

5 Benefits of Building a Small Group Leadership Team

When it comes to the most important position in the game of football, the general consensus would point to the quarterback. The quarterback is the one player who touches the ball on every play, and then has the option to deliver that ball to any number of other players...or, keep the ball himself and run for it. Yep, the QB is awfully important.

But who is the **second** most important position on the field? My vote: the left tackle.

The who? Assuming the quarterback is right-handed, the left tackle is the one player that can protect the quarterback from someone trying to sack him from behind. The quarterback needs a skilled left tackle to keep him from getting squashed.

But, you may say, what about the center? He snaps the ball every time. What about the tight end? He has to block **and** catch passes. What about the running back? And you would be making valid points with each position.

The truth is, a team needs **all** of those players to make a great team. If a "team" consisted of just one player or two players, well, not only would it not be a "team," but the score at the end of any game would look pretty cringy.

Now what does that have to do with small groups? And what does that have to do with you, the small group leader?

You as a small group leader might be doing a lot right now. You might be sending out communications reminding your group of your upcoming meeting. You might be reminding them to bring the food or the goodies. You might be taking down all of the prayer requests shared and sending those out to the group in the next day or so. You might be cleaning your house to get ready for the meeting, cooking the food to be served, arranging the chairs, or preparing for the content of the meeting time itself.

But ask yourself these questions:

- 1) Are these tasks ones that only I can do; or
- 2) Are there people in our group who could do these tasks just as well?

If your answers are "no," and then "yes," then you have the potential to build your own small group leadership team.

Let me suggest five benefits from building such a team for your small group:

- 1. It will generate more participation—** People need to be needed. Giving people a chance to serve helps to reinforce the fact that every member of a small group is needed to make for a great group.
- 2. It will create a sense of ownership among the members—** The more that people help to serve in a group, the greater the sense of ownership of the group from among the members; this is **my** group, this is **our** group, and I love it!
- 3. It will ease the burden and pressure on you—** Doing it all—the discussion, the hosting, the food, the communications—every week, every month, can blur your ability to focus on the mission, which can lead to burnout. Sharing those burdens with members of your group can be just what the doctor ordered to regain the passion for this ministry.
- 4. It can take those leaders farther along the journey of discipleship—** Disciple-making happens at more levels than just the beginners' level; developing leaders is also disciple-making. Helping people move from looking at just their own spiritual growth to that which others need to experience actually deepens the spiritual journeys of those leaders.
- 5. It will create a pool of potential new small group leaders—** In order for us to stay on mission, we have to continue to help everyone who comes to our church followers of Jesus. To do that, those people need small groups. That means...we need more small groups. By developing a leadership team for your small group, you provide more opportunities for more people to learn how to follow Jesus in the community known as the small group.

If you already have put together a leadership team for your small group, share with us how you did it, and how it's working. If you haven't, maybe now is a good time to pray about this and consider starting such a team.