

EVANGELISM THROUGH SMALL GROUPS

EVG 640 – Lyle Pointer, Professor
FALL 2007

Course Description:

An intensive study of the small group as a means of bringing lost people to Jesus and of establishing Christians in the faith. Involvement in an actual Bible study group will be required.

I. Textbooks:

Donahue, Bill and Russ Robinson. Building A Church of Small Groups

Donahue, Bill. Leading Life-Changing Small Groups

Hunt, Gladys. You Can Start a Bible Study Group

Schwanz, Floyd. Growing Small Groups

II. Assignments:

- A. Integrative/experience papers will be written based on personal experience, lecture notes and reading. Students will write four (4) experience papers based on preparation for and participation in a Bible study group. Report what happened in the group meetings and analyze the dynamics based on your studies. Each paper will reflect only those experiences gained during the time of this semester. Papers will be at least 3 full pages in length.

Each of these assignments assumes every student participates in some role in a small group aimed at reaching lost people or urging them into a deeper spiritual life. Your involvement is to be genuine, caring, and supportive participation and not merely a spectator stance. You are encouraged to journal the happenings in your group to effectively write these papers. Each paper ought to include a number of specific actions and comments by participants.

Subjects for these papers will cover four of these nine topics:

1. Beginning and Leading an Evangelistic Small Group Bible Study. Begin and lead (or co-lead) a small group for 6-8 weeks using principles learned in this class. Be sure some unsaved people attend your group. This paper counts double credit (is equivalent to two papers).
2. Leading Questions for a Small Group Bible Study. Select a portion of Scripture (at least five verses) and write questions and possible answers on those verses that would lead group participants to understand what the Scripture says and how it applies to their lives. Phrase questions to promote discussion according to group principles.
3. A Training Manual for Leaders of Evangelistic Bible Study Groups. Develop a handout incorporating the principles of this class that can be given to a lay person in your local church. Provide the information necessary to help them be successful as an evangelist through a small group.
4. Group Dynamics and a Sharing Fellowship. Analyze the interactive elements that make for an effective small group study. Why did people feel free to respond to God and each other?
5. Evangelism through a Small Group. Discuss the influences within the group that helped bring a person to Christ or to the Spirit-filled life. Evaluate the advantages of this approach over other evangelistic methods.
6. Establishment through a Small Group. Explain the role of the group in grounding and establishing those who may have come initially as Christians. Describe how the group provided spiritual nurture.
7. Potential of Small Groups in the Local Church. Drawing on the experiences within your group, explain how a similar group would be valuable for your future ministry within a local church.
8. Spiritual Case History of a Member of the Group. Trace a person's spiritual journey from the beginning of the group to where s/he is at the end. Note any high points along the way (e.g. conversion, first testimony, comments and insights into the Word, etc.). Also define the group's role in this person's progress.

9. Spiritual Multiplication. Adopt another seminarian as your fellow minister in evangelism. Take that person along on an evangelism visit to one of the unsaved members of your small group. Report on the results.
- B. Write a five page paper comparing Growing Small Groups with Building A Church of Small Groups. Note where the texts are similar and different. Highlight the strengths and weaknesses of each book. Conclude with what you garner from these readings.
- C. Teach the class a chapter from Leading Life Changing Small Groups. A week's notice will be given before the first class will be taught.
- D. A class project will be discussed and decided together.

III. Due dates:

- 9/20 Read You Can Start a Bible Study Group and prepare for class discussion.
 10/4 Comparative paper_
 10/18 First paper
 11/1 Second paper.
 11/8 Third paper.
 11/15 Fourth paper.
 11/29 Class project.

IV. Grading:

The assignments are worth the following points:

Class participation		25 pts.
Teaching class		100 pts.
Comparative paper		125 pts.
Papers	(4 @ 75 pts.)	300 pts.
Class Project		<u>150</u> pts
	Total Points	700 pts.

Grading will be based on:

- 91-100% = A
 81-90% = B
 71-80% = C
 61-70% = D
 0-60 % = F

No assignments will be accepted after Nov. 29 (Thursday). During the semester no work will be accepted later than one week after it is due. Late work will be discounted 10%.