



# Groups Training

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# Are Smalls Group Biblically Aligned with the scriptures?

Acts 2:42 - And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

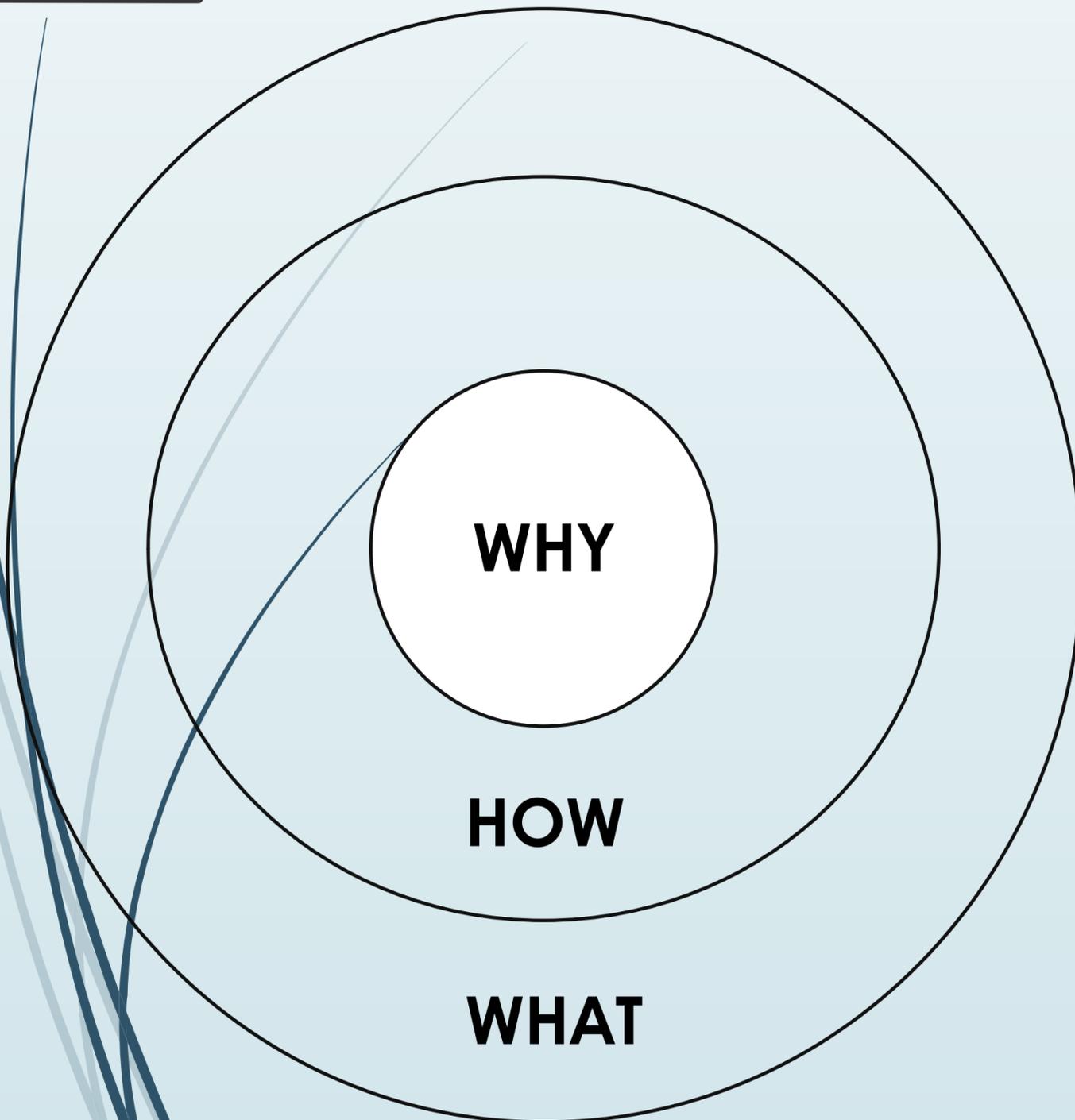
- **Doctrine** - We are committed to the teachings of the apostles, who were the primary witnesses of Jesus Christ's life, death, and resurrection.
- **Fellowship** - (koinonia) is a deep communal bond that is established when we learn, share our lives, & pray with one another. Fellowship extends beyond the people we see weekly and out into our workspaces and community at-large.
- **Breaking of bread** - meals shared among believers\* and the observance of the Lord's Supper.
- **Prayer** - Coming together to express dependence on God. Prayer is both a personal and communal activity where we offer praise, thanksgiving, intercession, and supplication.

