

**Training the House of God for Small Group Revitalization**  
**New Hope Church, Southwest Ranches, Florida**  
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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this project is to identify and eliminate obstacles hindering New Hope Church located in Southwest Ranches, Florida from fulfilling its stated vision to become a church of small groups. Before this project, New Hope Church had established a vision and value statement the congregation had adopted with great enthusiasm. Unfortunately, the vision did not become a reality.

This project utilized a dual strategy to remove barriers hindering implementation of the stated vision. It clarified the mission of the church for existing leaders and developed an organized system of small group ministry.

Internal discipleship dealt with current decision-makers and their understanding of the mission, purpose, vision, and values God has given to the church. Through a process of alignment, the existing ministries were united and focused on fulfilling the stated vision. External expansion of the small group ministry began with research to identify the primary reasons for lack of participation. Congregational surveys revealed church acceptance of the stated vision yet a lack of understanding concerning their role in fulfillment of that vision.

To respond to this lack of understanding, a three-month promotional effort began. Over the twelve weeks, a Wednesday night leadership class and a four-week Sunday morning sermon series focused on the importance of small group ministry. During this informational process, research was conducted to determine the most effective small group model for New Hope Church.

This project brought unity and understanding to the existing members of New Hope and training to prospective small group leaders. The result was both qualitative and quantitative growth of the small group ministry and the church at large, verifying the importance of a continued effort to keep the ministry aligned with its stated vision while developing the community through small groups.