

Growing Your Small Group

So you've finally taken the plunge, left the little community that you've loved being a part of for the last couple of years, and planted a new Small Group of your own. It's an exciting time with lots of things to work out in terms of vision and practicalities, but the one big question nagging away at you is probably this: **How are you going to get people to come?**

Or perhaps you've been going for a while and you've just hit a bit of a wall. That initial enthusiasm has gone and you've lost a bit of momentum. Maybe you're thinking **you could just do with a few new people** to stop the group from stagnating.

This resource gives Ten Top Tips for how you might be able to grow your small group. It's not an exhaustive list but hopefully some of the ideas might be helpful.

1. Pray for People at the end of Sunday Gatherings

Experience shows that quite often people requiring prayer are not in a Small Group and appreciate being invited.

2. Talk to your Small Group

Encourage the people already in your Small Group to bring people along.

3. Reflect on your own experience

What motivated and encouraged you to join a Small Group? Why have you stayed with the Small Groups you've been a part of?

4. Invite the people you serve with

If you or other people in your Small Group are involved with particular ministry areas then try to get to know the people you serve with. As relationships develop you may get the opportunity to invite them along.

5. Get involved with the Welome Team

Being involved with the Welcome Team is a great way to meet people who aren't in Small Groups.

6. Prepare yourselves before Sunday Gatherings

Pray for God to give you opportunities to meet and sit next to people not in Small Group.

7. Challenge yourself!

Set yourself a target for talking to new people - maybe one per week or one per month.

8. Get Involved with Alpha

People from Alpha often transition into Small Groups at the end of the course so you may find that the people on your table are keen to join your Small Group.

9. Consider if it's time to plant

It might seem counterintuitive, but it may be time to encourage others to plant out new Small Groups in order to make room for growth.

10. Be radical - Invite your neighbours!

Jesus tells us to love our neighbours as ourselves, so why not start on your own front door. Perhaps you could by inviting your neighbours to a party, barbeque, or some other social. If you want a good book on being a good neighbour try Jay Pathak and Dave Runyon's *The Art of Neighboring*.

Important Things to Remember...

Don't be discouraged if people say No - it's probably not a reflection on you personally and everyone is on a journey.

By far the best way to grow your Small Group is through relationship, so get to know people!