# What is our Kingdom Why?

- **Make disciples-** Matt 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- **Establish community** – Matt 5:13-16 “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. **14** “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. **15** Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. **16** Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.
- **Church growth** – John 12:32 And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all *peoples* to Myself.
  - Acts 2:26 **46** So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, **47** praising God and having favor with all the people. *And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*

*Small groups increase church engagement & spiritual maturity!*

# The Golden Circle



**WHY – Why are we committed to doing small groups? The WHY is purpose.**

**HOW – How is about the processes taken to carry out the why. Processes must lead to inspiration and not manipulation.**

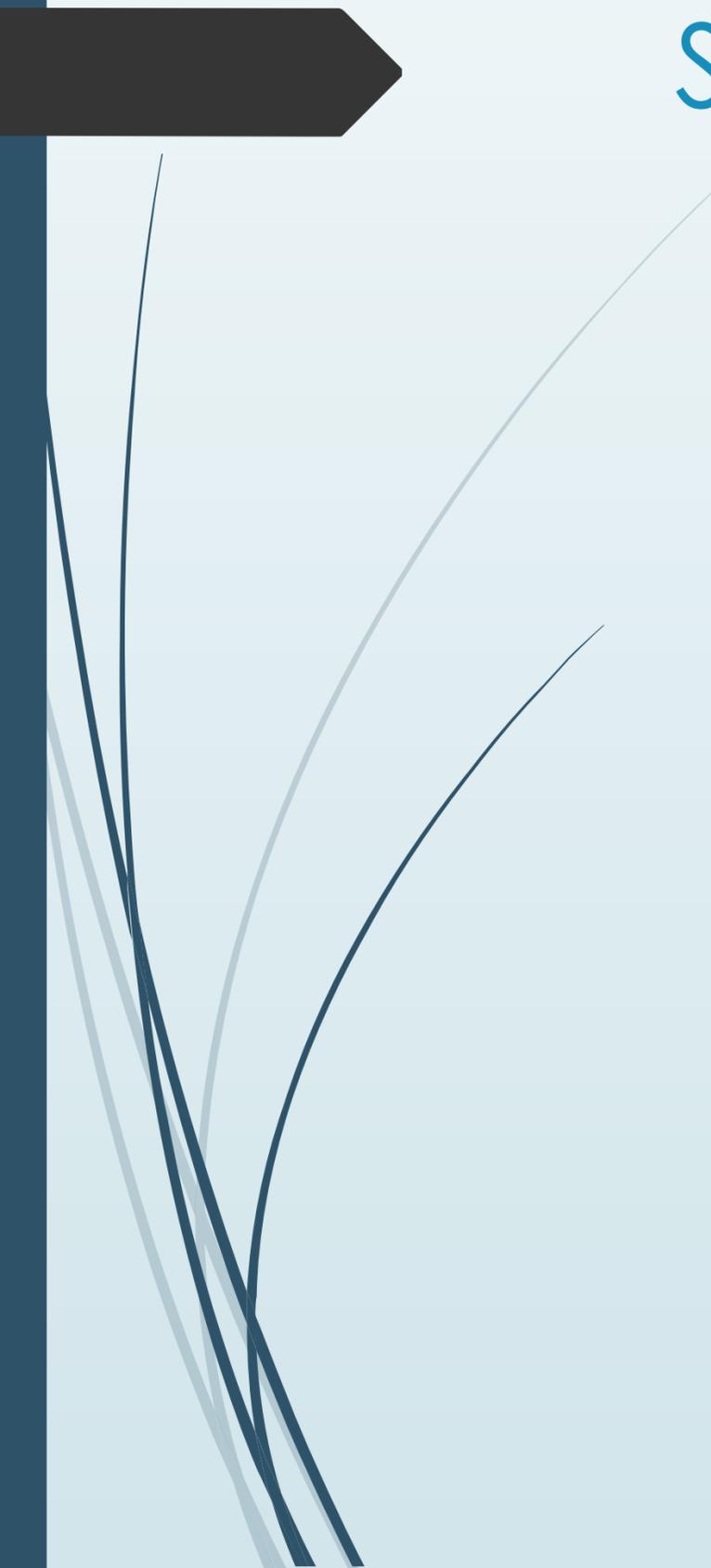
**WHAT – What services are we offering that support how we fulfill our beliefs?**

