

OVERVIEW OF CALLED TO MISSION SMALL GROUP STRATEGY

CTM has been designed for use within a small group committed to intentional practice, application and accountability. One of the keys to success in helping believers live on mission and bear spiritual fruit is small group community. Jesus disciplined the 12 in a small group setting and sent them out on mission 2 by 2 to share the gospel. The 12 grew, learned and served together supporting and encouraging one another in community. The concept of learning to live on mission in a focused small group of devoted believers is the same as what was modeled for us in Jesus' ministry and in the early church.

USING CTM CURRICULUM FOR A MISSIONAL SMALL GROUP

This section offers an overview of the structure for the small group which is engaged exclusively in the CTM materials.

- I. To form a Missional Small Group, select/recruit/invite believers whom God seems to have called or may be calling to fulfill Christ's Great Commission, of reaching the hopeless, helpless, lost and hurting people who are far from God.
 - A. Maintain an intentional outward focus. The focus of this small group is not on fellowship but mission. Fellowship will naturally occur through the process of serving together.
 - B. Encourage participation of some couples who have gone through Called To Obedience DS3 Discipleship and desire to engage in life-to-life discipleship with new believers.
 - C. Pray together, work together, strategize together, grow and go together with the purpose of fulfilling Christ's Commission.
- II. Cultivate small group transparency, where personal issues of holiness are identified and addressed biblically, with love and accountability, thus reinforcing biblical principles of CTO disciples.
- III. Lead the small group using the following structure:
 - A. Meet for one and one half to two hours each week.
 - B. Assign homework a week in advance.
 1. Review passages from the Gospels and Acts that focus on reaching lost people.
 2. Review practical resources and tools beyond the Scriptures.
 - C. Engage in group discussion surrounding the assigned Scriptures and the missional principles which can be applied in our communities and spheres of influence today.
 1. Ask the key questions (Who, What, Why, When, Where and How) during the **SCHOOL TIME** as you examine the Scriptures and talk about the Tools introduced. The objective is to help the group discover for themselves from Scripture the methods Christ and Paul employed when they wanted to talk with others about spiritual things.

2. Study how they approached and initiated spiritual conversation and spoke truth into people's lives.
- D. Spend about thirty focused minutes on **TOOL TIME** at each gathering. Use this time to learn and practice tools and skills that help sharpen spiritual awareness and communication:
1. How to intentionally engage in spiritual conversation
 2. How to share personal testimonies and life experiences
 3. How to share the gospel in a manner that helps the unsaved place faith and trust in Jesus
 4. How to handle questions and objections
 5. How to understand the basic beliefs of other religions and how to address them
- E. Review the intentional activities group members committed to during the **ACTION TIME** of the previous week to learn and encourage one another.
1. Provide a time of sharing, conducted with love and grace, not judging or condemning. The group is all learning and growing in fruitfulness and service to others.
 2. Help one another and learn from one another in order to be most effective and to please the Father and do his work in our spheres of influence.
- F. Encourage each member to share how he/she wants to make an impact for Christ in the coming week.
1. Ask for commitments from each member of the team about how they will implement one or more of the tools, strategies or skills they are learning.
 2. Brainstorm ideas for creative outreach opportunities like cookouts, service projects, block parties, or community events.
 3. Challenge the group to engage in some activities as a group to help encourage and support one another in outreach.
- G. Close each time together with at least thirty minutes of **PRAYER TIME** focused on praise and thanks:
- To revere Christ by giving thanks and praise for who he is and what he is doing
 - To reflect on his Word
 - To request his direction
 - To rely on his enablement through his Word and Spirit
- H. Bring new believers into the church body. Encourage each member of the CTM group to engage in conversation (using **THE INTENTIONAL CONVERSATION DIAGRAM**) with new believers before and

after corporate worship (and any other time the body gathers) to make them feel welcome and valued.

1. Encourage new believers to participate in whatever training or basic discipleship classes that your church makes available for new believers or new attenders.
2. Encourage new believers to follow the Lord in baptism and grow through discipleship, learning and practicing the basic spiritual disciplines of prayer, Bible study, worship (both personal and corporate), and serving others.
3. Refer to **THE DISCIPLESHIP WHEEL** to help direct them through their spiritual journey from new believer, to disciple, to become a disciple maker fulfilling Christ's Great Commission.
4. Pair new believers with a couple (or single) to begin the CTO or other biblically based discipleship process:
 - a. To model and instruct living out the Great Command of loving the Lord and loving others
 - b. To reconcile damaged relationships and bring healing to previously broken lives
 - c. To develop spiritual health and a desire to walk with the Lord in obedience to his call on their life
 - d. To equip and encourage them for living out their new identity in Christ, living on mission and bearing spiritual fruit
- I. Multiply CTM groups as God leads and blesses. Though some small groups struggle with multiplication, this is a group focused on intentional mission, not a "Fellowship Group" and there should be great joy and celebration in multiplication for the sake of the gospel. Deep fellowship naturally develops as members of the group share their passion for Christ and his kingdom. As they encourage each other and those around them in their spheres of influence, their love for one another deepens, and they get excited about helping one another become successful in their mission.

