

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Springfield, Missouri

PTH 549 Small Group Ministry
June 1-25, 2004 · MTWTF, 9:45-11:45 a.m.

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Summer 2004

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course develops a biblical and practical understanding of small groups. It examines principles for developing and leading groups, as well as models of small group ministries. It provides opportunities for interaction with an actual small group, small group system leadership, and small group curriculum.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Cognitive Outcomes

The participant should gain an increased understanding of...

- 1.the biblical foundation and principles for small groups.
- 2.contemporary models of small group ministry.

Character/Attitude Outcomes

The participant should...

- 2.appreciate the value of small groups in meeting the cultural challenges facing today’s church.
 2. strengthen his/her commitment to the value of community in fulfilling the purposes of the church.

Skill Outcomes

Through this study, the participant should be better equipped to...

- 3.establish and nurture a small group system.
- 4.evaluate the development of the growth of the system.
- 5.evaluate, create, and customize appropriate curriculum

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Reading Requirement

- **Required Reading**

Donahue, Bill, and Russ Robinson. *Building a Church of Small Groups: A Place Where Nobody Stands Alone*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001. (216 pp.)

Gorman, Julie A. *Community That Is Christian: A Handbook on Small Groups*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2002. (244 pp.)

Haggard, Ted. *Dog Training, Fly Fishing, & Sharing Christ in the 21st Century*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2002. (207 pp.)

Note: If participant has read any of these books for credit in another class, please substitute another book from the bibliography.

- **Reading Reflection Report**

Submit a 4-5 page reflective reading report which states whether or not you have completed the reading in its entirety and highlights the most important principles gleaned from the reading. ***Reading report is due June 7, 2004.***

2. The Small Group Experience

- *As Participant*. Students are expected to attend all class sessions, participate in discussions, and support other students' leadership projects.
- *As Leader*. In the latter half of the course, each student will lead (individually or in a team, depending on class size) a small group meeting during class. The student will choose a particular type of group (i.e., service evangelism, task, free market, home, etc.), design the experience including lesson material, and lead the meeting.

3. Research Project

Students may choose one of the following options or present instructor with a creative option. All projects should include field research of some kind (e.g., interview a small group system point leader, visit a small group, interview an experienced small group leader), model chosen and any adaptations thereof, and leadership applications. ***Projects are June 25, 2004.***

- Write a 15-20 page strategic plan for the development or strengthening of small groups at a new church plant.
- Write a 15-20 page research project on an aspect of small group ministry about which you would like to learn more. Please get topic approval from instructor.
- Create a multi-media presentation to promote small groups in a church. Presentation should be accompanied by a prospectus detailing the target audience, philosophy of ministry, and structures required to support this promotion (follow-up, tools, connection points).

GRADING PROCEDURE

Reading & Report	20%
Attendance & Participation	20%
Leading a Small Group	30%
Research Project	30%

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Arnold, Jeffrey. *The Big Book on Small Groups*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1992.

Banks, Robert. *Paul's Idea of Community: The Early House Churches in Their Cultural Setting*, rev. ed. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson Publishers, 1994.

Barker, Steve, Judy Johnson, Rob Malone, Ron Nicholas, and Doug Whallon. *Good Things Come in Small Groups: The Dynamics of Good Group Life*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1985.

Barna, George. *The Habits of Highly Effective Churches*. Ventura, Calif.: Regal, 1999.

Borthwick, Paul, Carl F. George, Paul A. Kaak, Carol H. Lukens, Gary C. Newton, and Steve R. Sheeley. *New Directions for Small-Group Ministry*. Loveland, Colo.: Vital Ministry Books, 1999.

Coleman, Lyman, ed. *Director's Workbook for Small Groups*. Littleton, Colo.: Serendipity, 1994.

Comiskey, Joel. *Home Cell Group Explosion*. Houston: Touch Publications, 1998.

_____. *Reap the Harvest: How a Small-Group System Can Grow Your Church*. Houston: Touch Publications, 1999.

_____. *Leadership Explosion*. Houston: Touch Publications, 2000.

_____. *How to be a Great Cell Group Coach*. Houston: Touch Publications, 2003.

Crabb, Larry. *The Safest Place on Earth: Where People Connect and Are Forever Changed*. Nashville: Word, 1999.

Davis, Deena, comp. *Discipleship Journal's 101 Best Small Group Ideas*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1996.

Donahue, Bill P. *The Willow Creek Guide to Leading Life-Changing Small Groups*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996.

Donahue, Bill P. and Russ Robinson. *The Seven Deadly Sins of Small Group Ministry*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002.

_____. *Walking the Small Groups Tightrope*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.

Frazer, Randy. *The Connecting Church: Beyond Small Groups to Authentic Community*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001

Galloway, Dale, and Kathi Mills. *The Small Group Book: The Practical Guide for Nurturing Christians and Building Churches*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1995.

Grenz, Stanley J. *Theology for the Community of God*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1994.

Hurston, Karen. *Growing the World's Largest Church*. Springfield, MO: Chrism, 1994.

_____. *Breakthrough Cell Groups: How One American Church Reaches People for Christ through Creative Small Groups*. Houston: Touch Publications, 2001.

Icenogle, Gareth W. *Biblical Foundations for Small Group Ministry: An Integrational Approach*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1994.

Martin, Glen, and Gary McIntosh. *Creating Community: Deeper Fellowship through Small Group Ministry*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1997.

McBride, Neal F. *How to Lead Small Groups*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1990.

_____. *How to Build a Small Groups Ministry*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1995.

Neighbour, Ralph W., Jr. *The Shepherd's Guidebook*. Houston: Touch Publications, 1992.

Neighbour, Ralph W., and Lorna Jenkins. *Where Do We Go From Here?: A Guidebook for Cell Group Churches*. Houston: Touch Publications, 1990.

Nicholas, Ron, Steve Barker, Judy Johnson, Rob Malone, and Doug Whallon. *Good Things Come in Small Groups*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1985.

Sjogren, Steve. *Conspiracy of Kindness*. Ann Arbor, Mich.: Servant Publications, 1993.

Stockstill, Larry. *The Cell Church*. Ventura, Calif.: Regal, 1998.

Williams, Dan. *Seven Myths About Small Groups: How to Keep from Falling into Common Traps*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1991.