



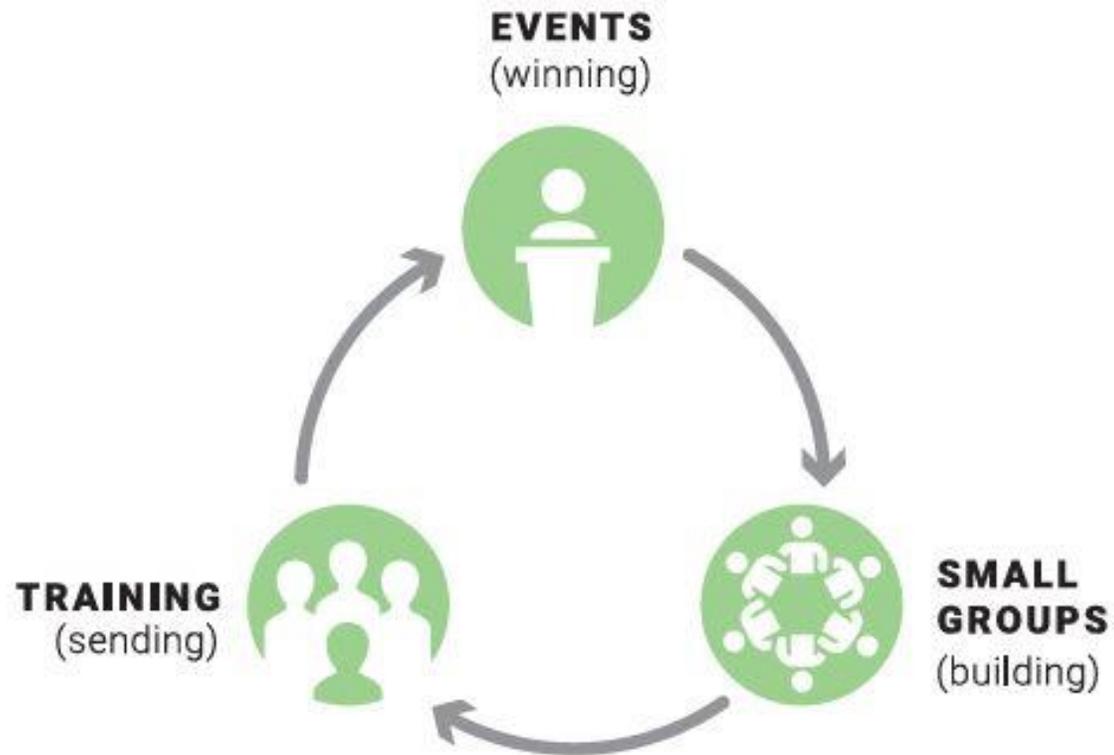
# SMALL-GROUP

## Training

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A picture of the Presenter's  
family inserted here

# Introduction



## FamilyLife® Local Core Strategy

**Events (Winning)**

**Small Groups (Building)**

**Training (Sending)**

# Small Groups Were an Integral Part of Jesus' Strategy

- Although Jesus sometimes spoke to large audiences, many other times he met with smaller groups, especially his disciples. To them he gave deeper instruction. (many scriptures)
- Jesus met with smaller groups in homes, at synagogues, and during meals. (many scriptures)
- Jesus met with seekers discussing the Kingdom of God and answering their questions. (John 1:45-51, Matt 19:16-22, Luke 10:38-42, John 4:1-30)



# Dare to Trust God with Changed Lives

In the 1990s, one key couple and about 250 volunteers led nearly 20,000 people to participate in a highly evangelistic FamilyLife Local Ministry.

**“We saw God start a movement from the ministry we built.”**



**At FamilyLife in 1991**

# Small Groups Can Be Like Making Stone Soup

Group members are amazed to discover that **EVERYONE** has something to contribute.



