

Small Group Ministry and Support Groups



Marriage and family are the smallest unit



Small groups and support groups

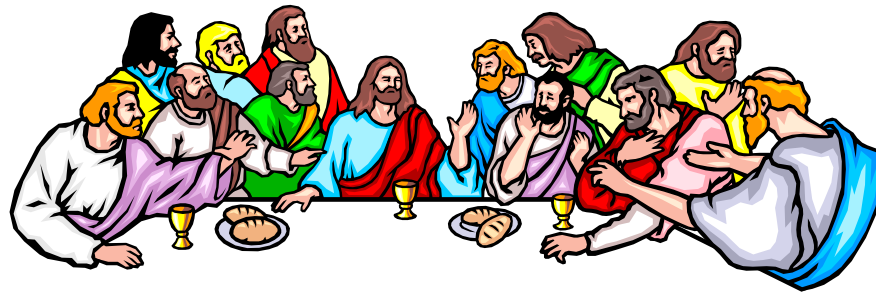
Small groups are an effective tool for healthy spiritual human relations.



- ▶ Small groups are the most effective way of bringing people into contact with Jesus and to help them become disciples. Small groups led by the Holy Spirit help the church to thrive.
- ▶ Our world longs for authentic, loving relationships in which God is involved.
- ▶ People who do not have an authentic relationship with God and other people will find other means of satisfying this longing: they look for acceptance and meaning for their lives in other ways.
- ▶ In our relationship with God and other people we find satisfaction and growth. The best way to reach other people is through authentic relationships.
- ▶ Small groups are an effective tool for spiritual growth and good relationships..

Biblical basis for small groups

- ▶ Group events in the New Testament
- ▶ The example of the early church: Acts 2:42–47



- ▶ “Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”
- ▶ This is a description of the church at the time of the Apostles. They were concerned with all the things that are still important for a church today:
- ▶ Worship, companionship, spiritual growth (discipleship), church services and evangelism. The church was not active only for a few hours on one day each week – they met during the week!

Building blocks for a successful small group

- People
- Food
- Bible study
- Application
- Prayer
- Neighbourly love – assistance



Why are small groups such an effective life-changing instrument?

- **Church services:** can be a very passive experience
- **Small groups:** Relation to life is established through discussion and sharing.
- People not only listen but apply to their life what they hear

How can I start a small group?

- Begin with prayer
- Have a vision/idea and talk about it with a friend.
- Inspire others and create a small team



Where can I find a group leader?

- Survey
- Encourage
- Mentor
- Learning by doing



Recognize the needs!



- ▶ Know what people live in the vicinity
- ▶ Start a survey if necessary
- ▶ Bible study group or program according to special needs

What is the right time?

For children, spouses and family, elderly, young people, singles, multicultural programs

People who feel



- of no value
- hopeless
- without perspective
- desperate
- ill / depressive

How do I find guests?



- ▶ Friends / Relatives
- ▶ Neighbours
- ▶ Colleagues
- ▶ Bible Correspondence course graduates
- ▶ Door-to-door action
- ▶ Survey
- ▶ Church visitors register

Fix a time and location



- Where shall we meet?
- When shall we meet?
- How often shall we meet?
- What time?