# Components of Small Groups

- **Pastoral/Executive Oversight**
  - Responsible for overall oversight and decision-making authority regarding Small Groups.
- **Small Group Administrator (SGA)**
  - Administrates the Small Groups according to Pastoral/Executive Oversight.
  - Ensure materials are selected, approved, and distributed in a timely fashion in preparation for groups.
  - Responsible for ensuring new group facilitators are identified, trained and equipped to lead groups.
  - Work in conjunction with Pastoral/Executive Oversight to make recommendations regarding future groups based on congregational needs/insight from the Holy Spirit.

# Components of Small Group (cont)

- **Small Group Facilitators & Co-Small Group Facilitator (SGF) (Co-SGF)**
  - Small group facilitators are responsible for facilitating discussions of a group **up to 15 people in size**. Groups are more successful when they stay small. They are intimate, makes it easier to establish trust, and creates more room for dialogue regarding the small group content.
  - Small group facilitators are to be watchful and discerning from the onset of a group as to identify potential small group facilitators.
  - SGF's must feel comfortable with keeping a conversation "on task" based on the subject at hand.
  - Group discussions must be confidential. Where there is confidentiality and people feel safe, healing can take place. Should there be a need to discuss an issue from the group, talk to your SGA who can provide guidance on next steps (if this needs to be addressed by the Pastor/Executive Oversight).
  - Discernment is important! The Co-SGF should always be scanning the room and paying attention to unspoken prayer needs.
  - SGF & Co-SGF are to be prayerful about their group. It's a good idea to find time to pray once a week for the group. (Strong suggestion).
  - Promote all Small Groups to friends, family, co-workers, and community. Exude excitement!

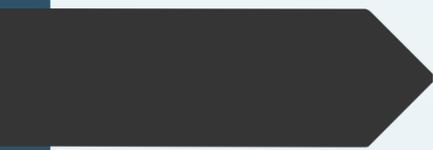
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# Small Group Structure

- Initial group participants introduction meeting.
- Set number of weeks for group study/focus (around 6 weeks – unless a specialty group).
- Group celebratory dinner to close out the group (Fellowship).

# What Types of Groups to Offer?

- Groups are not necessarily content, but relationally driven. How do they stir us to good works? To love more? To grow? That growth can be in different areas, which can play a role in the types of groups that are set.
- **Open Group** – A group that opens for registration and remains open throughout the group period allowing anyone to join throughout the duration of that period. This would be more like a Rooted/discipleship driven group.
- **Closed Group** – A group that opens for registration and closes at the end of the registration period. The group does not accept new participants beyond the registration period or once the group is full. One reason for this is those group members have already begun finding equilibrium and are sharing with one another. To add new people could hinder any progress happening in that group.
  - This is a reason why we promote groups and group registration day! When promoted groups should also be identified as “open” or “closed” and definition provided as to what this means for participation. Allowing a person in here and there establishes a precedence and is unfair when it does not happen for everyone.



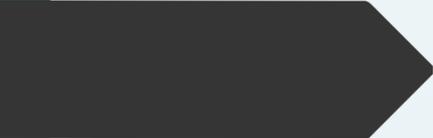
# What's the Benefit of Groups to the Participant?

- Continued growth within a smaller setting
- Support and encouragement on issues and concerns of life
- Accountability
- A place of trust and openness to work through difficult challenges within community
- Inspiration and spiritual insight
- Confidentiality



# Lifeway Research on Small Groups

- **How Groups Meet:** Most groups meet weekly – 93% of leaders who had groups stated their groups meet weekly.
- **Little to No Turnover in Groups:** Almost 9 in 10 leaders (89%) agree most group participants have been in the same group for at least two years.
- **Diverse Group Methods:** Almost half of leaders (45%) say their groups are organized by an interest in the topic being studied. Around 3 in 10 organize around age (31%), life stage (29%), and gender (28%).
- **Worship Attendee Participation:** Around 2 in 5 worship attendees at the average church (44%) also typically participate in small groups.  
(PROMOTE THE GROUPS)



Thank You for Listening!

*For the next few mins, let's talk through what small groups may look like in application.*

