

Small Group Ministry During The Covid-19 Pandemic

Dr. Reynold Hazelwood
Ontario Conference Personal Ministries
www.adventistontario.org



Small Group Fundamentals

What is a Small Group? Basic Types?

Why are Small Groups Important During Covid-19 Pandemic?

The Biblical and Spirit of Prophecy Basis for Small Groups

A “small group” is usually understood as a quantity – a small number of people, about 3 to 10.

A “small group” during this Covid-19 Pandemic can be one or two families meeting together using Zoom, Skype, Whatsapp or any other convenient social media

Definition of a Small Group

In this study, a “small group” means:

- a **small number of people . . .**
- who have **formed a bond . . .**
- directed toward **fulfilling a purpose.**

Organization Essential

1. Small groups should have a clearly defined, well articulated purpose.
2. Small groups should have adequate, consistent leadership.

Basic Logistical Questions

What is the purpose of this group?

What study guide will the group use?

Where will the group meet?

When will the group meet?

How long will the meetings be?

For how many months will the group meet?

Why are Small Groups Important Now?

DISCIPLE
SHIFT

CONNECT | GROW | EQUIP | MULTIPLY

We all have a fundamental need which is “to Belong” We all need community-Christian Community

“Belonging is simply a close-knit group of friends that doesn’t feel complete if someone in the group is missing” - Kurt W. Johnson, Successful Small Groups, 2011, p19.

The “One Another Principle”

Small Groups can foster this principle by:

1. Being devoted to “one another” - Romans 12:10
2. Carrying “each other’s” burden - Galatians 6:12
3. Encouraging “each other” – 1 Thessalonians 4:18
4. Praying for “one another” – James 5:16
5. Instructing “one another” – Romans 15:14

Purpose of Small Groups During Covid-19 Pandemic

Developing Relationships

Meeting Felt needs of Group Members

Encouraging one another

Growing Spiritually

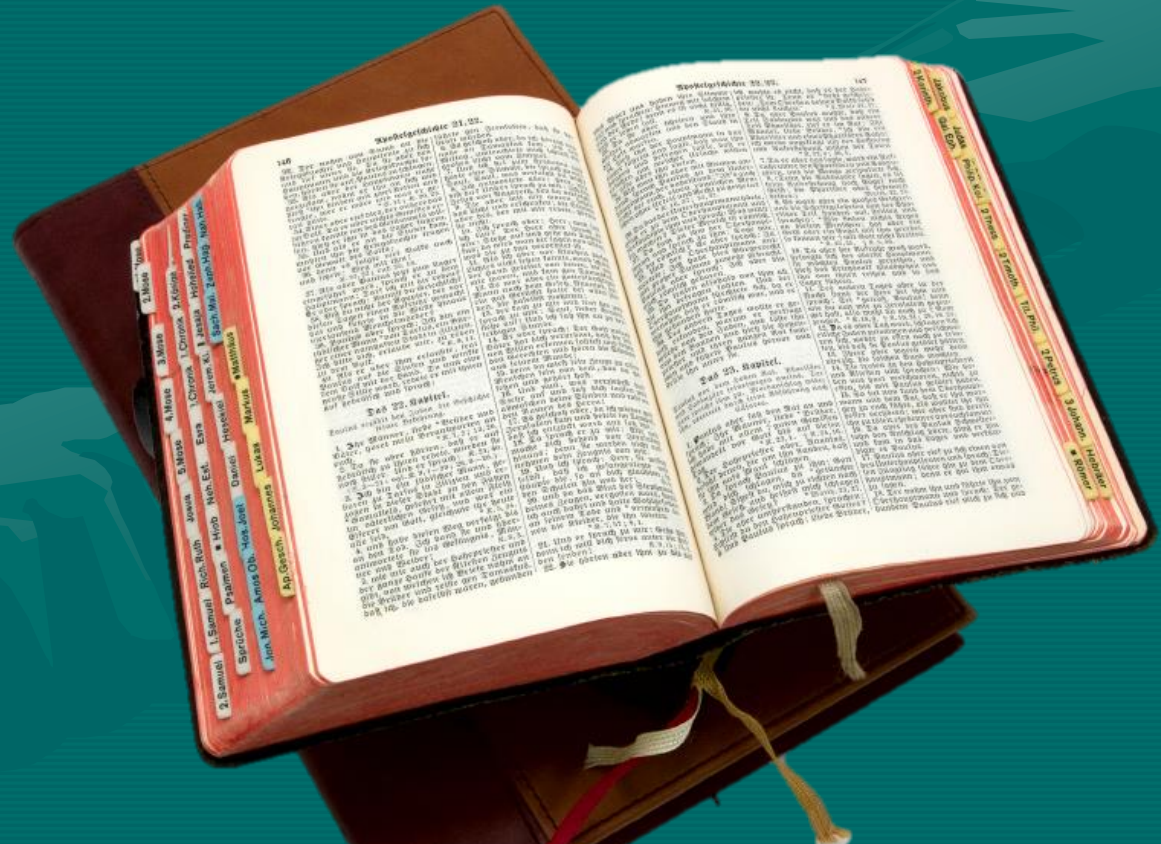
Developing Disciples for Jesus

A Spiritual, Emotional, and Relational Support Group

Ultimate Purpose of Small Group

To lead group members into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ and to become fully devoted disciples

