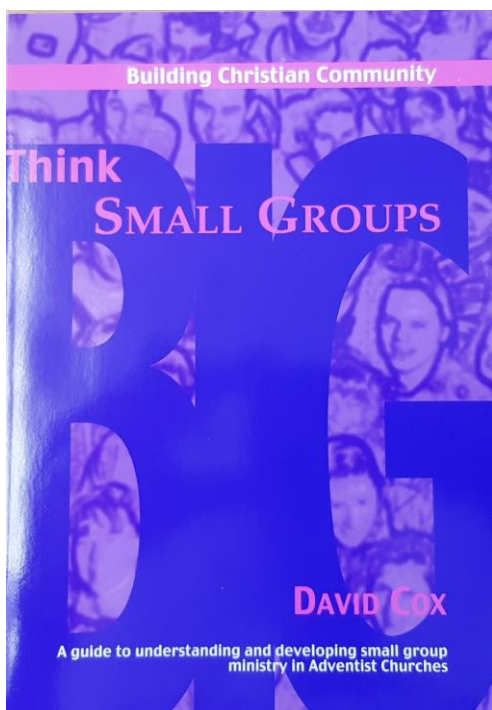
Small Group Ministries (Ch 7)

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Resources



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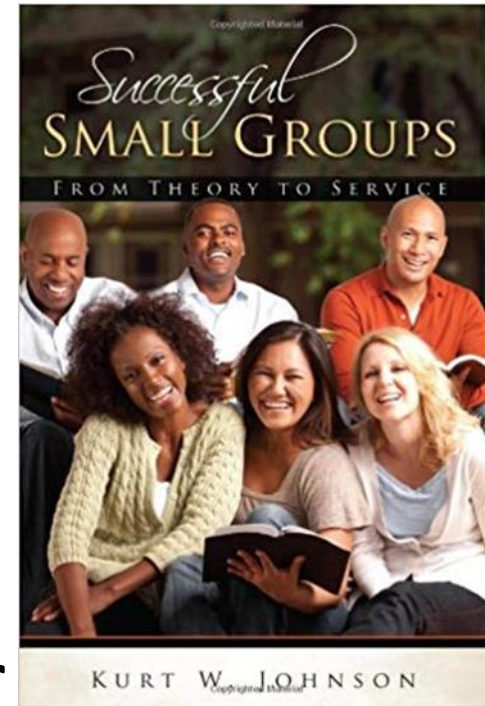


Definition



A small group is...

“...an intentional, face-to-face gathering of 3 to 12 people, meeting on a regular schedule, with the common purpose of developing relationships, meeting felt needs of group members, growing spiritually, and laying plans to lead others to accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour of their lives.”



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Biblical examples

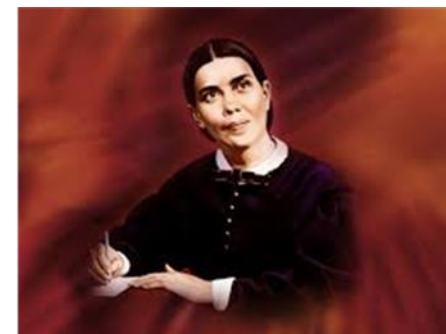


- Moses: groups of 10 (Exodus 18)
- Jesus: group of 12
- The early church: house groups (Acts 2:42,46)





The formation of small companies as a basis of Christian effort is a plan that has been presented before me by One who cannot err. If there is a large number in the church, let the members be formed into small companies, to work not only for the church members but for unbelievers also. Evangelism p.115



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Organisation



1. Identify needs and shared interests
2. Decide what kind of group fits needs
3. Train leaders
4. Member commitment



Types of groups



1. Sabbath School groups
2. Seminar groups
3. Fellowship groups
4. Bible study groups
5. Outreach groups
6. Task/ministry groups
7. Support groups
8. Prayer groups
9. Wholistic bible study groups

House church

Cell church

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Meeting Structure



Will vary according to type of group

Identify the basic elements of church gatherings found in Acts 2:41-47



Meeting Structure



Acts 2:41-47

Apostle's teaching
Fellowship
Prayer
Breaking bread
All things in common
People baptised

- Bible study
- Personal sharing, social interaction, friendship
- Prayer time
- Worshipping, eating together
- Meeting personal needs of group members
- Outreach and mission

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Core Values



Affirmation

Commitment

Honesty

Openness

Confidentiality

Sensitivity

Accountability

Reproduction

Relevance

Relaxed atmosphere

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Group Covenant



Agree on the expectations for the meeting and the relationships between members.

- Meeting day, time, length
- Core values
- The group as a safe place
- Respecting differences and not trying to “fix” anyone
- How to invite new members
- How much time to be spent on each part of the meeting structure



Frequently asked questions



1. How long should the meeting last?
2. Is it necessary to serve food?
3. Should an offering be taken up to cover expenses?
4. What is the pastors role?
5. What should we use as study material?
6. How should a group respond to a crisis during the meeting?
7. What are some suggestions for handling an overly talkative member?
8. How do you handle someone who believes s/he has the “final answer” on most topics?
9. Should we provide child care or a spiritual program for the children of our group members?
10. How do you ensure that individuals don't use the small group as a place to carry out their own agenda; be divisive against the organised church; or introduce questionable material?

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