



GROUPS MATTER.

Checklist for New Groups

A to-do list for
your new Sunday
morning groups.

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FROM: *GroupsMatter.com/Launch*

Perhaps the most essential thing that a church can do to reach new people, develop new leaders, make more disciples, and grow its core is to start a new group. New groups bring vitality and growth to the church. Research shows that new groups grow faster and are more evangelistic than existing groups. Churches that regularly start new groups almost always experience consistent growth. Plus, new groups can be started by almost any church—urban and rural churches, large and small churches, and ethnic and multi-cultural churches.

Here is a to-do list for new groups:

Pray.

Pray for God to send workers into the harvest. Ask God to bring awareness to people who are not participating in a group.

Commit to launch.

Make a commitment to start a new group, and set a target date. Until a commitment is made and a date is set, starting a new group will be a dream that you are going to do “someday”. Be sure to share this commitment with some key church leaders. Accountability is essential to starting groups.

Find your target audience.

What people group is your new group intended to reach? Young adults? Preschool? A good way to determine this need is to examine your worship service. Who is attending worship but not attending a small group? Start a new group for these people.

Enlist a leader.

There are several ways to do this, but the bare essential is that it takes a leader to start a group.

Build a core team.

If possible, start the new group with at least three people that are already committed to the new group.

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Find space.

This may include cleaning out a spare room or using a nearby home.

Promote the new group.

Place announcements in the worship bulletin, and announce the new group from the platform.

Help the new leader contact people who are not currently connected to a group.

Personal phone calls are much better than email and regular mail.

Start with a fellowship!

Many people interested in a new group are very interested in making new friends. Offer a fellowship at the very beginning and invite as many potential group members as possible to the fellowship.

Use curriculum that addresses both the needs of people that you are trying to reach and also the leadership abilities of the group leader.

DVD-driven curriculum may be an easier starting point for an inexperienced leader until they grow in their leadership abilities.

Encourage!

Encourage the new group and leader as they work to build relationship with people.

Brag about the new group as often as possible.

People want to do what gets rewarded.

Plant a vision for starting another new group early as the group begins to meet.

Much of the New Testament teaching about growth is by multiplication rather than by addition. New groups have a multiplier effect. ■

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