

STUDY GUIDE

4

STEPS TO CREATING
a
SUCCESSFUL
SMALL GROUP



GO TO THE HUB



TRUTH DELIVERED

The Hub began in 1995 with Tommy Nelson's Song of Solomon curriculum. Over 20 year later, with one of the largest on demand libraries in the world, we remain a leading publisher of video-based Bible studies and the go-to producer for live Christian events. It is our passion to develop and share life-changing events and resources that move people forward in their Christian faith.

JOEL MUDDAMALLE:

Joel serves as the Director of Theology and Ministry Products at Proverbs 31 Ministries. Prior to Proverbs 31 he worked at Faithlife Corporation – makers of Logos Bible Software – as a National Conference Speaker. Joel is married to Brittany and they have three sons (Liam, Levi, Lucas). Joel holds an undergraduate degree in Biblical Studies, and M.S of Psychology; he graduated from Knox Theological Seminary, and is a PhD student at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary with an emphasis in Theology.

Connect with Joel!

@muddamalle



INTRO

Where does life transformation happen? In what context can I best know others and be known by them? Throughout the course of my ministry career and church experience, I've found all this takes place when we gather together in small groups.

The first century church throughout the New Testament gathered in homes in small gatherings to remember Christ, share meals, worship, and enjoy fellowship together. In a way, these small gatherings were the foundational building blocks of the Church.

Now two thousand years later, we have the same opportunity to remember Christ, share meals, worship, and enjoy fellowship with others within the context of small groups. These groups have the ability to help us grow in our love and affection for Jesus, and share the good news of the Gospel with those who may not know Him.

I remember the first group I led. I was absolutely terrified! I knew people would be walking through the front door of my home, each with their own story, background, and experiences ... How in the world could I lead them through an impactful time of discussion or study? It felt daunting! Yet, I knew how important these hours together would be for us to gather and grow together in Christ. Back then, I wish I had the right resources to help guide me through the process. Someone to journey next to me as I lead.

That's why my friends at The Hub and I created this small group series. I'm excited to share these four sessions with you. They serve as the toolkit I desperately wish I had when I first began leading groups. These four sessions will help you better run your small group, facilitate engaging conversation, foster discipleship, and dig into God's Word in a meaningful way.

Our prayer and hope is that this resource would equip you to make famous the matchless name of Jesus – because one of the best places for this to take place is in our small groups.

Thank you for your commitment to making Him known, and cultivating a space for others to be known too.

In Christ,
Joel

SESSION 2

NO ONE IS TALKING:

How to get people engaged in your small group

The goal of every small group is engagement. And engagement looks different for everyone.

As the facilitator of your small group, don't be discouraged as you try to figure out how to get your group to speak. As you work toward conversation and engagement in your group, you will come to realize that what you are really doing is creating a culture. Be encouraged — the development of culture doesn't happen overnight! It requires time and patience.

In order to help facilitate conversation these three core principles will help you develop a culture of engagement that fosters conversation:

1. Ask open ended questions.
2. Engage in active listening.
3. Embrace the silence.



PRO TIP:

Make notes in your mind or on a piece of paper what gets conversations rolling (whether it's a specific topic, phrase, certain people who encourage dialogue, etc.). It won't always be a specific formula, but it's good to know what has worked in the past as you build momentum with your group.

THINK ABOUT IT:

Describe the type of culture you want to intentionally create in your current or future small group.



PRACTICE IT:

Start “facilitating” conversation in your everyday life this week. Whether it’s at the dinner table with your family, at a coffee shop with a group of friends, or in the breakroom at work. Practice asking open ended questions, using your active listening skills, and learning how to be comfortable in the silence (all three take practice!).

In the spaces below, write down where you’re going to practice what this week:

Task: Ask open ended questions

Where I’m going to practice: _____

How did it go?

Task: Engage in active listening

Where I’m going to practice: _____

How did it go?

Task: Embrace the silence

Where I'm going to practice: _____

How did it go?

PRAY ABOUT IT:

Write out a prayer asking God to cultivate the culture of your small group.

Culture, in the context of your small group: The characteristics, knowledge, and experiences of the individuals in your group coming together to form one very specific, very unique experience for everyone involved. Although there are many differences amongst the group, the culture you (and Christ) cultivate will unite you.

TO LIVE
IS CHRIST
TO DIE
IS GAIN

MATT
CHANDLER

MATT CHANDLER
TEACHES THROUGH
THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS



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