

2022 Small Groups Ministry Report

John Watson, Small Groups Specialist
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I love helping churches develop healthy, life-changing small groups! Since the 2022 District Conference, I have served 30 different pastors and leaders of church plants to large, established churches through training and individualized coaching. Here's what some of them are saying:

"It affirms what you are doing right, yet it gently convicts you of what must be done to keep group ministry healthy and multiplying."

- Karen Paulson, Disciplemaking Director, Grace Bible Church in Laredo, TX

"Small groups are critical to the Christian life. Discipleship, teaching, training, fellowship take place in a small group. All churches need a thriving small group ministry, and this training is a great help."

-Stuart Mason, Small Group Coordinator, Oak Hills Church in Argyle, TX

"It's a comprehensive training for groups that addresses key issues."

-Chad McCartney, Pastor of Discipleship, Austin Oaks Church in Austin, TX

"... to think more intentionally about how their groups are structured and supported."

-Justin Evans, Lead Pastor, Stone Oak Bible Church in San Antonio, TX

"To have a clear operating system for setting up or overhauling small groups."

-Jason Rogers, Director of Student and Life Group Ministry, Hope Fellowship in Lake Jackson, TX

Since the 2022 District Conference, 14 pastors, elders, small group leaders and apprentices from 8 different churches have completed a comprehensive, two-part small groups training that I developed. In addition, 14 pastors and elders from 10 different churches have participated in a five-week cohort that wraps up the training. Currently, I am leading a new cohort of 4 pastors and leaders and also launching an additional cohort of 3 pastors with a laser focus on coaching small group leaders.

As a result of the training, participants have reported learning how to take the following steps in their small groups: share the burden of leadership, gather people, study and apply the Bible, fast and pray, multiply their group, care for members, handle challenges well, prepare to lead thriving meetings, encourage and provide opportunities for their group to serve and be missional, become a leader and find resources for leading their groups.

I am excited about future opportunities to equip and train even more pastors and leaders to lead thriving small group ministries in their churches!

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