

What's Your Role?

I have shared with you as a small group leader one of the questions raised from our survey last fall: How do we as a church work to help people become disciple-making followers of Jesus? I suggested that of all of the things we do intentionally as a church, that our small groups stand in prime position to be one of the most effective areas in our church in the area of making disciples.

I pointed out that such a concept is not new. In fact, it was the small groups meeting house to house that was used by the very first church in Jerusalem in Acts 2:42-47.

Given this example from the Bible, let's take another look at our small groups...at **your** small group. As leader, what is your role with your small group?

I asked our small group leaders that question a few weeks back. I asked them to describe their role as a small group leader in 15 words or less. Here is a list of some of the roles our leaders most frequently identified as their role:

- ✓ Facilitator
- ✓ Leader
- ✓ Host
- ✓ Guide
- ✓ Encourager

Those are **all** vital roles in the small group! You are leading; you are facilitating a meeting; you are hosting (often); you are a guide; you are an encourager.

But may I suggest something for you to prayerfully consider?

May I suggest that those roles all work together to serve a larger role in the small group?

May I suggest that those roles all work together to serve the role of **discipler** for the people in your group?

Would you consider for a moment that the Lord Jesus Christ has placed you as leader of your small group so that you might be used by him to help those people in the group become more effective disciples of Jesus?

And...isn't that our mission as a church?

You as a discipler, a disciple-maker, of others who are seeking to follow Jesus.

Does that excite you? It should!

Does it intimidate you a little bit? It should!

But...you're not doing it alone. You have an entire network of support.

I will be taking space each week in these small group leaders' Thursday emails to offer a tip, a tool, something to do or to use that will help you in this ongoing work. Like any tips or suggestions, if it's helpful, use it. If it's not, feel free to discard.

But that is a large part of my role as Spiritual Growth Pastor: to help to equip you as small group leader to serve the Lord by serving those people in your group in the work to which He has called you.

More to come next week...