

Biblical Counselling and Small Group Ministry

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What are we meeting for?

- There are many things that we can do in our small groups. Can you put the following in order of priority from most to least important.....
 - Develop a supportive group identity
 - Encourage evangelism
 - Make time for prayer
 - Study the Bible
 - Identify people's gifts
 - Lovingly correct those who are being ungodly
 - Create a healthy group dynamic
 - Organise a rota for cleaning the church
 - Care for those in crisis
 - Contact those who stop coming
 - Train new leaders



Vision setting for a small group - an impossible task?



It's complicated..



Leaders spinning plates...



An overarching purpose

[Christ] is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone **fully mature in Christ**.

Colossians 1.28



An overarching purpose

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and **become mature**, attaining to **the whole measure of the fullness of Christ**

Ephesians 4:11-13



An overarching purpose

And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being **transformed into his image** with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:18



An overarching purpose

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be **conformed to the image of his Son**

Romans 8:28-29



An overarching purpose

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be **mature and complete**, not lacking anything.

James 1:2-4



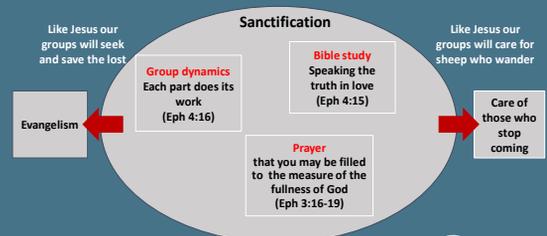
Sanctification

The work of God's free grace whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God and are enabled more and more to die unto sin and live unto righteousness

Shorter Westminster Catechism



How does this sanctification happen?



Sanctification

'The church is not a theological classroom. It is a conversion, confession, repentance, reconciliation, forgiveness and sanctification center, where flawed people place their trust in Christ, gathering to know and love him better, and learn to love others as he has designed.'

Paul Tripp,
Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands



Common objections

- *We aren't trained for this*
- *The people in our groups don't expect this*
- *We're already busy. We can't add any more responsibilities to our role*



Implementing and sustaining change

- Envision leaders
- Encourage individual growth
- 'Mentor' groups
- Group vision setting



A leader's job description..

Christ Church
CORNWALL

A Small Group Leaders
'Job Description'

This brief summary attempts to capture some of the essential elements that are involved in serving as a small group leader at Christ Church.

Vision

Our vision for small groups could be simply (and gloriously) stated as a determination to bring glory to God by helping each other become more like Jesus Christ.

This will mean small group leaders:

- Being personally committed to their own growth into the likeness of Christ.
- Putting growth into the likeness of Christ at the centre of their home group's vision.
- Feeling a pastoral responsibility for all the members of their group (a responsibility shared with their co-leader and the senior pastoral leadership at Christ Church)

More specifically, a home group leader will be someone who:

- Personally commits themselves to love, serve and pray for the members of their group
- Can commit to being present at virtually all home group meetings
- Makes regular attendance at central monthly prayer meetings a priority
- Will take part in mentor group meetings (up to twice a term) and small group training (approx once per term)



Three measures of 'success'

1. How fuzzy are your boundaries?
2. How personal is your prayer?
3. How applied is your Bible?

