

YOUR SMALL GROUP CAN AND SHOULD GROW!

By Bob Young

If your small group is healthy, it will grow. In fact, if your small group is healthy, it will grow dynamically. Many factors contribute to group health. I mention four.

The spiritual walk of the leaders. Leaders must pray regularly and frequently for the group. Praying leaders are a key to dynamic growth. Prayers should include current group members and future group members, strength for those who have begun their walk with Christ and open doors for those who will come to Christ.

A focus on reaching out to people in need, people without Christ. The focus of the group must not be solely internal. When leaders and pray and the group looks outward, these two dynamics combine to empower sharing the gospel.

Interpersonal relationships among group members. The group will attract and keep members when the group is family, genuinely loving, caring, sharing, and praying. Such a group finds that people enjoy taking time for one another and more easily assimilates additional people. Such relationships are also key for discipling immature believers.

Mutuality in sharing, leadership, and growth. Group members must be empowered to become involved in the life of the group. Meaningful ministry also contributes to assimilation and discipleship.

These four factors may be more memorable in four summary words.

The growth of a small group depends on growing Upward, Outward, Inward, and Forward.