

CHURCH OF HOPE EVANGELISM AND MINISTRY TRAINING COURSE BY EMAIL AND WEBSITE: *STUDY GUIDE: WEEKS THIRTEEN AND FOURTEEN*

TOPIC ELEVEN: THE IMPORTANCE OF MENTORING LEADERS AND ESTABLISHING MULTIPLYING SMALL GROUPS WITH AN OUTREACH FOCUS

INTRODUCTION TO WEEKS THIRTEEN AND FOURTEEN:

For this *fortnight's* study guide we will be looking at three important features of a healthy local church that help it to be effective in reaching out to the unbelievers in the community and to seeing those in the church becoming mature disciples. These are; I) The importance of **MENTORING** Christians (leaders), II) establishing **MULTIPLYING** small groups and III) **MOBILISING** all believers to share their faith. This week's Study Guide is in many ways an appendix to last week's Study Guide Ten – Attributes of a healthy church / Experiencing God's power in our meetings. In this week's Study Guide we will be looking at the importance of mentoring other believers (especially emerging leaders) and the importance of establishing multiplying small groups which also have an outreach focus.

There are now many different religious groups and sects operating in the world today that are actively involved in trying to get people to follow their philosophies and beliefs. If a new believer is not quickly discipled, they can more easily be drawn back into the world and be more prone to being deceived by people who are sharing other religious beliefs and philosophies. For this reason, as a church, we need to have a real commitment to making mature disciples who will remain strong in their faith and helping believers to be connected to the life of a small group fellowship. Jesus Himself warned that in the days just prior to His return that many believers would be offended and then betray one another and that many would grow cold in their faith. In the book of Matthew we read, *“And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.”* (Matthew 24:10-13)

We will begin this week's study guide by looking at some important aspects of church life to consider:

- 1) **How as a church we must be actively reaching out to the lost with the gospel message (Ezekiel 33:1-11)**
- 2) **The urgency of the times that we are now living in to share our faith with others, “for the coming of the Lord is at hand.” (James 5:8)** It is so important that we redeem the time and make the most of every God given opportunity to help see people come to Christ. *The harvest of lost souls is ripe NOW. (John 4:35)* *The Apostle Paul wrote; “See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”* (Ephesians 5:15-17)
- 3) **The importance of all Christians being connected to other believers in a smaller group setting. (Hebrews 10:23-25)** Close fellowship with other believers is a great safeguard to help Christians to remain strong in their walk with the Lord
- 4) **The importance of mentoring other Christians and for pastors to invest their life in other future leaders**
- 5) **The importance of establishing multiplying small groups which have an outreach focus,**
- 6) **THAT EVANGELISM THROUGH MULTIPLYING SMALL GROUPS is a great means of reaching the masses, and**
- 7) **The importance of equipping and resourcing (with tracts) all Christians to share their faith with their neighbours, friends and work colleagues. (THE IMPORTANCE OF MOBILISING ALL CHRISTIANS IN THE AREA OF ONE-ON-ONE EVANGELISM) – There needs to be an urgency in reaching out to the lost with the gospel message.**

In this study guide we will be looking at the following three areas which are vital to seeing a church growing strong and healthy (both in size and spiritual maturity).

- 1) **Raising up and mentoring leaders** (In particular mature first tier small group leaders who can be mentored in the Senior Pastors Leadership Small Group) These leaders can then in turn train up other small group leaders. As part of this area of study there are some additional teachings in the TEACHINGS for Weeks 12 to 17 manual which can be downloaded from the following website page: www.coh.org.au/ministry_course
- 2) **The benefits of and a model for establishing multiplying small groups** which have an *outreach focus*, and
- 3) **Mobilising all believers to share their faith one on one** (Evangelism Training can often easiest be done by the small group leaders who can also encourage their group members to share their faith)

I WILL NOW LOOK AT THESE THREE AREAS IN TURN

1) RAISING UP AND MENTORING LEADERS (2 Timothy 2:2)

- A church full of mature leaders will grow strong and healthy
- As leaders are raised up, we can establish more ministries and open up more small groups.
- As leaders mature, we can then also prayerfully plant new daughter churches or extension services
- It is important as a pastor to prayerfully select those to mentor. It is so important that we mentor and invest our life in those who have a teachable spirit and a kindred spirit (a heart for the house)
- When we go to be with the Lord, the legacy of our life will be all the people that we have helped to come to Christ and encouraged to embrace God's plan for their life. In training up and mentoring strong leaders we multiply ourselves. Jesus Himself spent much time in mentoring twelve disciples who have helped to see the church now totalling in excess of two billion people. Jesus' model of training up mature disciples and then commissioning and releasing them into ministry must also be our model as pastors. **Some keys to being a good mentor are;**

