

Would you like to join a Small Group at Fellowship Bible Church?

Most existing groups are open to new group members, and new groups begin on a regular basis. If you have friends in a small group, ask about joining their group. If you are new to Fellowship and are looking for a place to connect, please feel free to contact us and we can help you find the right group.

Leader Tips:

1. The sermon notes are designed to be used as a guide for discussion. Don't feel like you have to use every question. Some questions will take a while to work through, others will be over in a few seconds!
2. Don't teach the lesson. The sermon was taught on Sunday morning. Just ask questions and let everyone else talk.
3. Let other people ask questions. It's OK to go "off topic" for a while. Sometimes those conversations are more interesting anyway!
4. Have fun. Relationships, not curriculum, are the heartbeat of Small Groups. So have fun with the people in your group.

Agenda for a Small Group Meeting

Gathering Time

Take 15-20 minutes to welcome everyone, catch up, and share some food!

Discussion Time

Here's a suggested format:

1. **Ice Breaker** – Lighthearted ice-breaker question (15-20 min.)
2. **Discussion** - Discussion time, Bible study, application challenge (30-40 min.)
3. **Prayer** – Prayer requests and praying for one another (15-30 min.)
4. **Planning** – Keep the vision before the group, HEALTH planning, etc. (10 minutes)

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Imagine
God at Rolling Stone
 Phillip Wright
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Warm up!

Places I've looked for Hope:

- Publisher's Clearing House. I may already be a winner!
- Alien messages in burnt toast patterns.
- Mr. Right...#5.
- Psychic Rotline.
- The other side of the fence.
- Other: _____

As a child, what did you plan to be or do as an adult?

Talk it over!

"Imagine" is John Lennon's vision of what the world should be and how we should live.

Question: What kind of vision does John Lennon seem to have? What is attractive about this vision? What is scary about this vision?

Jesus has a vision too:

- **Shalom—Isaiah 26:3**
- **Eternal Life—life to the full—John 3:16**
- **Kingdom Living—Where what God wants done is done—Mark 1:15**

Question: What is attractive about Jesus' vision?

1. What is it? The "Sermon on the Mount" is Jesus' Manifesto.

–Jesus' vision is more radical than John Lennon's

Question: What is so radical about Jesus' vision?

2. When and where is it?

The Kingdom of God is already, but not yet.

Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, ²¹nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is within you."

²²Then he said to his disciples, "The time is coming when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, but you will not see it."

—Luke 17:20-22

But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

—2 Peter 3:13

Question: What evidence do we have that the Kingdom of God is already here? What parts of the Kingdom of God are yet to come?

3. Who can get in?

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the kingdom of heaven in men's faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to."

—Matthew 23:13

And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

—Matthew 18:3

Question: What childlike quality do you need to recover? Why?

4. How do we get in?

"Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom."

—Luke 12:32

The idea that God would give me an eternal relationship with him:

- Makes trusting God a no-brainer!
- Gives me hope.
- Sounds too good to be true.
- Is something I'm beginning to believe.
- Motivates me to follow him.
- Other: _____

a. Rethink everything

and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

—Matthew 3:2

Question: Why is repentance so important for living in the Kingdom of God?

b. Believe God

They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household."

—Acts 16:31

Question: What are you trusting God for in your life right now? In what area do you need to trust God more?

c. Receive Jesus

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God...

—John 1:12

—See also John 20:22; Galatians 3:2; Colossians 2:6

Question: When did you receive Jesus? If you have not received Jesus, what is keeping you from making that decision? Who do you know that needs to receive Jesus?

d. Live it out

Salvation is participating now in the life, which is now living.

When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

—Colossians 3:4

Question: What part of Kingdom Life are you not participating in? How can our Small Group live out this life together?

Work It Out!

One thing I'll do differently because of this sermon:
