

## THE 6 SMALL GROUP LEADER ESSENTIALS

### **1. THINK *Life change*** - *Why we do small groups*

Bill Hybels has said that vision leaks. And that is definitely true when it comes to the vision and purpose for groups. Small Groups exist to create a disciple-making environment where God is active in the lives of its members. A small group where people *change*. Keeping the life change goal in front of leaders challenges them to keep their groups purposeful.

### **2. Cultivate RELATIONSHIPS** - *How you build community*

Relationships are like bank accounts – they require regular intentional deposits. We need to encourage leaders to make ongoing deposits in cultivating relationships. Some examples are: volunteering together on a service project, rotate names and go out with another group member or couple every other month, have a family outing (i.e. camping trip, pool party).

### **3. PROMOTE participation** - *How you lead a group*

This essential focuses on how the leader leads the group meeting. It reminds a leader that since shared participation creates broader ownership of the group; all members should be encouraged to participate often in the facilitation and leadership of the group meeting. This essential also remind leaders to promote participation by being navigators of discussion, not teachers of curriculum. The difference is critical. More than sharing the right answers, we want people to share their lives.

### **4. REPLACE yourself** - *How you intentionally apprentice*

This essential encourages leaders to intentionally apprentice someone in their group for future leadership. The apprentice is someone who has the potential to replace a leader, not simply assist them. Apprenticing is the most effective way to identify and train new group leaders. When you put someone in the game, he or she learns quickly.

### **5. Provide CARE** - *How you handle tough situations*

This essential reminds leaders that the primary way we provide care to WMBC attendees is through our small groups. Leaders need to be equipped on how to deal with challenging situations in their groups and how to access additionally care ministry resources available from the church. There is often no greater expression of community then seeing a small group rallying around a group member struggling in a difficult situation.

### **6. MULTIPLY influence** - *How you maximize impact*

This essential challenges leaders that multiplying their groups opens the door for others to participate in group life and allows them the opportunity to multiply their influence. This is the most difficult aspect of group leadership, but it can also be the most rewarding.