

Spring 2015

Small LEADER NEWS
GROUP LEADER



Training 101

Don't Answer That! Facilitating vs. Teaching

An excerpt from Brian Proffitt's article on churchleaders.com

"Most people with a fair amount of experience with small groups have experienced it: the person who can't wait to impress everyone by answering every question. They shower you with their "wisdom," often in a way that makes the person asking the question feel sorry they asked. Sometimes it's the leader, sometimes it isn't. Regardless, it serves to stifle productive discussion, causes many people to decide not to speak up, and blocks the creation of true community."

"It's a well-known principle in education: People remember the things they discover for themselves far longer than the things they are taught. It's the same principle parents learn when they continually tell their child, "Don't touch that, it's hot!" Once we touch it and discover for ourselves that it burns, we never forget it. It's just human nature.

So if our goal is to build community and help people truly grow, we need to create an environment in which group members aren't fed facts but are encouraged to discover deep truths for themselves. In that environment, more people participate and more people have life-transforming insights."

"For small-group leaders, it means reassessing your goals. If you're trying to be a leader and impress people, you're probably in the wrong place. If you're trying to help people connect with each other and grow spiritually, then honestly assess the methods you're using. What percentage of the group's time is spent with you talking? How many people really open up? When did somebody last really express something highly controversial? Or are they afraid to express themselves, because someone in the group will immediately jump on them?"

Small groups don't need teachers; they need discussion facilitators. And often, that means being willing to not answer your group members' questions. And just maybe, with all that extra time you'll spend listening, your group members will help you find the answers you've been asking God for."

The entire article can be found on http://www.churchleaders.com/smallgroups/small-group-articles/138321-don-t-answer-that-facilitating-vs-teaching.html#.VTnGOmM_aBI.email

FOUR Questions You Need to Ask – FOUR Answers You Need to Know:

- 1. Where is your "Well" of influence?** Where do you regularly go or what do you enjoy doing where people gather and you can be an influence for Christ?
- 2. Who Are Your 2?** Who are the two people you are building relationships with so that you earn permission to share the Gospel?
- 3. Who's New?** Who have you met at a Southside weekend service that's new? How have you connected them? (i.e. Introduced him/her to another member, Directed him/her to Pizza With the Pastor, Invited him/her to find a small group?)
- 4. Who Haven't You Seen?** Who hasn't been attending in awhile? Have you checked up on him/her?

Need some help?

Let us know! Southside's Small Group Leader Coach, Jeff Stanfield, is available to coach you through issues and situations in your small group. Help is just a phone call or email away! 357-9162 or jtstanfield@comcast.net.



This is Jeff!

Have you heard?

- **A Third Sunday Service is Coming** This Fall 2015, Southside-Courthouse will be launching a third Sunday morning service. Why? Children's Ministry and Student Ministries are full on Sundays. The Life Center is usually around 85% full and this gives guests the impression there is *no room* for them. We **HAVE TO** open new containers! Be looking for details on the upcoming **THIRD** Sunday service at Courthouse Road.
- **The Southside App** is where you can find an up-to-date list of all of Southside's small groups. Point someone to the App to help him or her find a group! Go to "Ministries" and hit the "Small Group" tab.



SUGGESTED Small Group Studies

Here's just a sample of what's on the list of newest suggested small group studies.



RELEVANT ISSUES:

Culture Shock (twelve 30-minute video sessions and participant guide)

by Chip Ingram

Culture Shock shows readers how they can bring light rather than heat to the most controversial and divisive issues of our day. Covering topics such as right and wrong, sex, homosexuality, abortion, politics, and the environment, *Culture Shock* is every engaged believer's must-have guidebook to replacing reactionary hate with revolutionary love.

MARRIAGE & RELATIONSHIPS:

You and Me Forever: Marriage in Light of Eternity (seven video sessions and study guide)

by Francis Chan and Lisa Chan

While we cannot allow lesser things to destroy our marriages, we also cannot allow marriage to distract us from greater things. A jealous God asks us to pursue him first and most. In this workbook companion to You and Me Forever, Francis and Lisa challenge us to think differently about some of the most important relationships in our lives.

WOMEN'S INTEREST:

The Best Yes (six 18-20 minute video sessions and participant guide)

by Lysa TerKeurst

Lysa shares how to make better use of the two most powerful words, yes and no. Using Biblical teaching and practical insights this study will help you be more equipped to discern the best yes answers for your life.

In The Shelter of God's Promises (ten 20-minute DVD sessions and participant guide)

by Sheila Walsh

Sheila searches Scripture for what God has promised us, what God's promises mean, and how encounters with Christ are the eternal fulfillment of His unrelenting commitment to us.

CHRISTIAN LIVING:

The Grave Robber: How Jesus Can Make Your Impossible Possible

(seven video sessions and participant guide)

by Mark Batterson

Mark reveals the incredible power of the seven miraculous signs of Jesus found in the Gospel of John, showing how they are not simply something Jesus did in the past but also something He wants to do now, in the present.

Perfectly Imperfect: Character Sketches from the Old Testament (six video sessions)

by David Busic

Perfectly Imperfect is about people whose true-to-life stories are found in the Old Testament. This small group resource shows that in these sometimes tragic and broken lives, we get a glimpse of how God transforms us from what we are into what we can be.

Discovering God's Will (four video sessions and participant guide)

By Andy Stanley

God has a personal vision for our lives, and He wants us to know it even more than we do. But determining God's will can be a difficult process, especially when we need to make a decision in a hurry.

Don't Forget...

In an effort to maintain the spiritual health and integrity of our small groups, small group curriculum and Bible studies are channeled through our Discipleship Resource Pastor, Jerry Bohall. If you have a new study or a new author you are interested in using for your group, please connect with Jerry. This ensures our small groups are aligned with healthy doctrine.

how do i find jerry? JBohall@southsidechurchva.org OR 677-3011