

Groups that Transform

If all you knew about our opportunities through small groups was based on Acts 4:29-37, what are most important priorities?

²⁹ And now, Lord, consider their threats, and grant that Your slaves may speak Your message with complete boldness, ³⁰ while You stretch out Your hand for healing, signs, and wonders to be performed through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.” ³¹ When they had prayed, the place where they were assembled was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak God’s message with boldness.

³² Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of his possessions was his own, but instead they held everything in common. ³³ And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was on all of them. ³⁴ For there was not a needy person among them, because all those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, ³⁵ and laid them at the apostles’ feet. This was then distributed to each person as anyone had a need. ³⁶ Joseph, a Levite and a Cypriot by birth, whom the apostles named Barnabas, which is translated Son of Encouragement, ³⁷ sold a field he owned, brought the money, and laid it at the apostles’ feet.

Consider Five Priorities:

Implications for us:

1. _____ (29-30)
2. _____ (31)
3. _____ (32-33)
4. _____ (34-35)
5. _____ (36-37)

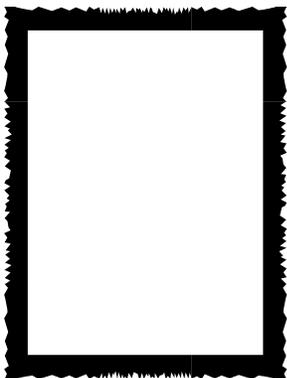
What are we pretending



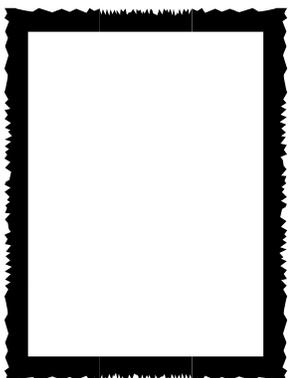
Three strategic numbers:



Each class needs a minimum of _____ workers!



Each worker needs to build relationships with and minister to a maximum of _____ members of the class.



Every time you start a new Bible study group you will average an increase of _____ persons somewhere in the church.

Focus on Principles

Strategy Maintain a clear focus on the assignment of reaching unchurched persons as an application of the Great Commission and the model of our Lord. New classes reach people at a higher percentage than do existing groups.

Specific target group Although believers are commissioned to go to everyone, effectiveness will be increased as a specific group of people become the focus of the new class. It is easier to focus on reaching a group of people if there is at least one common characteristic identified (such as age range, affinity, or life transition) of the group.

Communication In order to reach a specific group of people, effective communication must take place to those who are the target of the ministry, to those who are among the leaders of the group, as well as among participants and leaders.

Leadership A minimum of three persons need to be committed to start any new group. A minimum of one worker is needed for every five persons who are enrolled in the group. Leaders are to model and teach spiritual transformation through content and lifestyle.

Relationships Chances are increased that persons will be reached as members and leaders focus on building and strengthening relationships with persons they are seeking to reach and assimilate.

Space and resources Each group needs a space where they can meet that provides age-appropriate furnishings and resources.

Multiplication Each group is designed to reach new persons, to send persons from the group to serve in other ministry/ministries, and to initiate starting new group(s).

Actions I can take to strengthen our group

1. Strengthen my focus on:
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 -
 -
2. Emphasize passion for _____ work!
3. Understand and implement _____. They always work!
4. The most important priorities remain the ones Jesus prioritized.