

Some Things to Consider when Starting a New Group in Your Church

✓ **Determine the purpose of the new group** – How does the potential group fit the church's ministry and purpose, including current church organizational structures? (Examples)

- Bible study, fellowship and caring (TLC)
- Evangelistic—reaching people groups in the community outside the church building
- Transitioning attendees into church life
- Reaching/involving new people in Sunday School/ABF
- New member orientation
- Discipleship/faith formation of those who belong to the current faith community
- Making disciples with those in the secular community
- Creating new ministry opportunities/task groups

✓ **Identify target groups**—What is the potential for reaching a new people group?—Special needs or interest? (Examples)

- Newly identified people group out in the community
- People connected with the congregation that are not in Bible study or other small groups that nurture TLC and faith formation
- People not currently involve in the church beyond worship attendance
- New Christians or seeker groups
- A people group out side of the church who have a connection with a church member
- Special needs/interest groups
- Seekers who have a connection with the church faith community

✓ **Identify, Enlist and equip new leaders:** Who has potential? Who feels a attraction to ministry with a target group? Who is God calling and what is God calling that person/persons to do?

✓ **Identify needs** for ministry, faith formation, TLC or other ministry opportunities.

✓ **Develop a ministry team** then train/equip leaders for ministry

- Apprenticeship
- Training events
- Mentoring/coaching
- Modeling

✓ **Determine appropriate resources** to be used with the group

Determine a time and place for the group to meet—Start group as advertised

✓ **Invite people** to join the group

- Personal invitation
- Opportunities to sign up for groups
- Orientation periods

✓ **Continue to nurture leaders** by providing coaching, training, encouragement and keeping the vision and reason for the group.

Constantly look for opportunities to start new groups and enlist leadership for those groups.