

Small Group Follow-up

Purpose: To equip believers to do follow-up in small groups.

Objectives: By the end of this lesson the student will:

1. Be able to explain the benefits for doing small group follow-up.
2. Be able to put together a small group follow-up lesson plan based upon the *Hook, Book, Look, Took* method of Bible study.
3. Have seen a small group follow-up lesson demonstrated utilizing follow-up #4.

Key Verse: Acts 2:42

Note to Instructor: The previous week's lesson ("Teaching Effectively in Ministry Situations") is closely tied to this lesson. At the end of last week's lesson, copies of Follow-up #2 should have been handed out and the students assigned to come up with a "Hook, Book, Look, Took" for that lesson. They will discuss what they came up with at the end of this lesson.

Instructor will need copies of Follow-up #4 (or equivalent which addresses the need for fellowship and involvement in the local church) to hand out to the students. Instructor will also need copies of Follow-up #3 for the students.

I. Introduction

Picture yourself being at a Billy Graham outreach or crusade. The stadium or arena is jammed full of people. As Dr. Graham finishes his sermon, thousands of people respond to his invitation for people to receive Christ. You are in charge of following each of those individuals up, helping them to understand more fully the decisions they made to give their lives to the Lord. But wait, you ask. How can I get this job done? I don't have time to meet with everyone. There are only 24 hours in a day, and I do have to work, you say. How do you deal with this dilemma? If they aren't followed up soon, they may fall away.

This may not be exactly realistic, but you may find yourself needing to follow-up several different people at one time. It may only be 3 or 4, but the dilemma is still the same. Because everyone has such varied and busy schedules, how do I follow them up quickly enough to help ground them in their faith? We will look at two possibilities and make a strong case for you to consider one option over the other. We are not saying that either is wrong or that one is better than the other, but all too often we see follow-up of a new believer only as a one-on-one relationship. This may not be the most effective solution in light of the Great Commission.

The instructor may want to share a story about his first follow-up group - either as a leader or as a student/disciple. This should lead into the idea that more can be done through group follow-up than one-on-one follow-up.

II. The Pros and Cons of Small Group Follow-up

Following up a new believer is crucial to that believer's long-term involvement in the Christian life. When it comes to sharing with a new believer core issues related to his or her salvation, doing follow-up shouldn't be a question as to whether or not it needs to be done. The question that needs to be addressed is how should I go about getting it done. Basically, there are two options – do I do it on an individual basis or do I follow-up new believers in a group setting?

Think through for a moment some pros and cons to doing follow-up in a small group. After you have done that, take a look at the list that we have included. Even though this list is only a partial one, it should paint for you a picture why doing follow-up in a small group is definitely something to consider.

Pros

- ❑ You can follow-up more people
- ❑ Synergism between the group
- ❑ Spiritual multiplication begun
- ❑ You spend less time in preparation by only preparing the same lesson once
- ❑ Better accountability.

Cons

- ❑ Tends to be less personal
- ❑ Finding a time when all can meet can be difficult
- ❑ Group may not gel, which could stifle the growth process
- ❑ More in-depth preparation time required

As you can see, working with groups has definite advantages. In a group setting, you have more opportunity for growth, accountability and multiplication, both of people and your effort, i.e. your time. The advantages far outweigh the disadvantages. And, most of the disadvantages can easily be taken care of through better preparation. Being in a group will allow you to see quickly who is really interested in growing in the Lord. It serves as a better filter.

So, the question becomes how exactly do you do a small-group follow-up? Well, the easy part is that the material is the same, whether you are meeting one-on-one or in a group. The difference becomes how to prepare the material in such a way to maximize the effectiveness of the follow-up itself.

III. Sample Lesson Guide

Good questions are the key to success in leading a guided discussion. In order to know what kind of questions to ask you first need to determine what you want to accomplish. You must have specific objectives for every lesson.

1. The objectives of the lesson should focus on at least three areas.

- a. What do you want them to know and understand more clearly?
- b. How do you want the members of the group to value the lesson? To do this, you as the teacher must:
 - 1) Learn to use effective introductions.
 - 2) Share personal stories and illustrations.
 - 3) Ask thoughtful questions.
- c. What do you want them to do with what they've learned?



2. The objectives should be measurable and stated in specific terms.

3. The objectives should not simply be “knowledge” goals, since you are trying to influence the total person: their intellect, emotions, and will. We do not want to just impart information. We are looking for changed lives.

4. Turn to the Sample Lesson Planner on page 5 of the session on “Teaching Effectively in

Ministry Situations.” This will give you a guide to walk through to organize your own Bible study.

IV. Application

We will demonstrate in class how to guide a discussion group using Follow-up number 4 (if you are not involved with a specific training class, please have your mentor put a lesson together and demonstrate for you). However, we would like you to attempt to use this method by designing a lesson plan for Follow-up #3 (“Your New Life in the Spirit”) to be used in a small group. And then, after seeing the demonstration on a different follow-up, this will allow you to fully understand why this method is effective. Also, if you haven’t already, you will hopefully be in a position to walk one or more persons through follow-up soon. This will help encourage you to be ready to begin discipling them and further you on the road to spiritual multiplication.

*Note to instructor: Create a **Hook, Book, Look, Took (HBLT)** lesson based on Follow-up #4 “Growing in Your New Life.” For the sake of this demonstration, limit your lesson to the section on “You communicate with Christians (fellowship); gaining from their experience and helping them through yours.” Share with the class that one could do HBLT for the whole lesson as well as smaller HBLTs for each individual section. For the sake of time, we will just demonstrate HBLT for a section of the follow-up.*

If Follow-up #4 is not the correct one for the series of follow-up that you do, find the one that has a section on the need for fellowship and involvement in the local church.

Give a copy of your preparation to the class (your written-in notes on a copy of page 5 of “Teaching Effectively in Ministry Situations”). Walk them through the objectives, the hook you will use, and why, what passage you’ll teach from and how you’ll teach it, how you will lead them into interpretation of the text and what applications you’d like to see them make.

Ask for the mentors to act as your small group. Give each participant a role to play. Have one of the people be an enthusiastic church person, another should be neutral toward the church, a third should be mildly antagonistic toward organized religion and the fourth one had a bad church experience. Tell them not to take their roles too far, just enough to add some reality to the lesson. At the end ask them all to commit to go to church this weekend. Ask those who don’t attend to come with you. Lead them through the lesson.

Have the class take their HBLT sample and follow what you do in the various segments. Open for a discussion, question and answer time at the end. Take no more than 10 minutes for the demonstration and another 5-7 minutes for discussion.

If time permits, have the students get in groups of about 3 or 4 to first share the “Hooks” they came up with for Follow-up lesson #2. After they have shared their “Hooks,” have one person in each group share their “Book, Look, and Took” that they came up with.

****In preparation for next week’s class (“Communicating the Gospel Clearly”), ask the students what are the most common questions they hear when presenting the Gospel. Then throughout the week, try to group them into the four categories in section I of the notes for “Communicating the Gospel Clearly.” When the class is to be taught, you could have a panel**

of (at most) four qualified people. Brief the panel to reply to what is behind the question, not merely the question itself. For example, if it is a question about evolution, be sure to point out which of the four categories of people this would fall into (I.C.)

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some of the benefits for doing small group follow-up?
2. How would you put together a small group follow-up lesson plan based upon the *Hook, Book, Look, Took* method of Bible study?
3. What did you learn from the lesson that was demonstrated?