Biblical and Spirit of Prophecy Basis for Small Groups



**DISCIPLE
SHIFT**

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Old Testament Principles

Genesis 1:1- Godhead one in design and purpose
– a small group

When God created Adam and Eve he formed a small community in relationship to himself. They walked together in the cool of the day
- Genesis 3:8

Exodus 18: 21-23 Moses is instructed to divide the people into groups. The smallest group was ten with a leader – Small group

Jesus and Small Groups

Jesus started the Christian church with a small group – 12 disciples – Matt.4:18-22; Luke 6:13-16

Jesus spent time with his small group. He bonded, instructed, prayed with, and took them to observe how he ministered to others.

Small Groups in Acts 2:41-47

Gathered Together

Received the word

Instructed in the word

Fellowship

Grew daily

Reached out to others

Witness

Baptized

Spirit of Prophecy Basis for Small Groups

“Preach less and educate more, by holding Bible readings, and by praying with families and little companies. . . .”

—Gospel Workers, p. 193

Spirit of Prophecy Basis for Small Groups

“The formation of small companies as a basis for Christian effort is a plan that has been presented before me by One who cannot err. If there is a large number in the church, let the members be formed into small companies, to work not only for the church members, but for unbelievers also.”

—*Evangelism*, p. 115

Small Groups in an Adventist Context

We have a Biblical mandate, to use small group technology.

We have a Spirit of Prophecy mandate to do so.

Small groups ought to be highly successful in the Seventh-day Adventist context.

Small Group Agenda

There are four main components of a small group meeting:

1. Sharing
2. Bible Study
3. Prayer
4. Mission

Typical Small Group Session

20 min: Sharing (welcome, fellowship, experiences, refreshments)

45 min: Bible Study

8 min: Personal Application

7 min: Intercessory Prayer / Season of Prayer

10 min: Mission, Planning and Housekeeping

Suggested Adjusted Small Group Session During Covid-19 Pandemic

7 mins: Sharing Time

35 mins: Bible Study and Personal application

10 mins: Intercessory Prayer / Season of Prayer

8 mins: Housekeeping

Do Not Prolong your meetings – Start and stop on time except Group agrees other wise.

Using Technology During Covid-19 Pandemic

The Zoom media platform would be ideal for meeting during the Covid-19 pandemic

There is a free Zoom with 40 minutes per session and allows up to 100 participants

The leader would need to register and set up an account.

Using Technology During Covid-19 Pandemic

Group members need to download the Zoom app to participate in meeting

The Leader invites participants through Zoom to Zoom meetings giving date and time

Using Technology During Covid-19 Pandemic

There is a Pro Zoom which gives you unlimited time and 100 participants. It cost \$20.00 per month

The leader would need to register and set up an account

The leader invites participants to Zoom meeting

Other media could be Skype or Whatsapp

Meetings During Covid-19 Pandemic

The Group with Leader will decide a few items

1. The Date for their meeting
2. The Time for their meeting
3. The Duration of their meeting

Bible Study Tools for Small Group During Covid-19 Pandemic

The online Discover Bible study guide found at www.bibleschools.com would be ideal for building relationships and becoming more familiar with the scripture.

There are other studies on this site that are free and can be used online.

