Forming and Facilitating Small Groups

Iona School for Ministry

January 14, 2023

**Class Objectives**

In this class, students will be able to:

1. The purpose of establishing small groups and their benefit
2. Identify traits of effective leaders of small groups
3. Identify components of the small group session for maximum benefit others
4. Understand how to end a small group effectively.

**Class Description**

Small groups are one of the best ways for people to come together for discussion, learning, and support as they build relationship within the community. This class will focus on the purpose of small groups, their benefits and limitations and how to initiate the idea of small groups. We will also discuss how to be an effective facilitator who can ensure that all have the opportunity to participate fully within a safe environment.

1. Why form a Small Group?
2. Types of Small Groups

1. Setting up a Small Group:
2. Effective Facilitating
   1. Leader is facilitator, not lecturer
   2. Share power
   3. Wisdom in the room
   4. Listening skills
   5. Manage time
   6. Manage interactions
   7. How adults learn
3. Facilitating a Small Group
   1. Begin on time
   2. Time for relationship building
   3. Opening prayer
   4. Group contract
   5. Confidentiality
   6. Listening, Learning & Discussion
   7. Participation
   8. Dominators
   9. Quiet observers
   10. Keep the environment safe
   11. Manage conflict
   12. Keep the group focused
   13. End on time
4. Ending a Small Group
   1. Agreed upon ahead of time
   2. Timing
   3. Review what the group has accomplished or how the group has made difference in their life
   4. Talk about how people feel about ending
   5. Acknowledge grief
   6. Celebrate the gift of the group

Resources:

*ChurchLeaders.com* Common Courtesies: Small Group Rules to Follow.By Amy Nappa, March 19, 2019)

<http://www.smallgroupcentral.org.uk/purposeofasmallgroup/>

Cooperative Games for a Cooperative World: Facilitating Trust, Communication and Spiritual Connection by [Dada Maheshvaranand](https://www.amazon.com/Dada-Maheshvarananda/e/B001JY2QL2/ref=dp_byline_cont_ebooks_1)

[Communication in the Real World – Open Textbook (umn.edu)](https://open.lib.umn.edu/communication/)