

## Small Group Training – Week 2

### Choosing a Co-leader

Selecting a co-leader for your small group can be a difficult task. As the group leader begins to consider who in the group might be a good candidate he or she should consider this; the ultimate goal is that, in most cases the co-leader will one day become a small group leader. So rather than considering what qualities we should look for in a co-leader, perhaps we should look at what make a good leader.

There are three characteristics that anyone being considered for a role in small group leadership must demonstrate. Any potential co-leader/leader must be faithful, available and teachable. In short we should be looking for **FAT** co-leaders. Let's take a look at these qualities.

*2 Timothy 2:2 And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.*

**FAITHFUL;** What does faithfulness look like in a small group? Several things come to mind. First of all is consistent attendance of group functions, not only the weekly meetings but special events too. The group leader and group members need to know that the co-leader can be counted on to be there.

Coming prepared for the weekly lesson is a key element of faithfulness. A good co-leader will invest both time and effort into the study. This is important because it demonstrates a desire to have a deeper understanding of Gods Word as well a desire to better know the Lord.

Finally, a co-leader should be regularly participating in group discussions and the corporate prayer time. How is the study affecting him or her personally, how is it being applied to everyday life? The co-leader, like the leader must be transparent before the group.

*Matt 4:18-20 As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him.*

**AVAILABLE;** When choosing a co-leader for a small group we need to make sure that he or she is going to be available for more than scheduled group activities. A co-leader will need to make time to meet with the group leader in order to discuss the direction and schedule of the small group.

Another function that the co-leader may have to be available for is ministering to the needs of the group members. It is an unfortunate fact that people rarely need help at times that are convenient to others. The co-leader, like the leader needs to be available when needed.

The co-leader needs to be willing to make him or herself available for additional training. This may be in sessions led by one of the pastors for all small group leaders and co-leaders, or it could be in a one on one with the group leader. Whatever the case, the co-leader must have a desire to and a willingness to grow in that role.

*Matt 13:1-3, 36 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. Then he told them many things in parables...*

*Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field."*

**TEACHABLE;** Anyone being considered as a co-leader must be teachable. Let's face it; none of us knows it all. Being teachable demonstrates both a spirit of humility and a desire to grow.

One of the main reasons that we come together in small groups is to learn not only from the Scriptures but also from one another. When the leader and co-leader are secure enough to demonstrate a teachable spirit, others in the group will follow and the results will be changed lives and deep relationships.

The co-leader cannot grow in his or her role without being teachable. The small group cannot flourish unless the leader and the co-leader are teachable. God cannot accomplish in and through the small group what He desires unless the leader, co-leader and group members all have teachable hearts and minds.

*Phil 1:6 ...being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

In closing I want to say that while it is essential for a co-leader to have all three of the **FAT** elements to some degree, there will be strengths and weaknesses. No one person will be perfectly **FAT**; there is always room for growth. It is the role of the leader through prayer and the wisdom given from the Lord to identify whom the Holy Spirit has equipped with leadership gifts. It is the work of God to bring that person to maturity in Christ. We just get to partner with Him in His work.

Blessings in Christ  
Rick