- ▶ *I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you....*

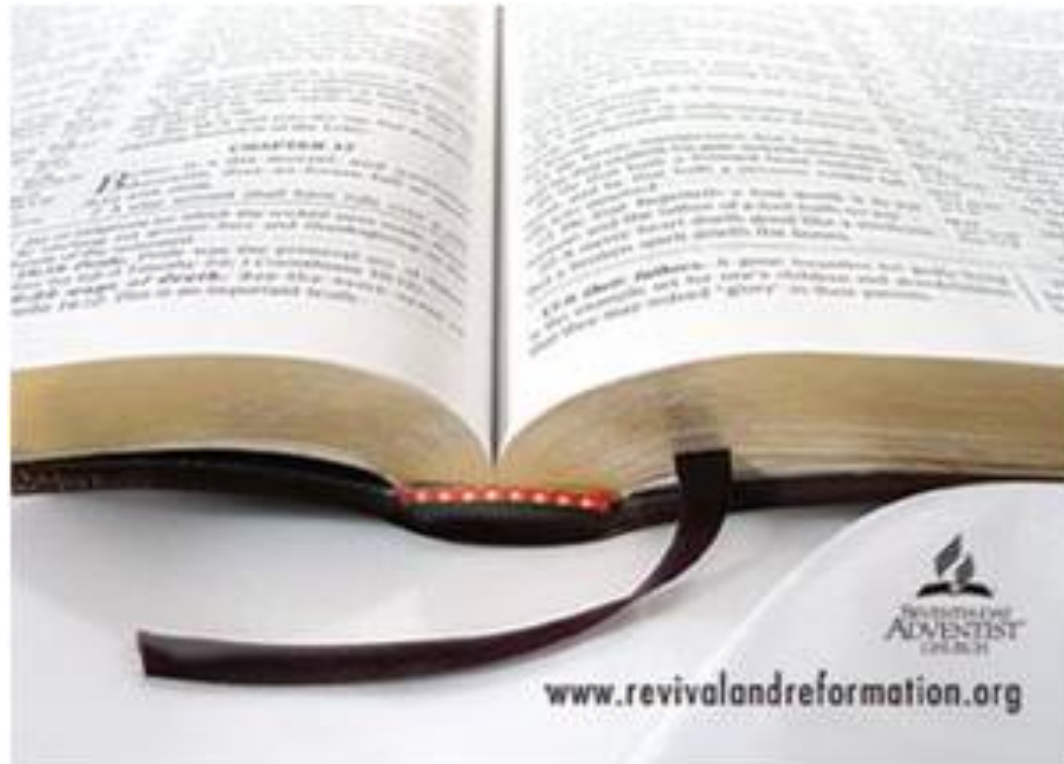
John 13:15



- ▶ *Tender, compassionate, sympathetic, ever considerate of others, He represented the character of God, and was constantly engaged in service for God and man...*
- ▶ *Sons and Daughters,*



Bible study group



Breakfast meeting for women or men



Discussion groups (Hope for you)



Girls4christ group



Singles group



Welcome Baby group



Children from other cultural backgrounds



Prayer groups



Multiculturale groups



Women's Bible breakfast group



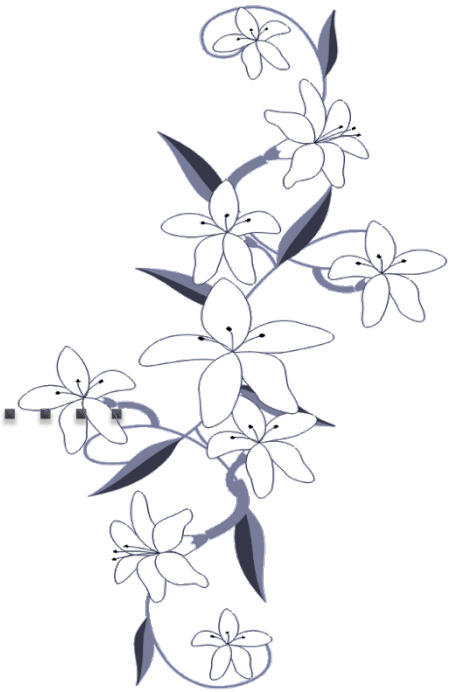
Program according to Acts 2:42

Eating together, praying, talking



ingrid naumann p.AL

Gathering strength.....



- ▶ From the certitude of salvation
- ▶ By living according to God's will
- ▶ From knowing your God-given mission
- ▶ By sharing what you know with others

Read Joshua 1:6 ff

**You did not choose me,
but I chose YOU.**

Jesus



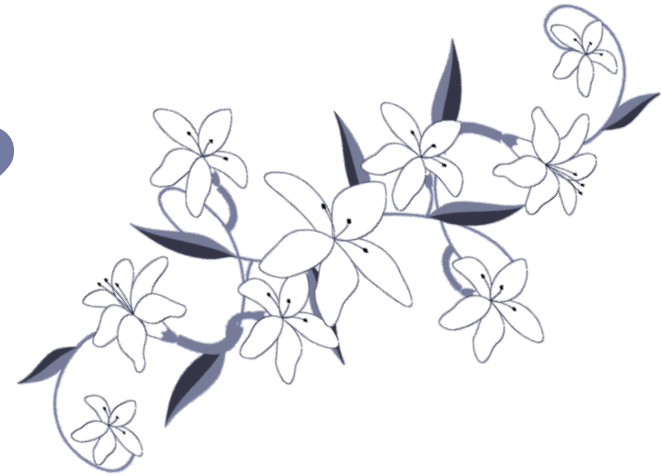


Put it into practice



bearbeitet Ingrid Naumann 2013

Questions?



Resources and material

- ▶ Bible Studies for Women
- ▶ Bible study box
- ▶ Prayer and Love saves seminar (PALS)
- ▶ Welcome Baby pamphlets
- ▶ CD with topic suggestions for group meetings