

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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Is America a Christian Nation?

Phillip Wright

July 4, 2010

Break the Ice!

What do you like to do on July 4?

What are some things that you would like to accomplish this summer?

- I would like to lose about 2 lbs so I can fit into my bathing suit!
- I would really like to break 80 on the golf course.
- I am going to build that deck out back that I have been dreaming of.
- Best summer vacation of my life!
- Other: _____

Talk it over!

Truth is the Road to Freedom

Can We Handle the Truth?

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³²Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." –John 8:31-32

Question: What keeps some people from seeing the truth?

- They don't want to see the truth
- They aren't as smart as me
- They can't see things the way I see them
- They are subjective... But I am always objective
- Other: _____

Is America a Christian Nation?

By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? –Matthew 7:16

Question: In your opinion, why do we like to think of America as a Christian nation?

Was America Ever a Christian Nation?

We May not have the fruits, but do we have the roots?

1. We'll find the Puritans in these roots. But we'll also find some bad theology—*America is "God's favorite" nation- we are His "chosen"*

Bad belief leads to bad breath.

Question: What do you think about what Phillip had to say about the Puritans? Are the Puritans any different from us today?

2. The founding fathers comprise the trunk of the tree.

They were committed to ensuring religious liberty rather than enshrining their own particular stances.

Question: Imagine the USA without religious freedom. How do you think our nation would be different? In what way would we be similar?

Do we want America to be a Christian Nation?
Think before you answer.

Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place."
—John 18:36

Question: Do you want America to be a Christian nation? Why or why not?

1. The Christian nation belief hurts our witness of Jesus because it is power over instead of power under.

Question: What would a “power under” mindset look like in our city? Our state? Our nation?

2. The Christian nation belief confuses Christianity with civil religion thereby diluting Christianity
3. The Christian nation belief puts too much trust in politicians not Jesus.

It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes. —Psalm 118:9

Question: Have you ever put too much hope or trust in a politician? Why did you fall for that trap?

There is a lot of doom and gloom in our nation today. The economy, jobs, taxes, oil spills, etc... How can we put hope in Jesus during times like this? Is hope in Christ a passive thing to do or is there activity involved?

4. Mixing Church and state is like mixing ice cream and manure

Wrong question:
“Are we living in a Christian Nation?”

Right Question:
“Am I living a Christian life by letting Jesus live through me?”

Why is this a better question?

Question: How can you let Jesus live His life through you?

Work It Out!

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