



Discipleship Across Cultures Spring 2021

Pastor Sergio Lopez

Session 3: Small Groups

Instructional Overview

“And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers” (Acts 2:42).

Lesson Big Ideas

- Small groups originated from the concept of koinonia. At the very core of small group lies the unity that bonds believers vertically to God and horizontally to each other.

Essential Questions

- How do you think worldview affects external behaviors during the process of discipling?
- In what ways can you develop koinonia in small group?
- How does worldview small group support discipleship?

Lesson Outcomes

- Teach isolation or depression in the context of small to assigned generation of mature Christians in the Ignite ministry keeping to the 40-minute time length and effective intercultural communication

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Part 1. Introduction to Small Groups

Small groups stem from fellowship mentioned in Acts 2:42. The act of fellowship (Grk: koinonia-pronounced koy-noh-nee'-ah) means sharing and participation, more specifically, the intimate bond that unites Christians (BLB.org).

Koinonia Characteristics

1. Sharing and participation

Believers interacted with each other in a dialogue involving every person. Historically, Jewish rabbis intentionally created this dynamic by leading with questions. In Matt 16:13-17, you can see Jesus engaging His small group to share and participate by asking them questions.

2. Contribution

People in community came together to be fed and make a contribution. They came to encourage, participate and support each other. They were contributors, not consumers.

3. Intimacy

Their community produced relationships, rather than disconnected lives. People initially join a small group to be fed but gain more as they come together united as one in intimacy.

Part 2. Guided Imagery

Directions:

1. Envision these verses as your teacher reads them.
2. Which of the koinonia characteristics do you see in each verse from the early church in Acts? Write the underlined portion of the verse under the chart with that characteristic.
3. Small group encompasses more than Bible study as it embraces koinonia. Based on what you learned, what should the culture of small group feature?

Example: “They all **met together** and were constantly united in prayer” (Acts 1:14 NLT).

Characteristics: Write the verse address on Chart 1--Sharing and participation; Chart 3--intimacy

1. “And all the believers **met together** in one place and shared everything they had” (2:44).
2. “Every day they continued to **meet together** in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts” (2:46 NIV).
3. After they prayed, the place where they were **meeting** was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly” (4:31).
4. “Day after day, in the temple courts and from **house to house**, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah” (5:42).
5. “So, my friends, when you **come together** to the Lord’s Table, be reverent and courteous with one another” (1 Cor 11:33 MSG).
6. “Well, my brothers and sisters, let’s summarize. When you **meet together**, one will sing, another will teach, another will tell some special revelation God has given, one will speak in tongues, and another will interpret what is said. But everything that is done must strengthen all of you” (14:26 NLT).
7. “And let us not neglect our **meeting together**, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near” (He’

REVIEW: Worldview and Small Group Dynamics (7:45-7:50pm)

**Activity
2**

Effect of Worldview on Small Group Dynamics

Ideology: This dimension deals with ideas about how things are or how they ought to be.

Teleology: Defines a final destiny in terms of the purpose phenomena serves rather than the cause by which it arises. It seeks to answer three questions:

- (1) Does the universe have a purpose?
- (2) If the universe has a purpose, whose purpose is it?
- (3) What is the purpose of the universe?"¹

Myths: Displays the overarching narrative believed to be true based on the interpretation of history and stories of human lives and memory of a community. Myths define moral boundaries to its members.²

Epistemology: Pertains to how people distinguish justified beliefs from opinions. It relates to what you believe about knowledge and affects what you accept as valid evidence and particulars.

Lecture

How do secular worldviews influence koinonia?

Break: 7:45-7:55pm

¹ Ken Funk, K. What is worldview? (21 March 2001) Online:
<http://web.engr.oregonstate.edu/~funkk/Personal/worldview.html>.

² Hiebert, *Transforming worldviews*, 27

After each:

- Teacher feedback
- Class:
What elements of koinonia did you observe?

(1) Elder Shelly (7:55pm-8:30pm)

(2) Elder Geraldine (8:40pm-9:20pm)

Discipleship Across Cultures: Session Three Homework

Due April 22, 2021

Readings:

- Review of restoration from Pastor Robin's class (See Appendices 1 & 2).
- Sample discipleship plans (Separate handouts).
- Structuring a devotional and devotional illustration
<http://www.nonprofitcopywriter.com/devotional-illustration.html>

MOSAIC Ministry Project for Discipleship (100 Points)

- Present a (pre-taped) three-minute devotion on restoring the fallen regarding isolation or depression as assigned to Gen Y or Z.
- Upload the video to Google Drive and share with Pastor Sergio and Dr. Paron before class.

