

# Making Small Groups Dynamic

## Making a Dynamic Small Group Experience

Our hope is that people don't just attend a small group, but that small groups are pivotal in their transformation to fully devoted followers of Christ. Here are a couple basic tips that you as a leader can do to take your group beyond ordinary and see more dynamic transformation in people's lives

1. **Become more like Jesus in your own life.** As Paul said in 1 Corinthians 11:1, "Follow my example, as I follow Christ." As leaders, we struggle with sin and need to be constantly aware of our situation, and how we can take another step to being more like Christ.
2. **Follow the leadership style of Jesus.** Jesus had a small group of 12 disciples whom He prayed for, considered needs, loved through failure, celebrated next steps, and challenged to grow. Let Jesus' perfect leadership help you become more like Him caring for your group.
3. **Create atmosphere.** No matter where you are meeting, a warm, friendly environment can help people feel more comfortable. Having food always makes people feel more relaxed and often acts as an ice breaker.
4. **Have shared understanding.** Everyone should understand the purpose, values and expectations of the group. Specifically discussing confidentiality and respect during group time will help build trust.
5. **Make connections that extend beyond the scheduled meeting.** Consistent meeting are very important to group growth, but not enough. To be able to move into a dynamic group experience means finding other opportunities to live life together. Things like having dinner together, social activities, sitting together in service, and celebrating milestones are everyday things that can be done together and will support spiritual transformation. See Acts 2:42-47.
6. **Follow up and follow through.** Respond to trust by following up on things like previous prayer requests and care issues. Group members have taken a step in sharing a piece of their personal life so showing them that you heard and are concerned will help them to take more steps in the future.
7. **Leave room for the Holy Spirit to move.** Planning is important, but sometimes things pop up that need to be dealt with. Proverbs 16:9 reminds us that, "In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps." Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's promptings will help group members to feel safe and cared for.