



2025 EFCA TX-OK DISTRICT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

*Helping Congregations Develop Small Groups
Pathways to a Healthy Small Group Ministry*

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Break *the Ice!*

Share with your neighbor your answer to this question:

What was your best small group experience? What made it so special?



Imagine *the Possibilities!*

41 Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.

42 All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

43 A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. 44 And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. 45 They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. 46 They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— 47 all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved. (Acts 2:41-47 NLT)



My favorite *Small Group* story





And, we're still connecting today!





Another favorite *Small Group* story





Another favorite *Small Group* story





Welcome + *Introduction*

- To your leadership team
- To your workshop experience



A Few Ground Rules

Each of us agrees to make this session a super encouraging experience for everyone by:

- Being as **HOT** as you can (honest, open, and transparent) when you share.
- Listening with intention to learn from others.
- Filling out a brief evaluation before you leave.



In today's workshop *we will...*

- Learn some key essentials for a healthy small groups ministry.
- Enjoy lots of interaction and small group discussion, encouragement, and learning (both strategic and organic).
- Get to know others and their small groups ministries.



2 Timothy 2:2 (*NLT*)

“You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others.”



One Challenge

If you learn anything helpful today...

- Pass it on to trustworthy leaders and apprentices in your church



Form *Small Groups of 3-4*

- Select a timekeeper
 - Each group has until 8:50 or 10:35
- Select a facilitator
- Select a scribe





Table Talk

- 1. What might it look like for your groups to be at the heart of a disciplemaking culture in your church?**
 - Write down your responses.
 - One at a time, read your response to the group.
- 2. What are some ideas you have for making this happen?**
 - Write down your responses.
- 3. What would be your next step? What do you anticipate will be your biggest challenge?**
 - Write down your responses.



Whole Group Discussion

Let's finish by 9:00 or 10:45 so we can allow plenty of time for questions at the end.



What kind of training is *available for you and your church leaders?*

Each participant receives their own
playbooks and learns how to...



Module I

- Share the burden of leadership
- Add people to their group
- Study the Bible in their group
- Fast and pray for their group
- Multiply their group when the time is right
- Find resources for leading their group better



Module II

- Make group members feel cared for
- Handle challenges in group life
- Prepare to lead group meetings better
- Get your group to serve and be missional
- Follow the Pathway to Small Group Leadership
- Find resources for leading their group better



Modules I and II are available by appointment beginning next week



Module III: *Systems & Sustainability Cohort*

In five, one-hour sessions we cover the following topics:

- Meeting Challenges (of Small Group Ministry)
- Team Ministry
- Multiplication
- Connection
- Support



Module III: *Systems & Sustainability Cohort meeting weeks.*

- Meeting Challenges – March 30
- Team Ministry – April 13
- Multiplication – April 27
- Connection – May 11
- Support – May 25

Specific dates/times determined by your survey responses. See <https://efcatxok.churchcenter.com/people/forms/901164>



Another favorite *Small Group* story





Share another favorite *Small Group* story





Module IV: *Coaching Leaders Cohort*

In five, one-hour sessions we cover the following topics:

- Visiting Groups
- Finding Coaches
- Onboarding Coaches
- Partnering with Coaches
- Meeting Challenges (of Coaching)



Questions?

1. Write your question(s) on a slip of paper and pass it to the front.
2. Stay after the session to ask additional questions.
3. Contact me if you'd like my help with your Small Groups ministry going forward.



Finally...

- Close in prayer with your neighbor about next steps.
- Fill out a brief evaluation before you leave the room (time to pass them out).
- Conclude at 9:30 or 11:15



Thank You.

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Bonus: Sample Evaluation Questions



For a Small Group Ministry...

Meeting Challenges: How are you equipping your leaders to meet challenges when they arise in their Small Groups?

Team Ministry: How are you developing teams to lead each Small Group?

Making Disciples That Make Disciples/Multiplication: How many groups have multiplied since [insert date]? In your role, how are you helping your groups to make disciples?

Connections: How many “empty chairs” have been filled since [insert date]?

Support and Coaching: How are you supporting (and coaching) your leaders?



For an Individual Small Group...

Life Together: How often are group members spending time with each other outside of the formal weekly or biweekly gatherings?

Making Disciples (who are making disciples?): How many group members are using their spiritual gifts and taking active roles in the group?

Filling the *Empty Chair*: How many “empty chairs” have been filled since [insert date]?

On Mission: How many group serving/outreach events have taken place since [insert date]?