



## IONA SCHOOL FOR MINISTRY

**Developing and Leading Small Groups**  
**2020-2021**  
**March 14, 2021**  
**Jan Halstead**

### **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.

### **Class Schedule**

1. Prayer & Opening Exercise	10 Minutes
2. Plus/Delta Small Group	8 Minutes
3. Types of Small Groups	10 Minutes
4. Setting up a Small Group	10 Minutes
5. Effective Facilitator Characteristics	15 Minutes
6. Facilitating a Small Group	30 Minutes
7. Ending a Small Group	5 Minutes
8. Closing Questions-Feedback	5 Minutes

### **Suggested 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](#)

Activity/ies:	Objectives: Students will be able to:	Competency/ies
Opening Prayer		
Icebreaker:  The Invisible Power of the Universe	Learn 1 new thing about their class members	Practice and use processes that welcome people into community relationships ( <i>e.g.</i> , check-ins, ice breakers, etc.)
Students list reasons to form a small group. Instructor adds to purposes if needed	Students will be able to articulate and understand the purposes for beginning a small group.	Ordinands have some experience of the working of groups, and the use of use to enable or disable others. DF3
Plus/Delta of Small Groups	Students will be able to identify the benefits and the potential hindrances of small groups.	Ordinands have some experience of the working of groups, and the use of use to enable or disable others. DF3
Students will work in groups of two to identify different types of small groups.  Instructor will complete help identify small group configuration and lead discussion.	Students will be able to identify different configurations of small groups, the purpose, the benefits and hindrances of each.	Ordinands are alert to the need for different methods and styles of leadership. DF3, LF3  Invite and prepare volunteers for participation in ministries.
Instructor will identify strategies for setting up a small group	Students will be able to describe how to set purpose, recruit members, size, location, type, length	Encourage the talents of others.  Invite and prepare volunteers for participation in ministries.
Students identify the characteristics of most effective small group leader.  Instructor will further identify further effective group leaders and identify why those are important.	Students will be able to articulate the following skills: Shared power in group Wisdom in the room Effective Listening Skills Adult learning styles Managing time Managing interactions	Use listening skills appropriately.  Ordinands show understanding of how children and adults learn in order to nurture others in faith development.  Ordinands show an enthusiasm for learning and teaching the faith; and

		<p>continue to develop their gifts and interests in other ways. PI3, DI3</p> <p>Ordinands demonstrate an ability to improve team-working and leadership skills. PF3, DE3</p>
Instructor led information with questions and clarification of Facilitating a small group	Students will understand flow of group time, importance of relationship building, building safety in the group, confidentiality, managing interaction so that all have the opportunity to speak, managing any conflict	<p>Use listening skills appropriately.</p> <p>Function in groups in ways that encourages the participation, contribution, and initiative of others.</p> <p>Practice and use processes that welcome people into community relationships (e.g., check-ins, ice breakers, etc.)</p> <p>• Possess an awareness of how one can be privileged in relationship with others (e.g., race, gender, education, professional status, ordained status).</p>
Discussion on how to end small group.	Students will understand the importance of appropriate time to end a group,	<p>Encourage the talents of others</p> <p>Invite and prepare volunteers for participation in ministries.</p>
Closing		