



CCN SMALL GROUPS TRAINING SERIES  
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# **Groups That Grow: Evaluating Progress and Embracing Change**

**Featuring**

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## A. Evaluation

Evaluation is a biblical concept

The fruits of the spirit, according to Paul

Knowing a good apple tree by its fruit: Luke 6

Counting the cost:

Luke 10: Jesus' instructions to his followers are rather specific

<sup>22</sup>*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*  
—Galatians 5:22-23

### 1. Success is measured against the mission or purpose

- Becoming a praying community, as defined by ...

Have something to measure progress against

- Serving 30 families a week

- Identifying a specific character trait or issue

Write down what that might look like

- Growing in listening and giving feedback

Have specific goals or missions against which to measure success

### 2. Measuring spiritual growth or the heart requires wisdom, discernment, and community

The Bible gives ways to assess the depth of the heart

In community gives an environment in which to be wise and discerning

*For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.*  
—Matthew 12:34b

### 3. There is a difference between making judgments and passing judgment

Don't pass judgment based on hypocrisy

Proverbs 24: making an assessment based on patterns

<sup>30</sup>*I went past the field of the sluggard,  
past the vineyard of the man who lacks  
judgment;*

<sup>31</sup>*thorns had come up everywhere,  
the ground was covered with weeds,  
and the stone wall was in ruins.*

<sup>32</sup>*I applied my heart to what I observed  
and learned a lesson from what I saw:*

<sup>33</sup>*A little sleep, a little slumber,  
a little folding of the hands to rest—*

<sup>34</sup>*and poverty will come on you like a  
bandit*

*and scarcity like an armed man.*

—Proverbs 24:30-34

## B. Areas to measure (or give feedback)

### 1. Environment

- Is this a safe place?

“Welcome is one of the signs that a community  
is alive” (Jean Vanier)

- Am I known and respected?

Group evaluation and feedback forms in *Leading Life Changing Small Groups*

- Are ideas and opinions valued?

### 2. Relationships

- Are we drawing closer as a community?

- Are people feeling connected to each other?

Are they praying together?

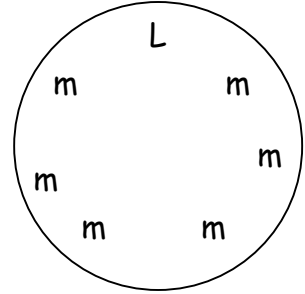
- Is there a level of authenticity and trust?

- Are people making friends?

- What happens in relationships between meetings?

### 3. Communication patterns

- Draw a communication map
- Do people strive for understanding before giving advice or feedback?
- Are confusing statements clarified?
- How are interruptions handled?
- Do certain people control the flow of conversation?  
Some people want to control out of fear
- How are opposing thoughts and ideas handled?

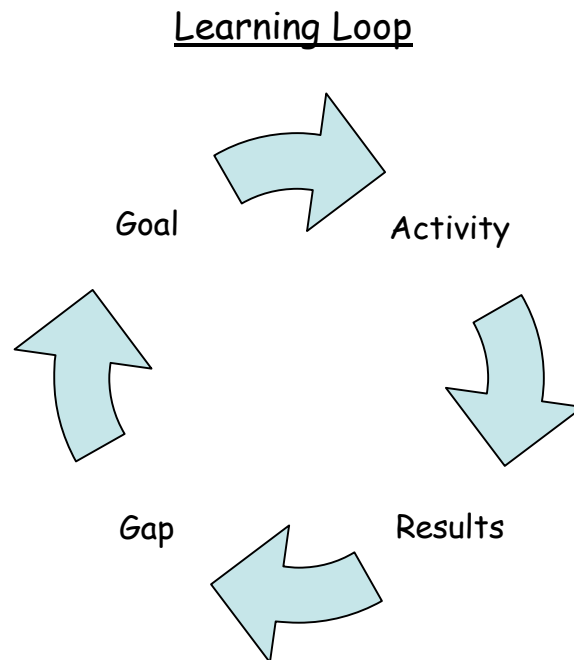


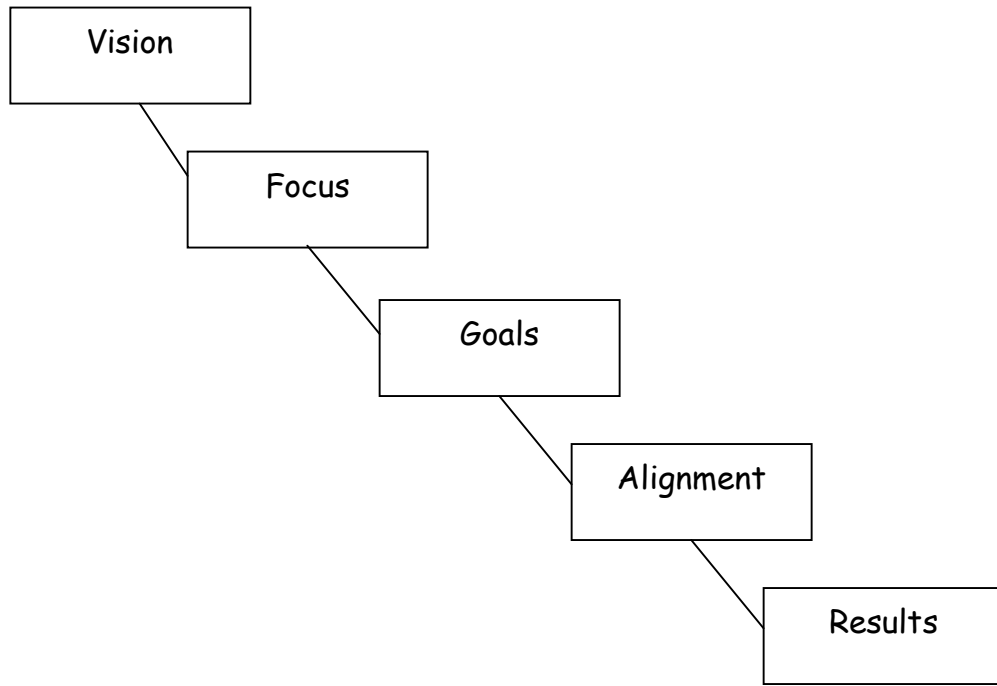
### 4. Personal growth

- Do people feel that they are making progress in an area of life?
- How are hearts and minds being shaped?
- Are sin areas being addressed and confronted with grace and truth?
- Is weakness acknowledged?
- Is there a grace-based or guilt-centered approach to change?
- Are members helping one another pursue growth?

## 5. Mission

- Are our goals being met?
- How has each of us contributed to the achievement of our purpose?
- What needs more attention?
- Does our mission need to change?





**Goals**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

## Resources:

***ReGroup***

DVD small group training  
[www.willowcreek.com](http://www.willowcreek.com)

***Leading Life Changing Small Groups***

by Bill Donahue  
[www.willowcreek.com](http://www.willowcreek.com)

***Community and Growth***

by Jean Vanier  
[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

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