

Life Group Leader Handout

March 11, 2018

Your Best Investment

Pastor Lee Hamblen

Scripture— Psalm 78:1-8

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth! 2 I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, 3 things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us. 4 We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done. 5 He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, 6 that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, 7 so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments; 8 and that they should not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation whose heart was not steadfast, whose spirit was not faithful to God.

Main Idea— Your Legacy of Faith Can Impact 4 Generations!

1. God puts a high priority on investing in the next generation

2 Key Ingredients:

- Living in awe of God
- Teaching the law of God Deut. 6:4-9, 20-25

2. Know your Investment

- God has things for us to learn from them.
- Matthew 18:1-6

3. The Return on Investment

- Lasting impact for the Kingdom of God! (4 generations)

Application—

- Are we living in awe of God?
- Is there step of humility in your life that would move you into a closer walk with God?
- How is God calling you to invest in the next generation?

5 ESSENTIALS FOR SMALL GROUP HEALTH

By Randall Neighbour

- 1. Relationships must be a priority.** Holistic small groups can only work when relationships between group members are considered number one. And that means having regular contact outside of meetings. I've experienced a vast majority of the transformation in my life through small group experiences, and it happened because of this principle. The groups have been very intimate friends of mine with whom I can share transparently. They've loved me unconditionally, and we've been able to show Christ to one another. I didn't view it as an opt-in thing. Without it, it would be like not having enough air to breathe. They've been that valuable.
- 2. Leaders need adequate training.** Jesus is the best example of this. He disciples people. He spent a lot of time with them, and out of relationship they started mimicking him, doing things the way he did them. Lots of leaders were produced this way, and they did great things--like planting churches and going to the uttermost parts of the world.
- 3. Everyone should be viewed as a leader.** Everyone in the group has some spiritual gift and should be encouraged to develop it. These gifts often surface through leading. So everyone should be given the opportunity to lead in some way.
- 4. Healthy groups divide and multiply.** A healthy family raises children who want to become independent and start families of their own. They don't break relationship. They just move out and start their own family. They come back and visit, and eventually the parents might move back in with the kids. Small groups should function in the same way. It really bothers me when the "fifty-year-old kid" stays at home in our churches or small groups.
- 5. The focus of the group should be living out the Gospel.** I don't think holistic small groups should be Bible studies. I think they should be a place where the group applies God's Word to their lives. They should gather together on a weekly basis to experience the presence, power and the purpose of Christ in their lives.