

Small Group Leader Training

October 7, 2007



Snacks (bagels, fruit, juice, coffee)

11:20-11:30 WELCOME / Mixer

-identify person for each statement and have him/her sign the line (only use person once)

11:30-11:50 Developing Community within a Small Group: Moving from Isolation to Intimacy

-beautiful thing of small groups is the relationships we build with group members and the growth experienced spiritually

-these 2 are inseparable **"best context for spiritual growth is community"**

-fellowship is pathway to community (more than "Who is bringing snack next time we meet?" or "closed")

-without intimacy within the group, spiritual growth is hampered

-not willing to admit we are truly in need of change

-feel inhibited in sharing our true self

-not willing to allow others to help in shaping who we are or lending a hand

"We are environmentalists. We are not responsible for the growth or change, we provide the nurture for the growth or change to take place." Bill Donahue (Willow Creek Community Church)

SLIDE 1: we want to move from ISOLATION to INTIMACY

-characterized by or involving warm friendship or a personally close or familiar association or feeling

SLIDE 2:-moving from Isolation to Intimacy requires IDENTITY (revealing our true self)

-BIGGEST BARRIER: **fear** (being laughed at, being judged, being talked about)

watch clip:

SLIDE 3: Progression of needs for intimacy to develop:

Safety -"People will choose the certainty of misery over the misery of uncertainty" Virginia Sater

Exposure-revealing the "true self" (not pretty self), peeling the layers, opening the closet door

Known -authenticity, trusting others with our feelings & emotions, "letting people in"

Accepted -"taking people in" **Jewish**-Be clean and eat/**Jesus**-eat and be clean(Blue Parakete story)

Loved-not about fixing but about feeling, asked not answered, not a technique but Jesus' presence

SLIDE 4: Key Ingredients to Creating Intimacy in a small group

-**Consistency** (meeting regularly, holding members accountable, using a covenant, not taking the easy way)

-**Authenticity** (model it, name reality, do "check in" moments, "real calls to real before deep to deep")

-**Community** (Acts 4 culture, expressing needs, responding to needs, spiritual maturity fostered)

"how are you doing rather than how am I doing"

11:50-12:00 CARE Groups

In what way have you experienced intimacy in a small group setting?

How have you observed community being nurtured in a small group setting?

What area does your group need to address to foster community in the small group you lead?

12:00-12:10 Solutions for Strengthening our Children Spiritually (Tammy Kalstad)

-cry for help in providing spiritually significant direction for children of group members

-more than "childcare" / removing the mass chaos

-resources available

12:10 Wrap Up: 4 Core Moment

-Update profiles (put project on profile)

-Complete a Growth Group Leader Application

-Study: Select a study (resources available)

-Fellowship: Creation Museum event, Marriage Retreat

-Service: Harvest Party (defense or offense)

-NOTEBOOK RESOURCES: Gut Check Questions

07-08 Training Dates
-November 4