

We loved you so much that we shared with you not only God's Good News but our own lives, too.

1 Thessalonians 2:8

Every group, no matter what its age, depth or mandate, should have some balance of the following components:

Evaluation

Twice a year at minimum your group should take stock and evaluate where the group is at.

- Is the current set up (day, time, frequency, format, etc.) working?
- Is the current make up of the group (closed group, open group, size of group, etc.) working?

Fellowship

Encouraging friendship, confidentiality, self-disclosure, and accountability. May include refreshments or even meals together, social events, practical helps, etc.

Prayer

If you can, develop a robust group prayer life. Pray for each other, your church, the community. Be sure to praise, give thanks, petition, confess and listen.



Worship

If worship through music is outside your group's ability, explore other options and try them out.

Bible Study

There are plenty of good topical and socially aware studies out there, but don't neglect studying the Scripture as it is. Try...

- Book studies
- Character studies
- Theme studies
- Word studies
- Follow the Sermon series
- Follow a "read the Bible" plan

Outreach

Looking beyond the group to share the message of Christ with friends, co-workers, family, etc. Taking advantage of outreach opportunities at First Baptist Church, helping with a specific or special need, adopting one of our missionaries, adopting one of our college students, taking on a hospital chapel program, hospice, visitation or care program. Perhaps you might consider organizing an occasional project such as Samaritans Purse or social justice, cooking at the Mustard Seed in Calgary. If the outside focus becomes regular and substantial then you may be fairly called a missions group.

Other Considerations

Developing Leaders - be on the look out for people in your group that show leadership capabilities and might be able to step up if you are away or otherwise are unable to lead.

Is it time to duplicate - perhaps your small group is no longer small. Do some research on what it means to have your group become two. In fact, the sooner you have a handle on this so that the potential need doesn't surprise you, the better off your group will be.

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