

HEALTHY SMALL GROUPS

A Reflective Tool for Small Group Leaders

The primary purpose of a small group is spiritual formation. Not just individually, but collectively. The whole group is being built up in love so that each person's character and behavior is increasingly like that of Jesus. That kind of purpose requires a leader to reflect, assess, and communicate about how things are going. This tool is designed to provide some helpful questions for you to think through and evaluate the health of your group. You should sit down at least once a month to prayerfully think through the dynamics of your group, answer the questions, and talk with a coach or leader. Make this a discipline; it will be good for you and your group.

Let me also say this: leaders are not exempt from needing to mature in Christ. Your leadership of your group is secondary to your spiritual health. Doing is secondary to being. So pay attention to your own practice of spiritual disciplines, investment in life-giving relationships, and pursuit of righteousness. The greater your responsibilities become, the more intentional you will need to be about your own personal growth.

CONNECTION: We are striving for community-rich environment in small groups that foster a strong sense of belonging for everyone in the group. This will facilitate honesty and openness, which contributes towards the kind of meaningful relationships that form us spiritually.

1. *How would you rate your group in terms of community/belonging? (circle one and explain)*

[poor] 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 [excellent]

2. *Is your group a "safe" place to be honest about life? Why or why not?*

CONVERSATION: We are striving for formative conversation, the kind of conversation that changes and shapes us as disciples of Jesus. Through the means of reading material and meaningful relationships, we are pressing to work out the implications of the gospel in every area of our lives.

3. *How would you rate your group overall in terms of formative conversation? (circle one and explain)*

[poor] 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 [excellent]

4. *How is your group responding to the content (being taught, challenged, convicted, having problems, etc.)?*

5. *Are people talking about their actual lives and growing in their ability to apply the gospel to one another (reminding each other of the good news of Jesus and the work that was accomplished on the cross)?*

6. *How is your group doing in terms of talking about, praying for, and challenging one another in mission? Any encouraging stories of people living on mission in your group?*

PRAYER: We are striving for earnest prayer flowing out of a communal dependence on God. You should be devoting yourselves to praying as a group for gospel depth and missional momentum. And then as you go throughout the rest of the week, you are continually praying and thinking of one another. This is some of the most important work we will do in being formed and laboring together in the gospel.

7. *How would you rate your group in terms of praying with/for one another? (circle one and explain)*

[poor] 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 [excellent]

8. *How would you like to see your group grow in regards to prayer?*

GENERAL QUESTIONS

9. *Are there any issues with people in your group that need staff attention?*

10. *How are you doing personally (spiritual, emotional, and physical health)?*

11. *How can the staff help you this month? Is there anything else we should know?*