

Why Small Groups?

Series: Why Church?

Acts 20:20 (1721)

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Acts 20:20 NIV *You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house.*

I. What did Jesus do when he began his earthly ministry?

a. The thing Jesus apparently thought was important

Rick Warren *When Jesus started His ministry, the very first thing He did was form a small group.*

Matthew 5:1-2 NIV *Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him,² and he began to teach them.*

b. The tightened focus as Jesus' ministry progressed

Michael C. Mack *The 'best small group leader ever' formed a small team that would eventually change the world.*

II. Four key ingredients that make a small group successful

a. Regular

Acts 2:42-47 NIV ⁴² *They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ... They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*

b. Relational

Larry Stockstill *Cells build "family" into a church, making the members "sons and daughters" in the house, and not just "servants" in the house.*

Carl George *The best ministry generally doesn't occur during a group's meetings so much as between the meetings.*

c. Real

Andrew Mason *A successful small group meeting will lead people to open up their lives and get 'beneath the surface.'*

Larry Stockstill *As the relational "cauldron" heats up in a cell, the "scum" rises to the top to be removed. It may not sound pretty, but it sure is healthy.*

d. Reproducing

Joel Comiskey *Cell multiplication is the only proven way to remain small while faithfully reaching out.*

Joel Comiskey *Small-group ministry constantly faces a dilemma; maintaining the intimacy of a small group while fulfilling Christ's command to evangelize.*

Andrew Mason *The Apostle Peter came to Jesus' small group through another person's invitation.*

John 1:42 NLT ⁴² *Then Andrew brought Simon to meet Jesus.*

Christian A. Schwarz *Growing churches have developed a system of small groups where individual Christians can find intimate community, practical help and intensive spiritual interaction.*