

Start with YOU

Last week, I listed for you what you as small group leaders identified as essential ingredients that every disciple of Jesus needs to have as a regular part of his/her daily life:

- ✓ Daily Bible study/Bible reading
- ✓ Personal and Corporate prayer
- ✓ Accountability/mentorship
- ✓ Church attendance
- ✓ Serving
- ✓ Community with other believers

Now, I realize that over the past few weeks, I have been dropping a lot of new information on you: that our small groups are an ideal field in which to make disciples and help the church to fulfill the mission; that you, as a small group leader, have the opportunity to make disciples, making you a discipler. And those are not insignificant; they are monumental shifts in our thinking.

At the same time, we might struggle with our feelings. Feelings of inadequacy—should I really be the one involved in such an important task? Feelings of fear—what if I make mistakes? Feeling overwhelmed—like, whoa, this is WAY more than I signed up for!

Let me to set your mind at ease...

You ARE adequate. Not because of your **ability**; but because of your **availability**. You just have to report for work; the Holy Spirit will do the heavy lifting. He will work through you...if you'll just make yourself available.

You WILL make mistakes. But...we all do. The good news is that the Lord is not limited by our mistakes. Because He is the One doing the work, He will be the One who will take even our mistakes and do the great and incredible work that only **He** can do.

And yes, **all** of this is overwhelming. But may I remind you: **you take care of your availability, and the Lord will take care of your ability.**

Keep in mind this truth: **when it comes to leading others to follow Christ, you can lead them as far as you yourself have gone in following Christ.**

If that is the case, then as you review that list I provided at the beginning of this article, are there any of those areas that you see a need to grow? That may be a good place to start this.

And of course I'll have something else to consider next week. Keep reading...