

Building Community Through Christ-Centered Connect Groups

Caren Petfield | Hudson Valley Leadership Summit

Workshop Description: This workshop explores how small groups in the church foster authentic relationships, spiritual growth, and biblical discipleship. It equips leaders with practical strategies to build, lead, and sustain a small group network that strengthens community and advances the mission of the church.

THE VALUE OF COMMUNITY

If you want to grow a crowd, build a _____.

If you want to grow disciples, build _____.

Why Small Groups Matter

Services are powerful, but they are mostly _____.

Small groups create _____ environments.

Faith moves from something we _____ to something we _____.

Services _____, but groups _____.

Services introduce people to Jesus, but groups help people _____ like Jesus.

The Biblical Model

A healthy church grows _____ through evangelism and

_____ through community.

Discipleship is not just informational - it is _____.

Answer Key: service, community, one-directional, relational, hear, live, gather, transform, become, larger, smaller, relational

Why This Matters Today

People are around church, but not always _____ in a way that leads to transformation.

Building a Healthy Small Group Network

Start with a clear _____ path. "This is how we _____."

Build around _____, not just content.

Develop leaders _____.

About Developing Leaders

We look for people who are faithful, available, and _____.

We don't say "We _____ you." We say "We _____ you."

Sustaining a Healthy Network

Keep the _____ in front of people.

Support your _____ well.

Stay _____.

Depend on the _____.

Your Next Step

1. What is one step you can take to strengthen your small group network?
2. What structure could you create that actually works for your people?
3. Who is one person you can begin developing as a leader?

Answer Key: connected, discipleship, grow, relationships, continuously, teachable, need, want, vision, leaders, flexible, Holy Spirit