

Small Group Training – Week 6

“Just Do It”

In the 1988 Nike began an advertising campaign with the now famous “Just Do It” slogan. The idea was to encourage people to get up off the couch and get active. The commercials portrayed athletes overcoming different adversities in order to compete. One of the messages that came out of that ad campaign was that we should not let any handicap, obstacle or excuse keep us out of the game. Whatever sport you want to play, “Just Do It”!

So what does selling shoes and promoting sport have in common with leading small groups and raising up co-leaders? In some respects there is nothing in common whatsoever. But then again, in other respects there is much in common.

As small group leaders there is the danger of adopting the “Just Do It” mentality when it comes to any of the responsibilities of running the small group. The reasons for this can vary; we don’t want to impose upon the small group members, we don’t have time to explain to someone else how we want something done or no one within the group has stepped forward when we have asked for help in the past. As a result, the leader feels as if he or she must “Just Do It” if it is going to get done.

The problem is that this is not a healthy way of thinking or leading. When we as leaders operate with a “Just Do It” attitude we are not allowing the other members of the small group to exercise their spiritual gifts, and we keep them from taking ownership of any aspect of the small group. It is this same “Just Do It” mindset that can cause us to neglect training up a co-leader in the small group.

Over the past five weeks we have examined some of the reasons that having a co-leader for a small group is healthy not only for the small group, but also for the small group leader. We have looked at the fact that training up a co-leader is obeying Jesus’ command for us to make disciples. We have seen that having a co-leader can lessen the load of the leader. And we have seen how bringing up a co-leader from within our small group is partnering with God in His work to raise up leaders and develop the spiritual gifts of those He has equipped for this purpose.

So how are we doing? The question must be asked; how many of us are now in the process of bringing up a co-leader? Sonrise is growing, and more people will demand more small groups. More small groups mean will we need more small group leaders. But if those of us who are leading now fail to bring up co-leaders, where will new leaders come from? Perhaps this is one area in which we would do well to have the “Just Do It” mentality. Like the athletes in the Nike commercials, we can not afford to allow any handicap, obstacle or excuse keep us from getting in this game.

THE HANDICAP; Maybe as you consider the people who make up your small group no one jumps out at you as a potential co-leader. May I remind you that the Bible is filled with examples of unlikely men and women who were used of God to accomplish great things for His kingdom. Moses stuttered, David was a small child, Matthew was a tax collector, Peter and John were uneducated fishermen and Paul was a self-righteous persecutor of the church. More than likely you and I would not have seen much leadership potential in that lot. But God did! The answer to the handicap is prayer Just Do It. *Luke 6:12-13 One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. When morning came, he*

called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles...

THE OBSTACLE; Perhaps you have had trouble in the past getting people in your small group to respond when you have asked for volunteers to help with a project or and outreach. This can be frustrating for any leader. However, when it comes to co-leading, I believe that we need to ask a specific person (or couple) to co-lead. Again, the biblical standard is to be called to ministry. Jesus *called* His twelve disciples and He *appointed* them to be apostles. God called Moses and Gideon and Mary and David and Isaiah and...well you get the picture. The one thing that all of these people have in common is that all were called, not one volunteered. And keep in mind that just because someone is a leader in the world does not qualify them to be a leader in the church. So the way to overcome this obstacle is that the small group leader needs to approach and ask the potential co-leader about taking on that role. Just Do It. *John 15:16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit-fruit that will last.*

THE EXCUSE; What are the excuses? I don't have the time to invest in a co-leader. The fact is, if you are that busy you don't have the time not to invest in a co-leader. I don't think anyone is ready to co-lead in my group. And they never will be if they are never given a chance. What if the co-leader does things different than the small group is used to? Variety can be a good thing. After all, God made more than one kind of pine tree didn't He? I'm sure that there are many more excuses. The problem is that an excuse is nothing more than a way to rationalize away something we may not want to do. So when it comes to overcoming excuses, Just Do It. *Ex 4:10-12 Moses said to the LORD, "O Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue." The LORD said to him, "Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who gives him sight or makes him blind? Is it not I, the LORD? Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say."*

As small group leaders, we have the awesome task of helping to raise the next generation of small group leaders for the body of Christ. If we don't do it, it is not going to get done. So let's get up off the couch and lace up our shoes and get in the game. Just Do It.

May God bless you as you continue to faithfully serve Him by serving your small group.

Rick.