

MULTIPLY10

Small Groups in the Wesleyan Way

Scott Hughes – shughes@umcdiscipleship.org

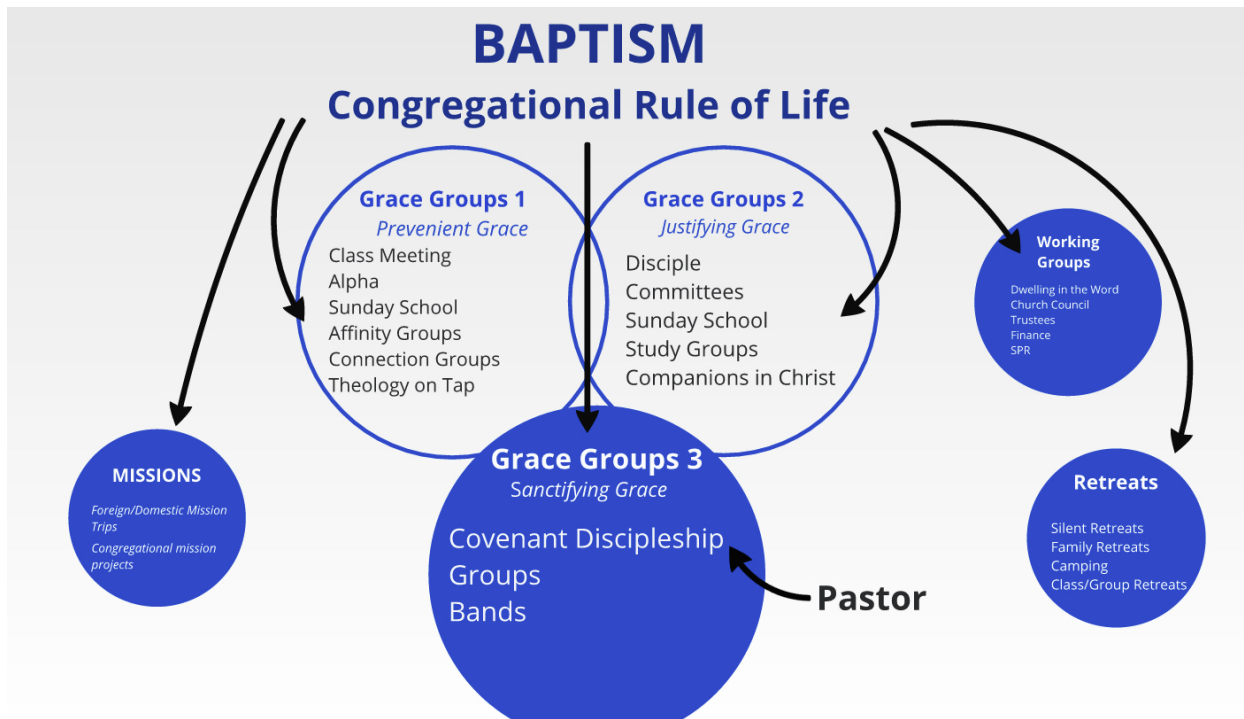
Director of Adult Discipleship, Discipleship Ministries

Description:

Throughout Methodism, the use small groups have proven to be the best strategy for disciple-making. However, small groups present churches with many challenges. This workshop will cover the connection between our baptismal covenant and small groups, the purpose of small groups, and the importance of leadership development.

Content:

1. Introduction – Challenges
 - a. What challenges are you facing regarding small groups?
 - b. What hesitations to people have with regard to joining a small group?
2. Culture of Discipleship as atmosphere for small groups to thrive
 - a. Discipleship grounded in our baptism
 - b. Congregational Baptismal promise
3. Strategies for Small Groups that produce disciples
 - a. Top-Down approach begins with a Congregational Rule of Life
 - i. Covenant Discipleship groups as means
 - b. Bottom-up approach – Kevin Watson’s Class Meeting
4. Necessary for there to be levels of groups for growing in discipleship
 - a. Grace Group Model
 - i. Grace Groups 1 – Prevenient Grace
 1. Includes: class meeting, Sunday school, Theology on Tap, Affinity groups, etc.
 - ii. Grace Groups 2 – Justifying Grace
 1. Includes: Disciple bible study, Study groups, Companion in Christ, etc.
 - iii. Grace Groups 3 – Sanctifying Grace
 1. Includes: Covenant Discipleship, Bands, etc.
 - b. Pastor as key change agent
 - i. Pastor should be in a small group (not necessarily lead)
 - ii. Pastor should preach organically about small groups
 - c. Baptism and the Congregational Rule of Life should provide guidance and direction to all groups
 - i. Other groups can also be given direction and guidance from baptismal promises and the congregational rule of life



5. Essential Elements of a Wesleyan Small Group
 - a. Accountability – to the Congregational Rule of Life/Baptismal promises
 - b. Prayer
 - c. Study
 - d. Mission
 - e. Covenant
6. Additional Thoughts
 - a. Benefits of Small Groups
 - i. Relationships, pastoral, accountability, missional, leadership/discipleship development
 - b. Introducing Small Groups
 - i. Why – Connect with baptismal vows and discipleship
 - ii. Build strategically
 - iii. Preach about organically
 - iv. Connect with Sunday School as strategy for discipleship
7. Additional Resources
 - a. The Christian Small Group Leader – Thomas Hawkins
 - b. Making Small Groups Work – Henry Cloud & John Townsend
 - c. The Big Book on Small Groups – Jeffrey Arnold
 - d. Building a Discipling Culture – Mike Breen
 - e. Community that is Christian – Julie Gorman