



DYNAMICS OF A SUCCESSFUL GROUP

I. IT STARTS WITH THE LEADER

- A. The leader is committed to constantly growing into a more effective leader by doing the following:
 - 1. Participate in Church – not just a spectator but participator, actively participating and serving in our local Body.
 - 2. Fellowship with accountability. It is important to surround ourselves with people who will challenge us and spur us on in the Lord. “As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.” Proverbs 27:17 NKJV
 - 3. The Leader must set the example for personal growth:
 - a) Study the Bible
 - b) Invest in learning
 - (1) Books
 - (2) Cd’s
 - (3) Newsletters
 - 4. It should be obvious who the Leader is without announcing it.
- B. The leader represents what the Church believes.
 - 1. The Church’s vision is more important than our own agenda; we’re building relationships and raising up leaders to fulfill the vision of LCC and God’s Kingdom (Matthew 6:33).
 - 2. We are to line up with the Church’s beliefs on key Biblical issues (i.e. Salvation, Baptism, Tithing, etc).
 - 3. **When the leader and the church’s message is consistent, it lends credibility to the leader.**
- C. The leader builds strong personal relationships/connections with everyone in the group. They don’t just rely on group interaction alone.
- D. An effective leader takes responsibility for the success of the group and the value everyone receives from the group.
 - 1. You have everything you need to be successful because God called you to be a leader. He has placed in you all you need to succeed in what He calls you to do.
 - 2. A prepared leader is an effective leader. Have a plan. Those who fail to plan, plan to fail. At the same time, don’t be so committed to the plan that you don’t allow things to flow naturally.

II. **POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT:** The environment must draw people in and make them want to come back. It is not enough to expect people to commit to a meeting. There are so many things that compete for people's time. We have to leave them with wanting more.

- A. The leader must see the positive in every situation and they help others to see it too. Be pleasantly assertive with negatives if need be. Don't allow the negative to infiltrate the atmosphere but rather re-frame what may appear or sound negative into a positive. Ask questions that require a positive response (i.e. How did you grow from that experience?).
- B. Create an excitement and energy in the atmosphere
 - 1. The leader and influencers are genuinely excited about growing closer to the Lord. Get together and talk about it then excitement will follow.
 - 2. Bring in new blood. Invite people within your own realm of influence. If you're not adding, you're shrinking. So often schedules change and people may need to drop out of the group. Always look to add or encourage others to invite people they know.
 - 3. Meet and invite new people on Sundays.
- C. Good retention: Understand that the numbers are the numbers. There will be approximately 50% - 75% of the members will show up on a regular basis. Keys to retaining people and for people to make sincere, concentrated efforts to attend are as follows:
 - 1. Value received at each meeting
 - 2. Input from attendees is valued. The leader must skillfully extract and openly appreciate the input from others.
 - 3. Relationships are being built. This develops a sense of commitment to the group.
 - 4. Frequent communication (i.e. e-mail before with an agenda and an e-mail after to re-cap meeting, briefly but thoroughly)
 - 5. Personal Follow up calls and face to face meetings as needed. Try to bump into as many people in your connect group as you can at church and say, "Hi".
- D. Address to smaller groups:
 - 1. Ask the Lord to show you if there is something holding you back; next ask your Team Leader and then ask one of your pastors. Proverbs 12:1 says, "Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, whoever hates correction is stupid." (NKJV).
 - 2. Accept the fact that God has a purpose in the smaller group (i.e. closer mentoring, test your commitment to lead) while still focusing on growing the group. Keep in mind that those who are faithful with little will be given much (Matthew 19:17). God may be testing your faith to His call for you to lead. Stewardship with people is leadership.
 - 3. Never underestimate the power of one changed life. Abraham is an awesome example of one changed life that impacted the world. Sometimes the requirements of leadership defy the laws of productivity.