# **YOU** Can Make a Difference as a Couple

Your Marriage, Your Church, Your Community

- Working as a Team Couple
- Allowing Differences to Make You Stronger as a Team
- Taking Your Relationship with God, and Your Marriage, to a Higher Level

# Starting a FamilyLife Small Group



## HomeBuilders® / AOM Connect Series / Couples Studies

- More than 2.5 million distributed
- 20 different topics
- 47 languages



# FamilyLife Small-Group Benefits

- ✓ Stimulates and guides meaningful conversation between husband and wife
- ✓ Doesn't require an expert Bible teacher, but rather a facilitator
- ✓ Requires only a short-term commitment
- ✓ Needs no preparation for the actual study from participants
- ✓ Emphasizes practical application in the projects
- ✓ Versatile in small groups, Sunday school classes, neighborhood outreaches, and weekend retreats
- ✓ Provides mutual encouragement and accountability
- ✓ Offers a variety of practical topics to choose from
- ✓ Teaches participants more about how to live the Christian life
- ✓ Gives couples the opportunity to have a ministry together as leaders

# Small Group Time-Saving Benefits

- 🕒 Invest in your own marriage
- 🕒 Study the Bible
- 🕒 Improve your character in Christ
- 🕒 Have fun and make lifelong friends
- 🕒 Serve your church
- 🕒 Do your kids a favor

# STEP 1 – Decide What Type of Group

| GROUP TYPE             | ADVANTAGES  | WHOM TO INVITE   |
|------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Event Follow-Up</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Captures the enthusiasm from the event</li><li>• A dynamic group with couples having different backgrounds</li><li>• These are the best groups for later multiplication</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recent alumni of a FamilyLife event</li><li>• Alumni from previous events</li><li>• You can also invite others who are on your heart but didn't attend the event</li></ul> |

# STEP 1 – Decide What Type of Group

| GROUP TYPE  | ADVANTAGES  | WHOM TO INVITE  |
|---|---|---|
| <b>Church</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cell Groups</li><li>• Sunday school</li><li>• A new group</li><li>• Weekend retreat</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Serving the church is a high priority</li><li>• Potentially a lot of contacts</li><li>• Frequently childcare is available</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Church members and guests</li><li>• Ask leaders of existing groups if they could use FamilyLife Couples Studies for a season</li><li>• Outsiders may be willing to join if the church members don't pressure them to other activities</li></ul> |

# STEP 1 – Decide What Type of Group

| GROUP TYPE                      | ADVANTAGES  | WHOM TO INVITE  |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Neighborhood and Friends</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Capitalizes on relationships you have already developed</li><li>• Deeper friendships formed among participants</li><li>• Likely to meet deep needs among those you care about</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Every couple you know—don't rule anybody out</li><li>• Ask alumni of previous groups to attend and invite their friends and neighbors</li></ul> |

# STEP 1 – Decide What Type of Group

| GROUP TYPE  | ADVANTAGES  | WHOM TO INVITE  |
|---|---|---|
| <p><b>Outreach or Evangelistic</b></p> <p><i>(Training is recommended to lead this type of group. See the session titled “Using FamilyLife Small Groups for Outreach” in the Small-Group Training manual)</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Effective to introduce others to Christ</li><li>• You may be surprised who attends because of their needs</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Usually a prior minimal-commitment gathering is necessary</li><li>• Coworkers, neighbors, social acquaintances, etc</li><li>• Seed the group with a few godly and discrete Christians</li></ul> |

# STEP 2 – Invite Couples to Participate

- 👤 A personal invitation is nearly always best. (Pulpit announcements can work for church groups.)
- 👤 Tell the benefits of small groups.
- 👤 Promise a limited duration of the group, usually six or twelve weeks, depending on whether you meet every week or every other week.
- 👤 4-6 couples is ideal. Never start a group with fewer than 4 couples.

# STEP 3 – Set a Schedule

Whenever possible, let the participants decide.

| SCHEDULE OPTIONS        | PROS  | CONS  |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Weekly</b>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A study can be completed in a few weeks</li><li>• Keeps interest level high</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• May create pressure on group members' schedules</li><li>• Requires frequent childcare arrangements</li></ul>  |
| <b>Every Other Week</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Allows more time to complete the project on the alternate week</li></ul>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lengthens time needed to complete study</li><li>• Without a regular night reserved, couples forget and schedule something else that night</li></ul> |

