


fused, and hardly anyone knew what we were doing. Finally, we defined why *we* were doing small groups, and then we settled on a plan that fit not only our church family, but also the culture of our community that we are trying to reach for Jesus Christ. Ask yourself, “What small group model best fits us as a church and the culture we are trying to reach?” Ask, “Are small groups an *end* to our discipleship plan or are they a *means* in our discipleship plan?” These questions will help you think through your discipleship process and clarify what model works best for you.

Finally, develop a system of measuring the effectiveness of your small groups. Once you know why you are doing small groups, what model best fits your church and community, then you have to measure the effectiveness of your groups. You

will need to refer back to the purpose of your small groups and ask, “How will we know when our small groups are fulfilling the purpose for which they were created?” Then you can establish objective and measurable goals to determine your growth, health and overall effectiveness of your small groups.

A lot of small group systems and models have proven to be successful, but understanding what best fits your church’s unique vision is crucial to becoming the church God wants you to be. Small group ministry is difficult, and as many have said, “it’s messy.” But, groups are essential to the life and health of growing churches. 



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