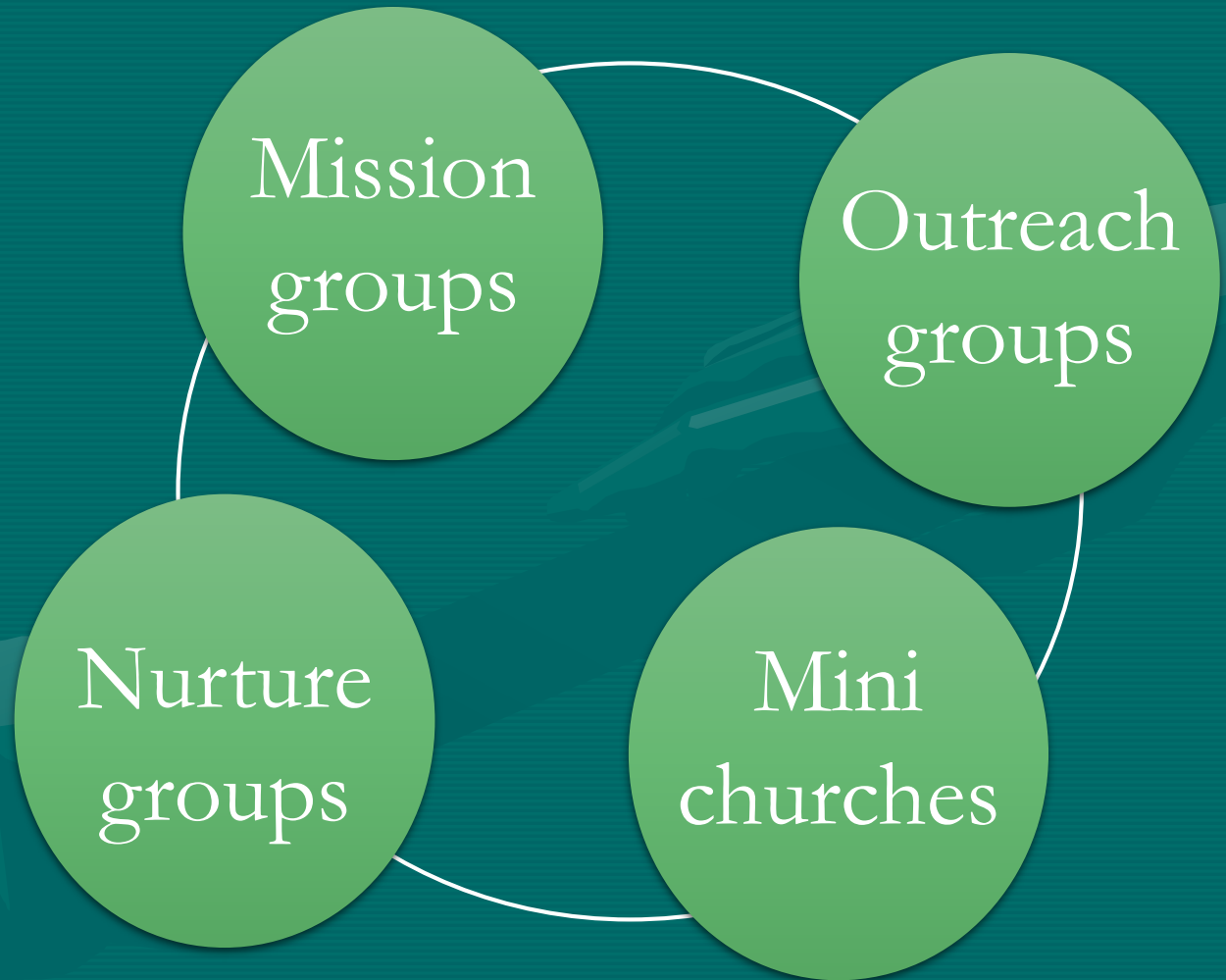
Bible Study Tools for Small Group During Covid-19 Pandemic

Here are two more Bible study guides online from Amazing Facts

<https://www.amazingfacts.org/media-library/read/c/2/t/bible-study-guides>

<https://www.amazingfacts.org/media-library/read/c/3/t/storacle-lessons>

Basic Types of Small Groups



Nurture Groups

- Family / marriage issues
- Church life issues
- Bible studies for spiritual growth
- Obedience/thought life issues
- Work issues
- “One another” Biblical injunctions

Outreach Groups

Outreach groups can study any issue, but they add the element of outreach/soul winning.

Outreach groups deliberately attempt to grow, regardless of the topic under consideration.

Mission Groups

Mission groups are primarily interested in church planting, branch Sabbath Schools.

Mini-Churches

We'll talk more about
mini-churches at another time.

Sabbath School Action Units

Sabbath School Action Units:

Are a way of using small group methodology to organize your Sabbath School during this pandemic

Can be used as a Nurture group in the Small Group ministry

Sabbath School Action Units combine study of the lesson, fellowship, community outreach, and world mission emphasis in a small group setting.

They are not the same as Sabbath School classes, but a greatly enhanced way of using small group technology to revitalize Sabbath School.



Family Small Group

One or two families can start a Small Group Ministry.

This Small Group could range from 3- 10 people

A leader would need to be assigned/designated.

The church pastor can help.

Nurture Small Groups

During this Covid-19 pandemic the local church leadership can organize the church families into the Small groups ministry

Church Elders can be assigned as Small group leaders

At least once per week the group can meet online.

The church leadership can determine the Bible study material to be used.

Resources

www.sabbathschoolpersonalministries.org/assets/sspm/pmleaflets/SmallGroupMinistry.pdf

www.sabbathschoolpersonalministries.org/02-small-group-ministries-in-the-local-church-textbook.pdf

Kurt Johnson. *Successful Small Groups: From Theory to Reality*. 2011. Review and Herald Pub.

<https://www.amazingfacts.org/media-library/read/c/2/t/bible-study-guides>