# STEP 3 – Set a Schedule

| SCHEDULE OPTIONS   | PROS  | CONS   |
|--|---|--|
| <p><b>Monthly</b></p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can work for an existing group already having a monthly meeting scheduled</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rarely develops the chemistry that makes groups dynamic</li> <li>• Frequently becomes just a social group</li> </ul>        |
| <p><b>Varied</b></p> <p><i>(Schedule sessions one at a time, depending on participants' calendars)</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Takes everyone's schedule into account</li> </ul>                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Takes more work to coordinate</li> <li>• Increases risk of not completing the study</li> <li>• Rarely successful</li> </ul> |

# STEP 3 – Set a Schedule

| SCHEDULE OPTIONS              | PROS  | CONS  |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Weekend Retreat Option</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Involves couples that are unlikely to make a longer-term commitment</li><li>• Doesn't require outside speakers</li><li>• Low-cost alternative to attending a conference</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Doesn't allow as much time between sessions to apply the principles covered</li></ul> |

# STEP 4 – Pick a Topic

## FamilyLife Resources Ensure Excellence

### Options:

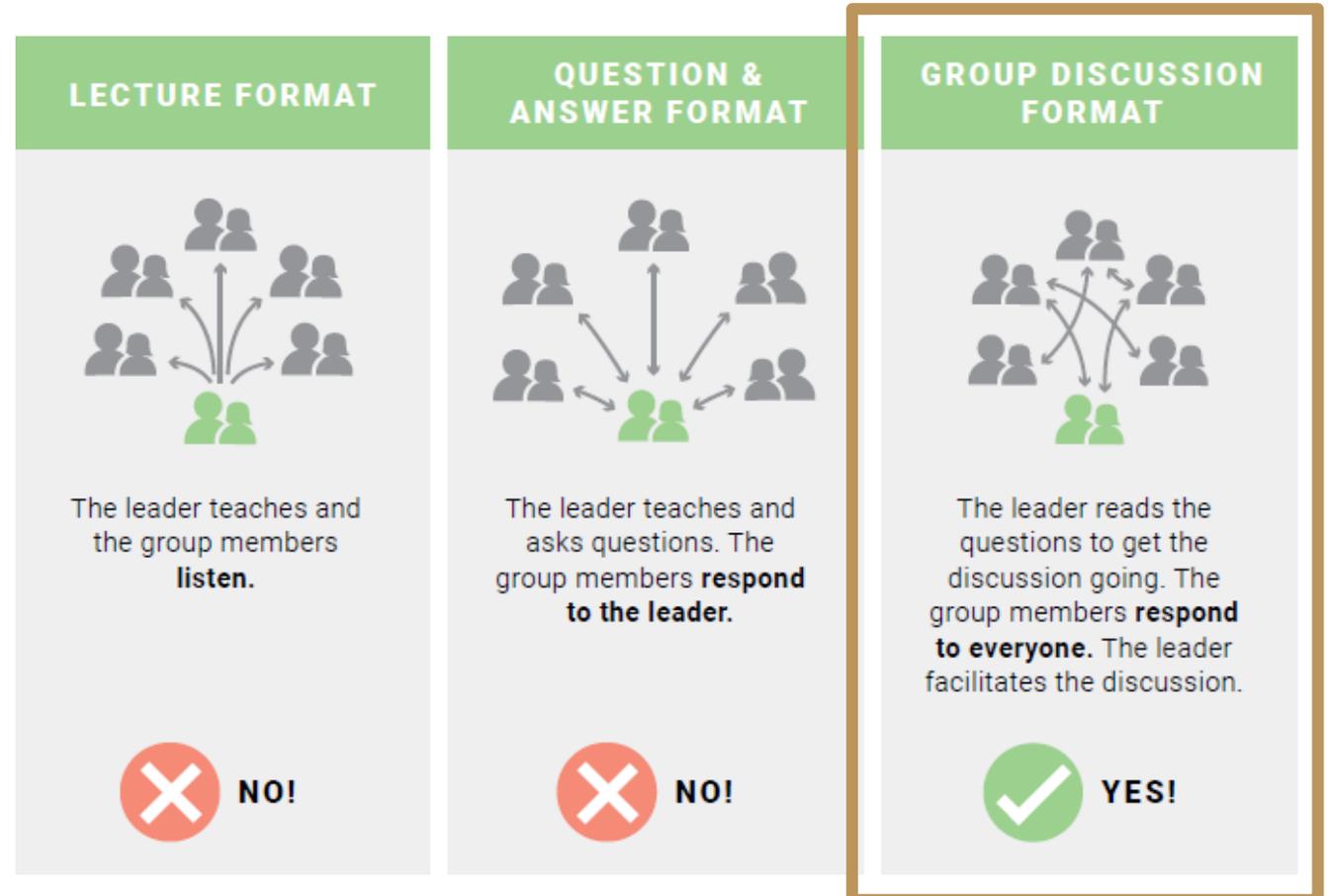
-  Prepicked topic – Some are reluctant to join a group without knowing the topic.
-  Let the group decide – Have enough copies of several studies ready to start immediately.
-  Video-driven or facilitator-driven?

