



Facilitators Guide – Small Groups Workshop

This workshop was developed by Tatenda Chikwekwe from the BYM Team, will help you learn and reflect about small groups. It incorporates a short video, with built-in pauses for reflection and discussion.

Resources:

- Download video from vimeo using link on facilitators page.
- A handout summarizing key takeaways and discussion questions is included at the end of this guide. Please print enough copies for everyone attending the workshop at your location.

Setting Up Your Space

- You will need space to watch and discuss the video in small groups. Scenario activities can be done in several small groups around the room.

WORKSHOP OUTLINE (50 MINUTES)

Your intro: (2 mins)

- Welcome everyone and set the stage for the workshop by highlighting the significance of small groups in kids youth and SRE ministry.
- Emphasize that small groups, though they might seem small amid all the big things in ministry, have a huge impact on the lives of young people.
- Outline the goals of the workshop: understanding the importance of small groups, learning practical tips for leading them effectively, and reflecting on personal experiences.

Video Intro (4 min) [0:00 -3:50]

TC introduces all the ways we could define a small group
Why small groups matter

Pause & Chat (3 mins)

- Share a story of the impact of small groups from your own experience
- What does a typical small group meeting look like in your context?

Video (4 mins)

- [3:43-7:45] The power of consistency and longevity

Pause and Chat (3 mins)

What are some of the unique challenges and opportunities you see in implementing small groups in your context?

EG .For those with ministry in schools (like SRE or lunchtime groups): How do you structure small groups within a school setting?

Some kids or youth groups are small by nature. How can you leverage the intimacy of a smaller group to foster deeper connections and discipleship?

- **Video (12 mins) [7:30-19:15]**

Preparation and intentionality

- Active listening
- Knowing your group
- Knowing your purpose
- Knowing the plan
- Make up of the group

Navigating tricky situations:

- Set boundaries
- Extend grace
- Courageous conversations
- Address behavioural issues
- Manage the sharing of voice space and time

Managing ad hoc groups:

- What is the responsibility of other leaders
- Clear questions
- Juggle the dynamics of different groups taking longer than those

Group leadership

Pause & Chat Scenarios (15 mins)

Get into groups of six and pick two of the provided scenarios to role-play. Assign roles and practice how you'd address each situation, focusing on what you would do and say. After each role-play, give each other feedback on your approaches. Then, choose one scenario to present to the whole group, demonstrating your role-play and discussing your strategy.

(NOTE for facilitators think about when you want to give the “wise response and helpful phrases” – eg after each role play and discussion by the group you could add some comments for anything that hasn't been mentioned by group. You can make copies to give everyone if you wish although they will be included in the resources package everybody receives.

- Provide time to discuss and wrap up the session. **(5 mins)**

Other reflection questions if time for participants to think about I (max 2 mins)

- How can you ensure that your small groups are both practically engaging and spiritually enriching for children and young people?
- What are some specific steps you can take to improve the effectiveness of your small groups or to implement small groups if you don't currently use them?

SMALL GROUPS THAT NURTURE FAITH

SHARING YOUR STORY

- What stories of impact of small groups can you recall from your own experiences?
- What does a typical small group look like in your context?

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- What unique challenges and opportunities do you see in implementing small groups in your context?
- Eg . For those with ministry in schools (like SRE or lunchtime groups): How do you structure small groups within a school setting?
- Some kids or youth groups are small by nature. How can you leverage the intimacy of a smaller group to foster deeper connections and discipleship?

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PRACTICAL IDEAS



- Preparation and Intentionality
- Navigating tricky situations
- Managing ad hoc groups
- Group Leadership

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- How can you ensure that your small groups are both practically engaging and spiritually enriching for children and young people?
- What are some specific steps you can take to improve the effectiveness of your small groups or to implement small groups if you don't currently use them?

SCENARIOS



In groups of six, pick two of the provided scenarios to role-play. Assign roles and practice how you'd address each situation, focusing on what you would do and say. After each role-play, give each other feedback on your approaches. Then, choose one scenario to present to the whole group, demonstrating your role-play and discussing your strategy.

Dominating Personalities

One person keeps interrupting and dominating the conversation, making others disengage.

Disengaged or Distracted

You're leading a discussion, and half the group is on their phones or not engaging.

TMI (too much information) conversations

One of the group members shares too much info or although it's important to share this, isn't the right moment eg family tension or an area of temptation.

Group Members Are Reluctant to Pray

You ask for a volunteer to pray, and no one steps up.

Dealing with Negative or Inappropriate Comments

One group member makes an insensitive joke or rude comment, making others uncomfortable.



TIPS FOR SCENARIOS

Disengaged or Distracted

Wise Response:

- Set expectations early about group behaviour, such as no phones or distractions.
- Privately address recurring distractions with individuals after the session.
- Pause the activity to refocus the group's attention with something engaging, such as a quick question or activity.

Helpful Phrases:

- Let's all take a quick moment to refocus, so we don't miss this important part.
- Phones away for a bit—this conversation deserves all of our attention.
- What's been on your mind today? Let's talk about it.

Dominating Personalities in Group Discussions

Wise Response:

- Acknowledge the person's input but redirect the conversation to others in the group.
- Establish a "one voice at a time" rule and emphasize the importance of balanced participation.
- Use a turn-based system (e.g. going around the circle) so everyone gets a chance to speak.

Helpful Phrases:

- Thanks for sharing! Let's hear from someone else who hasn't spoken yet.
- You've made some great points, what do others think about this?
- Let's go around and hear from everyone so we get a variety of perspectives.

Group Members Are Reluctant to Pray

Wise Response:

- Start by modelling short, simple prayers to set an example.
- Reassure the group that prayer doesn't need to be perfect or complicated.
- Encourage them to start small, like praying one sentence or thanking God for something specific.

Helpful Phrases:

- Praying out loud can feel intimidating, but God cares more about our hearts than our words.
- Would anyone like to say a one-sentence prayer? Even something simple is powerful.
- Let's pray together—I'll start, and anyone can jump in if they feel comfortable.



TIPS FOR SCENARIOS

Dealing with Negative or Inappropriate Comments

Wise Response:

- Address the comment immediately but with kindness, reminding the group of the importance of respect.
- Afterward, speak to the individual privately to explain why their comment was inappropriate and how it may have affected others.

Helpful Phrases:

- Let's be mindful of our words and ensure this space remains respectful.
- That comment might hurt someone, let's focus on building each other up.
- We're here to support one another. Let's keep that in mind as we speak.

TMI (too much information) conversations

Wise Response:

- Respond with empathy and thank them for their trust.
- Avoid judgment or immediate advice; instead, point them to God's love and promises.
- Follow up with them later to continue the conversation and offer ongoing support.

Helpful Phrases:

- Thank you for trusting me with this—it takes courage to share."
- You are deeply loved by God, and nothing changes that."
- Let's walk through this together. You're not alone.

