

## ***Thriving as a Small Group Leader***

Our goal is for you as a small group leader is to **thrive**; not just survive! Every once in awhile; or maybe quite often we as leaders feel like we're not capable of leading, or we just feel like we don't have any plans or new ideas, or maybe it just seems like things aren't clicking in our group like they should.

It's easy to feel this way; and if we're honest we can all say we've been in this predicament. So I would like to offer some encouragement to you in helping you prepare and making plans for your next meeting. Remember Jesus' words in Matthew 18:20: "***For when two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.***" Guys, that's a promise!! Every time you come together in Jesus' name in your small group, His presence is there! Claim that, remember that, and embrace that promise.

Here are 4 different aspects to consider in planning for your meeting time:

1. **Head:** What do I want my group to know.....and not just for the sake of more knowledge; but what new concept do I want them to grasp from Scripture? What is the main thrust of this Scripture that we're studying tonight? If I were going to put a theme or dominant thought on our study, what would it be? Use your head to come up with a plan for each study.....know where you're going before you start the lesson and do your best to stay on track.
2. **Heart:** What do I want my group to feel? How can I translate from what we've learned in head knowledge to the heart? Both head and heart play a role in how God made us and designed us to interact in daily life. So don't just stop at head knowledge, think of creative ways of moving people from just "knowing Scripture", to putting it emotionally into their heart.
3. **Hands:** What do I want my group to do? What do I want them to take into action in their daily lives? What is Scripture we're studying calling us to do? Is there some kind of self-assessment we can do as group for this particular study or lesson? Or, is there some kind of hands-on or visual learning application you can incorporate into the study to help your group grasp concepts? Visual and hands-on learning is an awesome tool to incorporate into your lesson time. They can be creative, fun and serve as a great tool to help move Scriptural concepts from "head to heart".
4. **Homework:** What do I want my group to do different this week in their life? What changes do we need to make in light of Scripture? Where do we struggle? Where have we had victories? As leader, be willing to show openness and vulnerability in this area to help spur your group to be more open in this area. This is a powerful tool to move us into being people of action everyday, not just when we're meeting in small group.

*Use these tools to help you better be able to move your group from sitting on sidelines into action in everyday life!*