Suggestions for Writing a Devotional

- Keep to the point. Don't meander.
- Meet your audience where they are at. What are their felt needs?
- Write out your devotion, but don't be tied to your notes.
- Relax and look into the camera. Speak clearly and with encouragement.
- Speak to your audience as if they were in front of you.
- Keep your lighting in front of you, not behind.

Devotional Structure

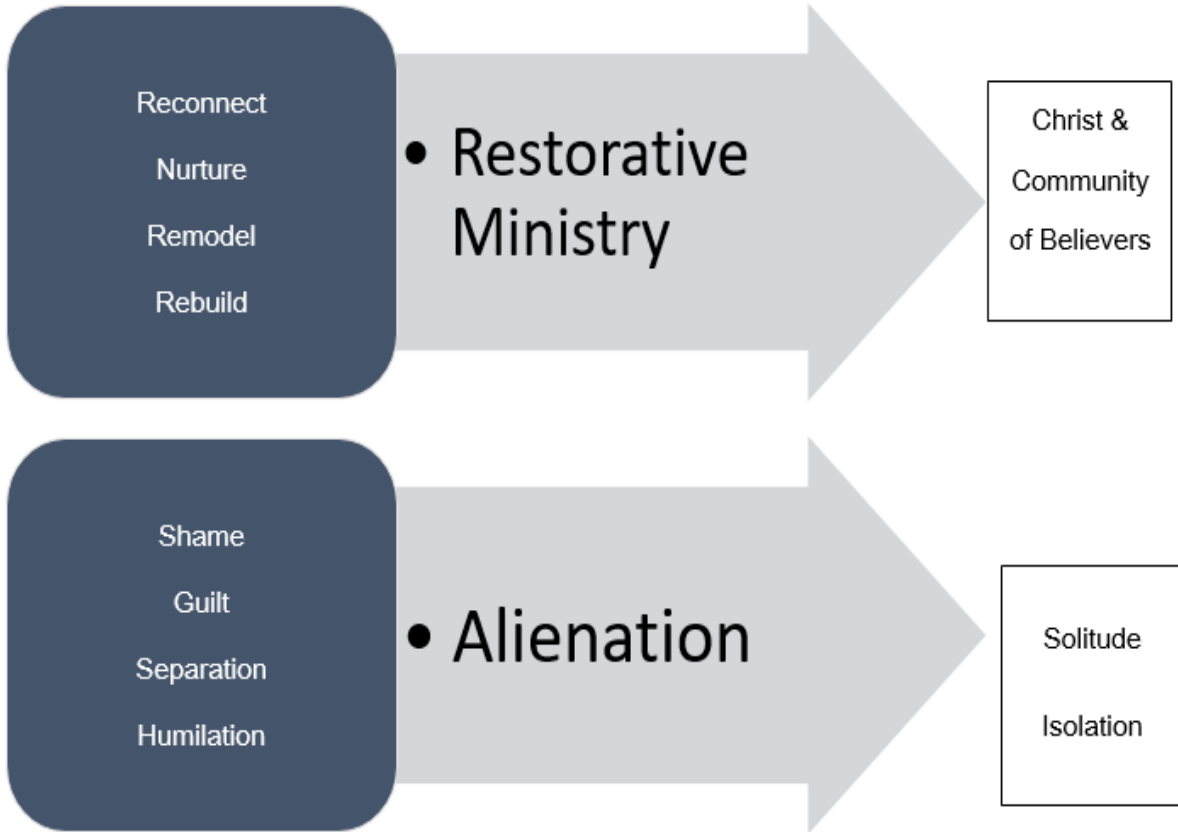
- **Scripture:** a short passage from the Bible forms the basis for the devotional. It communicates a principle reinforced in scripture, too.
- **Illustration:** the body of the devotional that presents an authentic life situation and connects it to the principle.
- **Takeaway:** this element gives the listener a thought to ponder, a prayer to pray, or an action step to take in order to apply the devotional's scriptural principle.
- **Closing Prayer:** keep it short!

Part C. Self-reflection (20 points—About 150 to 200 words)

What did you learn about small group that you didn't know previously?

Appendix 1

Restorative Practices



Appendix 2

Roles of a Visioneer, Coach, and Reconciler in Restoration

