

## **Discipleship Journal's 101 Best Small-Group Ideas – Navpress**

### **PART ONE – SMALL-GROUP LEADERS**

1. Before you lead - Prepare for the Study
2. Setting goals
  - Clearly articulated objectives
  - Scripture to support and refresh these objectives
  - Questions that help build the case
3. Qualities of a good Opening Activity
  - Guidelines are provided to help choose and incorporate successful activities in a small group meeting
4. Writing your own Bible Study guidelines
5. Identifying types of questions:
  - Informational
  - Analytical
  - Personal
6. How to Formulate a good question
7. Beyond Bible Study Questions – that is, using teaching aids and a list to draw from
8. The Ten C's of quality Questions – how to formulate a good question
9. The Art of feedback – criteria for responding to people's responses so as to be behavioral in context to afford behavioral change
10. Listening and Leading – aids to facilitate better listening
11. Are you Teacher A or Teacher B – a comparison of good and bad teachers
12. Climate Control – how to provide a warm climate for teaching
13. How to Fail at Small Groups – what not to do in leading a small group
14. Six steps to a successful Brainstorm – how to gather ideas for planning purposes
15. Spiritual Authority – use it, don't abuse it – 5 precedents for establishing spiritual authority
16. Ouch! That Hurts! – how to manage criticism
17. Outward Bound – how to get your group to reach out to others
18. Developing your Members' Ministry Muscles – helping your group members be involved in group leadership
19. Training others to lead – tips to help pass over leadership
20. Why split the group – signs when multiplication should happen
21. Dividing the group – helps to divide the group

## PART 2 – SMALL GROUP IDEAS

### **Bible Study:**

22. Sharpening One Another in Bible Study – helps to facilitate a group making up their own study
23. Questions to ask before you choose a Bible Study Guide – there are so many where do you begin
24. Bible Study Variations – another technique for teaching
25. Put on your application specs – helping the group turn knowledge into behavioral action
26. Launching an investigative Bible Study – how to start a Bible study group
27. The Hand Illustration – shows someone how to get a working grasp of the scriptures
28. What motivates us to follow Christ – six ways we respond to teaching that changes our behavior
29. The ABC of growing a strong group – more help with preparing a lesson plan approach
30. Jesus' questions: reflections for your group – what questions did Jesus use to teach
31. Using a Bible study Guide – a few tips to get the most out of your guide
32. Spiritual gifts and pepper in your teeth – sometimes it takes someone to point out what you do not see (pepper in your teeth) helping someone discover their gift (in other words)
33. Share learning not ignorance – helping others share their learning rather than their ignorance
34. A six-step method of Bible Study – steps for a personal plan
35. Letting God Speak – an outline for a daily quiet-time
36. Using Dialogue to encourage application – asking questions that prompt application, how do you do that
37. How to memorize scripture
38. Integrating Scripture memory with application – more helps to memorizing scripture
39. How to prepare and do a word study – some tips
40. How to write Bible study material – some tips

### **Prayer**

41. Take the Fear out of Group Prayer – helping people pray in the group
42. The Focus of Group Prayer – what are we to pray
43. Helpful Hints for Small-Group Prayer – content to pray about
44. Six Ways to Pray with your group – to help pray not talk about praying

- 45. Worship in Small groups - components
- 46. The prayer sandwich – components of a prayer
- 47. 'Prayer Triplets" in action – three who covenant to pray
- 48. Cures for humdrum – how to add variety to group prayer
- 49. Sharing Prayer Requests – cut down on talking about the prayer request
- 50. Plugging into the Source – keeping a log of Bible study
- 51. "I Always Forget to Pray" – helps for each member to pray for one another
- 52. Proclaim a group fast – why fast

### **Fellowship**

- 53. The small-group mix – an exercise to do to build small group relationships and measure the health
- 54. Fifteen questions to help you get better acquainted – as suggested
- 55. Basic small-group interaction – skills to facilitate interaction
- 56. Glad you asked – a mixer idea to start
- 57. Encouraging words – complimenting your group members
- 58. Icebreakers to help warm up your group – as suggested
- 59. Breaking Small-group ice" – as suggested
- 60. Eight weeks of icebreakers – as suggested
- 61. Fun, food, and family – to provide loving relationships
- 62. On the hot seat – building relationship exercise
- 63. Plan a small-group escape – to build relationships
- 64. A blessing exercise (when terminating your group) – elements to sign off with
- 65. Fostering fun – an exercise to build relationship
- 66. How to promote fellowship in your group – exercise to encourage an atmosphere of warmth, acceptance, and sharing among group members

### **Evangelism**

- 67. How to Talk to Strangers - suggestions
- 68. "How do I meet my neighbors?" - suggestions
- 69. Let's watch a movie – use the movie to discuss
- 70. They hope and pray – praying for unsaved family members
- 71. Open home, open hearts – hospitality events in your home
- 72. Coffee, books and moms – starting a moms group in your home
- 73. Candid camera – do interviews with people asking them about God
- 74. Studying the Bible with new Christians – what are some of the do's and don'ts
- 75. Reaching the people on your street - suggestions
- 76. Hitting the highways – getting visible

77. An investment in learning - adding to library for resourcing the small group
78. Caroling and candy canes – crowd events at Christmas as a bridge builder
79. Street smart evangelism – how to communicate more effectively, some hints

### **Serving**

80. Small groups: Becoming salt and light – ways group members can care for one another
81. Caring gestures – a list of ideas
82. Accountability – missions groups – to provide one item of care to one person between group meetings
83. Twenty ways to encourage a brother or sister in Christ – a checklist
84. When it can't be fixed – comfort for the hurting – how to comfort hurting people
85. Hospitality to go – alternate ways to provide care and hospitality
86. Mercy in a minute – how to respond compassionately
87. Help for the homeless – tips to help
88. Your community needs you – tips to get involved in the community
89. Six ways to serve your community – as suggested
90. Show a person with aids you care - suggestions
91. An application Bible study on servanthood – Bible verses on servanthood
92. Eight ways to serve your local school - tips

### **Missions**

93. Making missionary prayer a habit – a daily suggested prayer list
94. Setting up prayer groups for missions – what this group would do
95. A care package they'll crave – items to include
96. A long-distance shower – gifts suggestions
97. An evening in Mingouwee – suggestions for the evenings components, e.g., eating the food from the country visited
98. Reach out to a refugee – list of para-churches that do this
99. Growing missions-minded children – things to bring mission awareness to your children
100. Wanted: Christian Professionals – provoking awareness
101. Going Global without risk - linking tips without leaving the country