

SMALL GROUPS

THE MASTER'S STRATEGY FOR BUILDING UP DISCIPLES

Introduction: Why CrossWay Church Emphasizes Small Groups.

Why make small groups the main discipleship complement to our Sunday morning services?

→ Because Jesus used small groups in His discipling strategy.

And because people haven't changed
and the process of spiritual growth hasn't changed.

1. Jesus' Small Group

Mark 3:13-14 The Twelve

Luke 10:1-3, 9 The Seventy

Selection of the 70 was a lesson in leadership for the twelve.

2. Jesus' Concentration on The Twelve

Despite the eagerness of others to be with Jesus and learn,
He resisted spreading Himself out.

His strategy was to prepare disciples to be able to reproduce
what He taught them by transferring His teaching to others.

The direction of Paul to Timothy in the early years of the Church

2 Timothy 2:1-2

3. Jesus' Focus on Discipling a *Group*

Jesus' method was also to train His men together as a unit.

Why didn't Jesus mentor the twelve through one-on-one relationships?

A. A small group is the most effective way to train larger numbers
of spiritually eager people.

B. A small group is the most effective way to build unity among people
from diverse backgrounds.

Acts 2:38-46

Jesus intended to build His Church into a body of close-knit people
bonded to one-another in spiritual relationships.

The example of Jesus and the example of the early church shows
that the nurture of spiritual relationships advances
powerfully when the whole Church community is broken down into
gatherings of small groups.

4. Reasons CrossWay Congregants have Given for not Joining a Small Group.

And reasons why they should rethink their reasoning.

A. No group fits my schedule -- Is this a reason or an excuse?

Isolation usually leads to spiritual drift.

B. No curriculum interests me.

Groups are not just about a curriculum.
They are about giving and receiving grace.

C. I'm not comfortable in close relations with other people.

In most groups you won't be the only one who feels that way.

CrossWay small groups start off slowly building relationships.

A small group is probably the only place where you will find
opportunities to hear that you are not alone in your struggles.

Summary:

In CrossWay Church, the **priority** of our small groups is the people.

The **goal** is life transformation.

The **means** is regular time together to process life and truth.