

Beyond this series

The hope is that small group leaders would find a way to continue to apply the 6 habits, until they genuinely become their habit.

There is no question that this could make a very significant difference to the outreaching efforts of many church small groups, and also that this is important.

VIDEOS TO WATCH BEFORE LEADING YOUR GROUP IN THIS SERIES

1. Restoring the outreaching focus to the church small group - Video #3 for small groups at alltogether.co.nz/atconsulting/
2. A summary of these same points created for youth leaders – but in different words: See videos # 4 and 5 at godtalk.nz/leadership/



www.alltogether.co.nz/atconsulting



Small group discussion guides

The goal of this series is to revive an awareness of how significant church small groups are to the mission as the Church. They are the home base of evangelism because everyone needs encouragement, few can sustain this focus alone, and we're simply better together!

In application, this series introduces six simple habits that church small groups could adopt to help them achieve this. *It is recommended that all leaders watch a video on these prior to leading discussions – so you know the goal. See weblinks on the back cover.*

Of note, the content of this series is designed to be communicated through utilising both the message and small group discussions together. To have one without the other would miss the point.

Message 1: Different for a reason

Discussion 1: It starts with the basics

Message one introduces the series. It is a very simple message – encouraging the value of every person in the outreaching equation. In application it affirms that (1) expertise only comes about after we have first mastered the basics, and (2) that God made us each different for a reason – and that these differences can work well in outreach if we can learn how to work from a team base (which is what the rest of the series is about).

Message 2: The power of a team approach

Discussion 2: Knowing the goal

Message two affirms the idea that 'two are better than one'. It looks at the small group dynamic of the early church, and discusses how this focus became lost through history.

In application, it suggests that all small groups annually pray about who they'd like to reach out to, and then considers any hindrances to faith in these people (for prayer) and their interests (because they are connection points). The message suggests that making an annual habit of this exercise would be wise.



Message 3: One step at a time

Discussion 3: The principle of proximity



Message three affirms the reality that journeying toward faith is quite a journey for some people (the Engle Scale). It then gives examples of Jesus dining with sinners and Pharisees. Through time together, conversational opportunities arise. If we do not spend time with non-believers, how will we ever get these opportunities? The message then concludes by affirming the benefits and strengths of church small groups for this purpose – because safe social environments are easily created into which new friends can come. In these environments, each person can also work to their strengths, which makes outreach a whole lot easier and more fun for everyone!

Message 4: Only teamwork makes the dream work

Discussion 4: Teamwork makes the dream work (application)

Message four concludes the series by showing how Jesus trained his disciples to work in a team environment – as a team of 12, and also in twos. To train them Jesus not only taught them – he also modeled what he taught. He then sent them out for some 'on the job training' – and then spent time debriefing with them afterwards. He was intentional to teach them how to serve their mission, *and how to do so in teams!*

The application of this message is the most important part of this sermon series. It introduces some final small group habits that haven't yet been mentioned in the series – and then summarises the 6 habits in total that have been covered. The question is whether groups would be willing to embrace these 6 things as annual habits.

The small groups then discuss these habits. 'Spurring one another on toward love and good deeds' (Hebrews 10:24-25) requires intentionality. These six simple habits summarise principles for how they could achieve this in their outreach!