

# Mobilising Small Groups for Mission

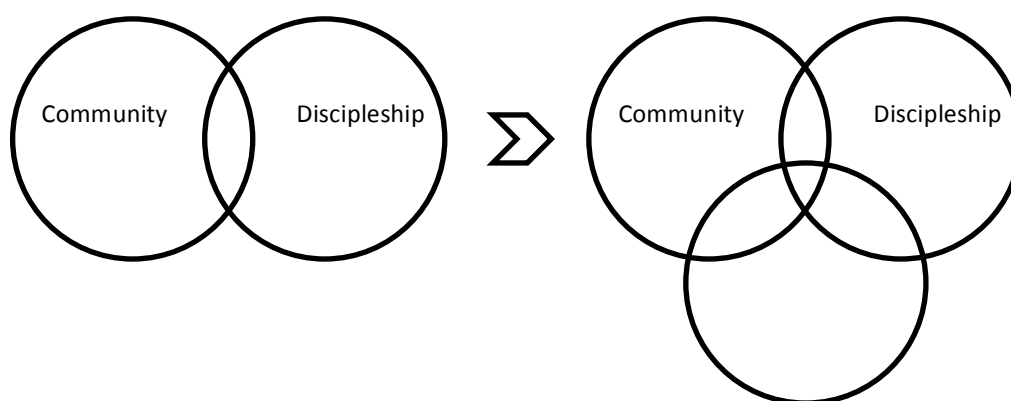
4D 2014 Elective

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## 1. My ministry context



## 2. The (typical) small-group



## 3. Roadblocks

'Christian groups can become highly introverted, focussing on their own needs. Minority groups in society tend to withdraw into ghettos to find safety and comfort with members of the same 'tribe'. It is a natural instinct for self-preservation in a world which is hostile or indifferent to the Lord. Christian groups tend to become emotional support groups, the energy of the group being directed toward those with problems. We all have problems all the time and these problems tend to set the group's agenda. One by-product of problem-focussed groups is their inability to have an impact outside the group'. (Colin Marshall, *Growth Groups*, p. 69)

## 4. The idea: Small groups as “Mission Teams”

### a. Overcoming fear

What I learned from a group led by an evangelist (and someone married to an evangelist)



### b. Demonstrating the gospel

so that no one will malign the word of God...so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us...so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive. (Titus 2:5, 8, 10)

*Q: Would you seek to include unbelievers in your church small groups? Why/why not?*



### c. Complementing personalities in evangelism

We all have strengths and weakness when it comes to reaching others.

- The articulate extrovert
- The warm welcomer
- The listener
- Enjoys an argument
- ...

#### **d. A sense of unity around something that matters**

### **5. How?**

The leader is key. But beyond that...these are some practical ideas you could try.

#### **a. Set a target group**

Q: What groups does your church community have opportunities to connect to? Could your small groups be a part of achieving this connection?

#### **b. Partner with other evangelists or evangelistic ministries**

You could...

- Adopt a missionary
- Adopt a ministry (e.g. the kids church, local school chaplaincy)

Share, pray, encourage, be encouraged.

Lifts the group's eyes up and outwards, gives a sense of connection to the way the gospel is going out to all the world.

#### **c. Training**

Training in evangelism or persuasive engagement should be a regular part of your small groups' life. Learn a framework for sharing the gospel like "Two Ways to Live" (Jensen/Matthias Media), or work through common objections so you are better prepared to answer them using "The Reason for God" Discussion DVDs (Tim Keller)

#### **d. Encourage groups to develop a strategy**

Which could include:

- Creating social opportunities
- Running an evangelistic event that is appropriate for the group or contacts
- As part of regular application ask "how would I explain this passage to an unbeliever?"
- Invite a skilled and enthusiastic evangelist to speak to the group
- ...