

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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“Snapshot”
Radical Church
February 20, 2011

Ice-breaker!

Yes, it's officially Hollywood Oscar week! Do you have a nomination for most “perfect” performance, movie, score, etc. this year?

Question: How have your expectations of “perfect” people or performances changed over the years?

- It hasn't... I still pretty much expect perfection
- Imperfect people make life ‘exciting’ & ‘real’
- My idea of ‘perfect’ changes with the wind
- Nobody's perfect, so why expect it
- Other: _____

Have you ever placed an unreasonable expectation on someone? If it is appropriate, please share your story.

Read Aloud Acts 6:1-7

I. The Radical Church wasn't Perfect.

Question: What do you most naturally do when you see something that you believe needs to be righted?

- If I can't change it easily, I try to forget it
- Pray and see if God asks me to do anything
- Get someone else's opinion, go from there
- I'm pretty open and loud about the situation
- Other: _____

There is no perfect church. We are not a perfect church. Real churches have healthy conflict.

What categories do you think should be used to decide what is “healthy” conflict in a church?

- Personal preferences (i.e. I like, I dislike, I prefer)
- Matters of integrity, truthfulness, doctrine
- Justice and mercy, following the “Golden Rule”
- How BIG or SMALL the situation may become

Other: _____

II. The Radical Church Trusted the Spirit by Empowering Qualified Leaders.

Radical pastors empower ready leaders.

Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. Ephesians 4:11-13

Question: How do you think believers are best 'equipped' to minister to others?

- By hearing really great sermons
- Serving along side other leaders they can emulate
- By having their needs met, so they can then met the needs of others
- Experiencing times of 'moving' worship
- Other: _____

Qualification 1: Filled with the Spirit and Wisdom.

Proverbs 9:10, 14:27

Acts 6:3

And so brothers, select seven men who are well respected and are full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will give them this responsibility.

How do you think someone who is 'filled with the Spirit and wisdom' reacts to conflict?

Qualification 2: Good Reputation.

Chad says that we must be "near and known by believers" to be able to 'attest' to someone's good reputation or someone's ability to help with conflict.

Pause for a minute to consider:

Are there people at Fellowship that you are near too and therefore could attest to God's Spirit in their life?

If so, would you feel comfortable allowing them to help you through difficult conflicts?

To care for each other, we have to know each other. What are some ways that you can become better known by believers at this church?

- My name is already on the church's speed dial
- I'd like to socially interact with more people
- Serving in a ministry that needs help
- Meeting others on Sunday morning
- Other: _____

III. The Radical Church Experienced the Faithfulness of Jesus.

Acts 6:6-7

These seven were presented to the apostles, who prayed for them as they laid their hands on them. So God's message continued to spread. The number of believers greatly increased in Jerusalem, and many of the Jewish priests were converted, too.

In what way/s have you experienced the faithfulness of Jesus during a time of conflict?

Have you experienced any conflict that actually brought more people to Jesus as it was being resolved?

When you step up people experience more of Jesus.

1 Peter 4:10-11

God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.

Peter says that God has given each of us a 'gift' that will help us serve each other. What gift/s has God given you?

Have you found people that you can serve with your gift/s? If so, share about the opportunities you're involved in or looking forward to.

If you are not sure about what 'gifts' God has given you, find someone you are "near" and "known" by this week and ask them if they have any insight for you.

Challenge: *Do it! Move near the Body and make yourself more known so that the whole church might experience even more of God's faithfulness, including you.*

Prayer:

Take time as a group to pray.

Some focus points for prayer:

- Ask God to remind you of His faithfulness through times of peace and times of conflict.
- Remember our church leaders. Let's ask together that God will provide direction and wisdom for them as they encounter healthy conflict and a growing body of believers.
- Pray that our church will be equipped and ready to step up when we see others in need.
- Pray for God's Spirit to lead us as we seek to serve each other with our God-given gifts.
- Give thanks that we have been well equipped, through the power of Christ, to live a life that is pleasing to Him.

Work It Out!

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