

6 Steps to Take

1. Find someone to build around- someone who wants to grow and be challenged, someone who wants what you have. (the Kingdom perspective of actual discipling communities)
2. Invite people to the group- but let them know what they are getting into, Acts 2:42-47 / 2Tim 2:2
3. Encourage group interaction - success is not measured by how much the leader says, but by how much people talk about meaningful things. Facilitate, not teach (80/20 Rule)
4. Be intentional with your content- this is your time to focus on the direction of the group, beat the drum of, "Mt 28:18-20, 2 Tim 2:2". (the direction that God gives you to go).
5. Welcome new people- lavish them with love- always keep an empty chair
6. Don't be afraid to split a group- keep in mind, that is why #1 is so important, and when you both have another person to build around, GROW THE KINGDOM!!! THIS IS THE OBJECTIVE!!! It makes room for more people to experience good healthy community. (Centralization/Decentralization) (Information, Imitation, Innovation - freedom to explore and to it the way you do) (success is when they don't need you) ("we are what they grow beyond, this is the true burden of all mastery" ~ Yoda)

This will lead into a need for two things.

- a. A leaders meeting or study for accountability and encouragement and a chance to sharpen each other with experiences that are new and unique to leading a group. Example: STS
- b. A schedule for everybody to get together for fun and encouragement as well as accountability. Examples: Rally, Conference, Retreat.

10 Things to Avoid

- 1) Starting a group that is not going anywhere, it is an end in itself.
- 2) Doing all the talking.- listen "are we listening to listen or listening to reply?"
- 3) Being too formal, not having fun
- 4) Starting a group without someone your investing into (I have used not going anywhere studies to find someone who is hungry)
- 5) Not having an empty chair- leading a closed group (Exception is in a leadership study or meeting)
- 6) Missing the importance of relationships
- 7) Not sharing the responsibilities or developing ownership among the members.
- 8) Becoming cocooned as a group and not engaging non-Christians
- 9) Not creating an environment of acceptance (ie. allowing sarcasm or teasing to occur, this will destroy community)
- 10) Neglecting to pray and trust God for the group and its mission.