***"...you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria,
and to the end of the earth."
Acts 1:8***

INTEGRATING CTM MATERIALS INTO ANY SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM

This material is easily integrated into any small group curriculum using the same basic instructions presented when using the CTM materials as the exclusive curriculum for the small group. The difference is that you present one session each month rather than each week.

When the small group meets throughout the month focusing on its regular curriculum, simply set aside one meeting each month to focus on one session of the Called To Mission materials. As the group continues to meet each week throughout the month **set aside at least 30 minutes** each time they gather

to intentionally pray, encourage and even hold one another accountable for any commitments they have made to becoming more public with their faith and applying the tools and skills they have learned. This method allows more practical and frequent application of what they have learned about reaching those in their spheres of influence for the sake of the gospel.

LAUNCHING THE CTM MATERIALS IN YOUR CHURCH OR SMALL GROUPS

Some of the earlier sessions of CTM are easily incorporated into a weekend seminar or workshop to get a jump-start in sharing the vision and mission, to “Go therefore and make disciples...” This special event could then be followed by presenting one Session per week in a targeted missional small group or presenting one successive Session per month as suggested in the previous method.

LEADER'S GUIDE

CALLED TO MISSION SMALL GROUP ORIENTATION MEETING

- I. Open in Prayer.

- II. Share the Vision and Strategy for fulfillment of Matthew 28:19-20, the Great Commission. Leave plenty of time to answer questions:
 - A. To be surrendered to God as he leads the group by the Word and Spirit
 - B. To be consistently intentional and faithful week by week
 - C. To surrender in accountability to one another to accomplish God's plan and purpose
 - D. To come prepared to discuss the assigned Scripture passages and homework
 - E. To come with matters that need to be submit for prayer regarding the mission
 - F. To share accounts of how the Lord used group members this week to reach out to the lost, e.g. sharing testimonies, praying with/for someone in need, sharing the gospel
 - G. To make the above matters subjects of praise and prayer for the coming week

- III. Describe the structure of a typical meeting.
 - A. **FOCUS TIME:** To prayerfully seek God's direction in the mission and seek God's heart to reach out to those who desperately need him.
 1. Ask one group member to lead each week with the assigned verse and invite two or three others to join in.
 2. Kept the focus time short - considerable time will be spent in prayer as the group concludes its time together.

 - B. **SCHOOL TIME:** To study and share insights on the passage assigned the previous week.
 1. Look for how Jesus, Paul, and others reached out during their generation to those needing the Savior.
 2. Learn about tools that will help the group fulfill the mission.

 - C. **TOOL TIME:** To work on the tools presented to be sure everyone in the group is equipped to engage in spiritual conversation. Brainstorm to discover spheres of influence among people and in places in the community where the group thinks they might find openness to spiritual discussion about Jesus and the gospel:

1. How to open conversation and carry on a spiritual discussion to determine where someone stands in regard to the gospel
 2. How to direct conversation toward a presentation of the gospel and give the listener an opportunity to place their faith in the Savior. The tools and techniques to be used include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Practicing the Intentional Conversation Diagram
 - b. Understanding Christ's radical call and our need for obedience
 - c. Identifying your "Jerusalem," "Judea," etc. of today.
 - d. Sharing your **SALVATION TESTIMONY**
 - e. Sharing the gospel with the **SHARING THE GOSPEL** tool or some other comparable tool
 - f. Sharing why the Bible can be believed and trusted
 - g. Describing the reasons why Jesus is more than a great teacher
 - h. Answering common questions and objections to the gospel
 - i. Answering questions about why other religions are not the same as the relationship we can have with Jesus
 - j. Using your home as a place of outreach
 - k. Exploring other resources that might help us to become more fruitful
- D. ACTION TIME:** To provide accountability and to share as a group what intentional action took place during the last week, the good, bad and ugly, victories, failures, etc.
1. Share what each group member learned and how the group can give thanks and praise to the Father for his work in and through the group.
 2. Plan what the group wants to accomplish this coming week in outreach to those who need Jesus, how the group members can pray for and help one another, etc.
 3. Temper all of the above with grace rather than legalism. The group is on a God-directed journey to learn and grow in accordance with his mission.
- E. PRAYER TIME:** To seek wisdom from God about where to find the hopeless and how to approach those needing the Savior. Remember that he is far more concerned about those the group wants to reach than the members of the group could ever be. He will lead and direct the group's steps:

- a. To bring all that has been learned, done, and will be done in the coming week before the Father
- b. To revere him by giving thanks and praise for who he is and what he is doing
- c. To reflect on the passages from his Word that were examined during the group time together
- d. To request his direction, help and blessing on the group's work for him
- e. To rely on his enablement and be ready to serve as he leads and empowers through his Word and Spirit