I. **The importance of modelling what it is to live a God glorifying life. (1 Timothy 4:12) Leading by example. (John 13:14-15)**

II. **Prayerfully seeking the Lord before spending time with those that you are mentoring. It is good to seek the Lord for a word in season. (Proverbs 15:23)**

III. **The importance of always speaking the truth in love. (Ephesians 4:15)**

IV. **Spending quality time with those that you are mentoring. Doing life together (1 Thess. 2:7-9)**

V. **Being an encourager is a great key to being a good mentor. (Acts 11:22-24) We must continually affirm what God has planned for those that we are mentoring and continually remind them of what God is able to do in and through their lives. (Ephesians 3:20)**

VI. **Having a genuine love and concern for those that we are mentoring. We need to be fathers and mothers of the faith (1 Corinthians 4:15-16)**

VII. **It is healthy for all Christians to both have a mentor speaking into their own life and that they themselves invest their life into other less mature believers. (Proverbs 19:20)**

VIII. **In summary, when mentoring other believers and future leaders we need to:**

- **Encourage those that we are mentoring**

(The meaning of the word encourage, is to give courage. Encouragement helps people to overcome their failures, fears and insecurities)

- **Nurture those whom we are mentoring**

(Nurtured people are strong people, whereas neglected people can become weak, picking up wrong mindsets)

- **Resource people with our knowledge, gifts, talents and abilities as well as providing resource materials**

- **Invest our life in the lives of other people**

(We need to have a genuine commitment to and love for others)

- **Coach those whom we are mentoring, (Advising but not Manipulating, leading but not controlling) and**

- **Hang in with those that we are mentoring** (We must never give up on people, no matter what is happening to them)

- PLEASE REFER TO THE TEACHINGS FOR WEEKS 13 AND 14 THAT RELATE TO RAISING UP AND MENTORING LEADERS AND THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN PUTTING PEOPLE INTO LEADERSHIP

2) ESTABLISHING MULTIPLYING SMALL GROUPS

(Refer to the teaching on a model for establishing multiplying small groups – The Principle of Twelve)
This teaching is in the TEACHINGS for Weeks 12 to 17 manual which can be downloaded from the following page. www.coh.org.au/ministry_course We will now look at three things in relation to having healthy small groups.

- i) **The benefits of being in a small group** There are many benefits that come from a believer being connected to a loving bible based small group. These include;
- They are connected to other believers who can encourage them in their walk with the Lord
 - They can grow in their knowledge of God's love for them and how to love Him and others better **(Mark 12:30-31)**
 - There is wisdom in a multitude of counsellors. Believers can get input from other mature believers in their small group when faced with major decisions in life **(Proverbs 15:22)**
 - Within the context of a small group believers can receive prayer and have their pastoral needs met. Particularly in larger churches the smaller connect groups are crucial for believers to have their pastoral needs met. Being nurtured and encouraged by other believers is essential for all Christians, especially during times of trials. We all need each other in the body of Christ. Having fellowship with other believers is a key to remaining strong in our faith. **(Hebrews 10:23-25)**
 - Believers can grow in their walk with Lord as they study the Word of God and have fellowship and a time of prayer with other Christians. **(John 21:15-17)**
 - There is a cleansing effect when believers meet together. When we have fellowship with other Christians, we have accountability both to God and to other believers. The Apostle John wrote, **“But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.” (1 John 1:7)**
 - Believers become more connected to the life and vision of the church as they develop friendships within their small groups **(Psalm 92:13-15)**
 - Having a multiplying small group model in which every group member *is seen as being a potential small group leader*, is a key to a church having the ability to absorb all new believers into the life of their church. Having the ability to start new small group meetings quickly is important when many people come to Christ during the weekly worship meetings. After the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost around 3,000 people came to faith in response to one message preached by the apostle Peter and were added to the church. **(Acts 2:41)** Within a healthy outreach focused small group, all believers can be equipped to run future small groups to help disciple the new believers and members that come to the church. Equipping many Christians to run small groups is a great key to BEING ABLE TO DISCIPLE all those who come to our church.
 - Within a small group believers can be encouraged to use their spiritual gifts **(Romans 12:3-8)**
 - Small groups help to make big churches small at the same time. As Christians we all need fellowship with other believers. Small groups help new believers and visitors to a local church to be connected to other believers and to the life of the church
 - Given the days that we are now living in, having fellowship with other believers is crucial. Small groups are a great vehicle for helping believers to be encouraged and to feel love and accepted.
 - There are also a number of short term special small group activities that can help believers to both grow in their walk with the Lord and to get to know more people in the church such as New Believers Classes, Spiritual Gifts Workshops and Evangelism Training Seminars. Refer to “Things to consider in raising up and Mentoring Leaders” Teaching (Pages 10 to 12)
- ii) **One possible format for running a healthy small group meeting could be:**
- **Open in prayer. Invite the Holy Spirit to have his way in the meeting**
 - **Welcome / Time of personal sharing around tea and coffee (10-15 minutes maximum)**
 - **Worship and Prayer (30-45 minutes)**
 - **Sharing of the Word / Teaching and Study (30-45 Minutes) / Communion / Close in prayer**
 - **Light Supper (meal) / Tea and Coffee / Fellowship**