# Leading a FamilyLife Group

- Point out the ground rules
- Read the questions
- Set an example of sharing
- Deal with challenges
- Watch the time

## Severe Marital Problems?

- Refer couples to godly counselors
- Recommend FamilyLife events
- Encourage them to continue in the group



# Step 5 – Create an Inviting Atmosphere

- Provide a comfortable, relaxed setting.
- Arrange the group so that everyone can have eye contact.
- Greet each couple and introduce them to other group members.
- Show respect for everyone by beginning and ending on time.
- Encourage couples to complete their project. Praise those who do but don't rebuke those who do not.
- Optional: Serve simple snacks and beverages. Usually this is better at the end. Otherwise, it will use up the discussion time.

# Leading a Zoom Group

**Begin with virtual etiquette.** This includes:

- Keeping all mics off unless speaking
- Raising hands to indicate a desire to share
- Clapping in a circle motion to show agreement
- Using thumbs up to respond to a question presented to the group
- Using the chat feature if desired
- Following other directions specific to the study

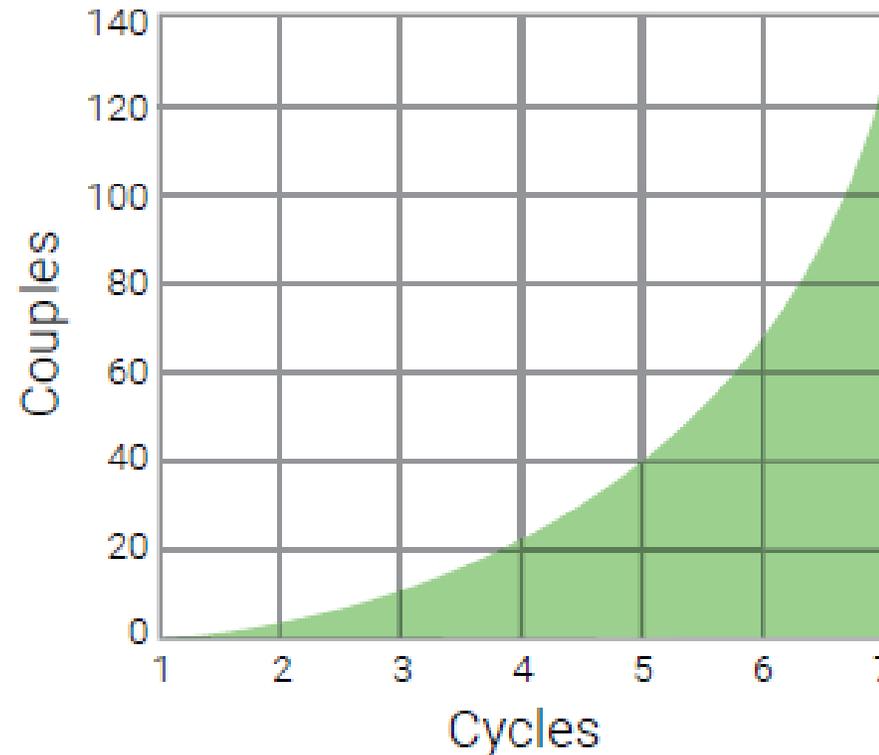
-Trevor and Tanya Kravick

# Trusting God for Multiplication

**An ordinary piece of paper folded just 24 times will be over a mile thick. That's the power of multiplication.**

**Like a rocket taking off, multiplication can seem slow at first. Then it starts to accelerate.**

**Power of Multiplication**



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