

PRINCIPLES AND GOALS FOR SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

I. TWELVE PRINCIPLES FOR SUCCESSFUL SMALL GROUPS

1. *Make the group do the work.*
2. *Rephrase questions.*
3. *Respect the views of members in your group.*
4. *Don't be threatened by controversy.*
5. *Don't be afraid to say, "I don't know."*
6. *If you have new or shy people, you can direct simple questions to them.*
7. *Restrain a person who talks too much.*
8. *Prevent inappropriate tangents.*
9. *Question people who frequently make irrelevant, unrelated statements.*
10. *Postpone giving answers to people who frequently bring up problems.*
11. *Focus the energies of potential leaders.*
12. *Discern what is good silence and what is bad silence.*

II. SEVEN SMALL GROUP GOALS

1. *Intimate fellowship.*
2. *Opportunities for spiritual growth through discussion and personal study.*
3. *An environment where the principles of Scripture can be visibly practiced*
4. *Opportunity for meaningful prayer*
5. *Assistance for individuals to discover and develop their gifts.*
6. *Encouragement of a lifestyle pleasing to God*
7. *Outreach to new people to bring them to the guidance and reproduction stages*

III. EXPLORATORY QUESTIONS FOR SMALL GROUPS

A. Questions about the Value of Small Groups.

1. *What small groups have you been in?*
2. *Which was the most meaningful? And Why?*
3. *Why do you feel that way?*
4. *What problems did you encounter or observe?*
5. *List some of the pluses of the group.*
6. *What were some personal needs met?*

B. Getting Acquainted Questions.

1. *How did you come to know the Lord?*
2. *What do you enjoy doing the most?*
3. *What is your least favorite task?*
4. *What do you consider to be one of your greatest needs?*
5. *Describe how you met your wife.*
6. *Do you have a vision in your heart or mind that you would like to see take place?*
7. *If you knew you had only one day or week or month to live, how would you spend your time?*

8. *What are ways you are spending time with your children?*

C. Time Management Questions.

1. *Ask them what all their main activities are each week.*
2. *Have them write out their schedule.*
3. *Have them list if it's well or poorly done.*
4. *Ask them which activities they like to do.*
5. *Ask for names of men they could disciple.*
6. *Ask them how close of a relationship they have with these people.*

D. Evaluation Questions for New Group Leaders

1. *What are your general feelings now that you have led a CBLT study group?*
2. *Are you ready to continue?*
3. *What was your greatest joy?*
4. *What was your greatest frustration?*
5. *What have you seen as the personal benefit for yourself? Your men?*
6. *How do you feel about the dynamics in your group?*
7. *Was there good participation and discussion?*
8. *Do you feel you could benefit from more instruction in the area of leading a group? What areas?*
9. *How would you evaluate the workload for the students? light? Too heavy? Just right?*
10. *What problems did you face in implementing the seminar assignments?*
11. *What problems did you have with the practical assignments?*

CLOSING