iii) **Evangelism through small groups.** Small groups have a number of advantages in helping people come to Christ. These will be discussed in more detail in point three. But in brief a loving small group provides an opportunity for unsaved friends to be presented the gospel in an environment of love and acceptance. Secondly, as a small group fellowship which has bonded together, it is a great basis on which the group members can pray for and plan together to organise monthly outreaches into places such as hospitals or prisons or into the streets of their local neighbourhood.

3) MOBILISING ALL BELIEVERS TO SHARE THEIR FAITH (Please refer to the teaching “Some brief keys to being effective in witnessing and preaching to others” in the TEACHINGS for weeks 6 to 11 manual to help equip Christians to share their faith) Every believer has the ability to lead others to Christ and to give out gospel tracts to unbelievers. “...And he who wins souls is wise.” (Proverbs 11:30)

- As pastors we need to lead by example. We need to spend time with the Lord to get God’s heart and compassion for the lost. **(Matthew 9:36)** Evangelism is more caught than taught.
- We need to get enthusiastic as pastors about encouraging those in our church to reach out to their unsaved friends and work and school colleagues – Due to the warfare and discouragement that all Christians encounter from time to time, we need to be consistently encouraging all believers to live for the Lord and reminding them of the great value of every soul and the significance of every soul that comes to Christ. **(Luke 15:4-7)**
- Equipping believers to evangelise can be done very effectively as part of the teachings of a small group. Given the late hour that we are living in, it is so important that all Christians are equipped and encouraged to become soul winners. Anyone can give a gospel tract to someone else.
- As a small group, plans can be made to run monthly or even fortnightly outreaches as directed by the Lord to help people come to Christ
- A small group should have both a discipleship and outreach focus. This could be achieved as follows: One week the small group can have a discipleship focus where the bible is studied and prayers made for those in need and the alternate week can have an outreach focus where unsaved friends can hear the gospel in a loving and relaxed manner within the group. As people are saved and added to small groups in this way, new groups can be established to cater for the increased number of believers joining the group. A group of around 12 is about as big as you would want in order to maintain intimate fellowship within the group.
- AGAIN, THE TEACHING “SOME BRIEF KEYS TO BEING EFFECTIVE IN WITNESSING TO AND PREACHING TO OTHERS” – (This teaching is in the TEACHINGS for weeks 6 to 11 manual) WOULD BE IDEAL TO USE TO HELP EQUIP ALL CHRISTIANS TO SHARE THEIR FAITH MORE EFFECTIVELY WITH UNBELIEVERS

QUESTIONS FOR SELF EVALUATION:

- i) As a pastor am I actively involved in mentoring a number of key future leaders?
- ii) As a pastor do I have a leadership small group that I run to help prepare believers for leadership roles within the church?
- iii) Do we have as a church a focus on establishing small groups?
- iv) Are most of the members in our church connected to a mid-week small group fellowship?
- v) As a church do we have leadership training classes to help prepare and equip Christians to run small groups?
- vi) Is the study of the Word of God and prayer a key focus in our small groups? We must always ensure that our small groups have a focus on helping believers to grow spiritually rather than just becoming a social gathering
- vii) As a pastor do, we actively encourage all those in our church to become soul winners?
- viii) Are members of small groups also mentored and encouraged by their small group leaders to become future small group leaders themselves?