

## APPLICATION

### 1. 'Identify and plan' activity

- 1a. Make a prayer **list** of 3 to 5 people you'd like to encourage toward faith this year
- 1b. List things that you think might **hinder** them from considering the Christian faith (for prayer and conversation)
- 1c. List their **interests** (natural connection points for time together)

The small group leader could possibly collect a summary of these prayer lists — while protecting the confidentiality of people listed (e.g. first names only, and don't put lists up anywhere public).

### 2. Choose social activities based on interests we have in common

#### with some of our non-Church friends

Discuss as a group the things your friends are interested in.

- 2a. Are any interests common to a number of your group members and their friends?
- 2b. What activities could you do as a group in the coming term that both group members and some of their non-church friends might enjoy?

### 3. Also utilise existing church and other programs as a small group to connect with these same new friends — and have fun.

- 3a. What courses, activities or programmes are coming up in the life of your church to which you could invite some of these friends?
- 3b. Who will you invite, and to what? Also, how could you work as a team to support each other at these events/courses?

Close with prayer.

WEEK 2

# TEAMWORK

makes the dreamwork

## Knowing the goal



## Discussion 1: Knowing the goal

### For leader:

Through revising the Sunday message, this session seeks to affirm an understanding that church small groups have the exact same mission as our church congregations do. It is outreach ('making disciples')!

After discussing this, the group will do an 'identifying' activity to empower prayer for unbelieving friends, and planning regarding how you might best connect with them individually *and as a group*.

We suggest that it would be healthy for church small groups to do this simple activity at the start of every year because, without a 'goal' (*a list of friends we want to encourage toward faith*), many are unlikely to have the same focus or motivation to act.

### LAUNCHING:

Q1 Have you ever been a part of a group, and in the midst of a large crowd – and yet still somehow felt lonely?

(The point: In a large church service it can be same for some people. This is why our church small **groups are so important** - which is what we're going to talk about today).

### GUIDING

We're going to **revise** a few points from **Sunday's message**

Q2 Can anyone remember how much two draft horses could pull – as compared to one? What does this illustrate to us?

– A single draft horse can pull a load up to 8,000 pounds (3600kg). However, two draft horses can pull – not 16,000 (7200kg), but 24,000 (10,800) pounds!

Q3 The early church met in both large and small groups. Why are these both important?  
What different purposes do they fulfill?

(Note – there are over 50 'one another' statements in the New Testament, which by their very nature require a relational small group environment to be obeyed).

Q4a According to Matthew 28:18-20, what mission did Jesus give the Church? (Make disciples of all nations)

Q4b. Acts 1:8 For what purpose was the Holy Spirit given? (Empowered as witnesses)

Q4c. 2 Peter 3:9 For what purpose does the return of Christ wait? ("...that none should perish". Aka, salvation – see v15.)

Q4d. Why do you think it is that many church small groups have almost no focus at all upon their mission?

Q4e. How do you think we come to this point of thinking that the mission of the Church was somehow not also the mission of our church small groups? (What view of small groups did the early Church have? Do you recall any of the changes that took place following the time of Constantine related to buildings, small groups, the bible and clergy?)

Q4f. In what way might our overlooking of our mission as small groups be detrimental to our achieving of our mission as the Church (What unique strategic roles might small groups play in our outreaching efforts as the Church?)

Q4f ii Consider, in what ways might a relational team-approach to outreach be more effective than our individual efforts alone?

Q4g. What do you think of this question from the Sunday message: "Could it be that the role of the coffee or dinner table in the home has been significantly underestimated in our outreach?"