

Authentic Communities in CARE GROUPS



A CARE GROUP LEADERS' TRAINING WORKBOOK

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INTRODUCTION TO WORKBOOK

Dear fellow-pilgrims,

It is such good news that you are taking up leadership of a CARE GROUP. Many have been our experiences with CGs, both as students and as staffworkers in your campuses.

This workbook arises from our concerns for you, and what we think you should know to start you off. Here, there is no information overload, only the concern to shape you into a TRUE SHEPHERD.

May this experience TRANSFORM you and may Jesus Himself MOULD you into an effective instrument.

Love,

Your FES Staffworkers

1 - An Old Idea That Never Went Out of Date!



How long do you think the Care Group idea has been around?

What were the original concerns in starting CGs?



THE OLD IDEA

God never makes mistakes. The idea for CGs was God's idea! Even in creating, He placed man within smaller units of care - FAMILIES. That was because intricate in His design was the NEED He put in man for God and for meaningful fellowship with other humans. His idea was authentic community living.

Since then, man has always found it compelling to be in communities -



MOSES

found it necessary to divide the thousands of Israelites he was leading into smaller communities governed by grassroot leaders.

Purpose : TO JUDGE & GIVE COUNSEL



JUDGES

in the dark history of Israel, fought and found victory in God's Name by leading small groups of faithful men.

Purpose : TO DELIVER THE PEOPLE OF GOD



PROPHETS

often called out smaller congregations in the whole nation of Israel that were turning away from God. These were the men who were sensitive to God's call and were willing to be different for Him.

Purpose : TO CALL PEOPLE TO REPENTANCE & FOLLOW GOD'S WAYS



INTER-TESTAMENTAL TIMES

faithful zealots like the Macabbees were the men who sought God and fought for His Name in the times when the whole nation was crushed and dispersed.

Purpose : FOR SURVIVAL OF THE ISRAELITE NATION & AWAITING THE MESSIAH.



JESUS

called 12 men to be with Him and follow Him. To them He left the legacy of what His kingdom was like and how they were to live their lives.

Purpose : DISCIPLESHIP & ESTABLISHING LEADERSHIP OF THE CHURCH.



FIRST CHRISTIANS

survived through severe persecutions by living in the catacombs, meeting in houses, spurring one another on. The Gospel spread like wildfire through their testimonial living.

Purpose : PRESERVATION, DISCIPLESHIP & WITNESSING



MONASTIC MOVEMENTS

(6TH - 12TH CENTURY)

retreated away from the world to rediscover and preserve God's truth. The threat was the pagans taking over the church. Later towards the 12th century, it was to preserve the truth of the Gospel from corruption.

Purpose : PRESERVING THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL



COUNT ZINZENDORF & JOHN WESLEY

(1700s)

to minister among disintegrating family units and liberal Christianity, small groups helped towards arresting the decay due to alcoholism and other vices. These groups called for a strict accounting of their lives.

Purpose : RECONCILIATION TO GOD & WITH MEN



WILLIAMS COLLEGE & SCOTLAND

(1800s)

these groups started as prayer groups which then became the prophetic voice to call students to repentance and revival, and to give their lives over to missions.

Purpose : REVIVAL & MISSIONARY INTENT



STUDENT MOVEMENTS ALL OVER THE WORLD

(1900s)

in preserving God's truth against liberalism, the small groups were a base for equipping people in God's Word. Increasingly towards the end of the century, the need for a voice in the midst of dysfunctional relationships was urgently felt.

Purpose : EQUIPPING & AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS



Brainstorm together, what you think to be the PURPOSE of CGs in the 2000s? Why?



STUDENTS OF THE REVIVAL GENERATION

(2000s)

the need is increasing for much reconciliation and healing to take place. And as this happens, the need for equipping a person in the Lord's way is necessary. Many too will need to experience a revival, having become too stagnant in their pilgrimage. Finally, we will need to renew our hearts and become missionary in our intent again, especially as the numbers dying daily without the Gospel keep increasing.

Purpose : RECONCILIATION, REVIVAL, REDISCOVERING THE WORD & RENEWING VISION FOR MISSIONS.



NEW WINESKINS!

God Himself is DYNAMIC and is always doing something in our midst. Our idea about CARE GROUPS cannot remain stagnant. We need to be men and women of our times and DISCERN what are the needs among our people, and how CGs can be the place of redeeming our lives and reaching out so that others can remain the same. Then indeed our CGs will be PROPHETIC in nature, heading where God wants us to be at that moment! Let us then be agents that are on the LOOKOUT FOR NEW WINESKINS and be on the cutting-edge of what God is doing.



LISTENING PRAYER

2 - A Potent Mixture In Our Midst



AN ENORMOUS CHALLENGE

Jesus' challenge to His tired disciples in Mark 6:37 was, "You give them something to eat." Wow! The challenge was to feed 5,000 men, not counting the women and children. Overwhelming isn't it? Well, being a CG leader can be overwhelming too. And the same challenge seems to come to us, "You give them something to eat." How do we even begin?



Brainstorm together. What is the WORLD of your CG member like? What is it filled with?

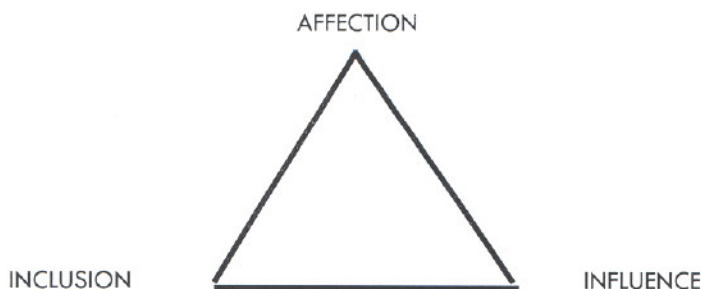


What can I give them to eat?



A POTENT MIXTURE!

The CARE GROUP by itself is a potent mixture. By potent, it means powerful, influential and effective. By coming together, the CG has the potential to meet the basic need of community and fellowship. While dependency is on the most feared list today, we will never be whole apart from giving ourselves away to others and receiving from them their uniqueness. Authentic community, which is distinctively Christian namely the CG, meets our needs of INCLUSION; of needing to INFLUENCE and being INFLUENCED; and also the need for OPENNESS or AFFECTION.

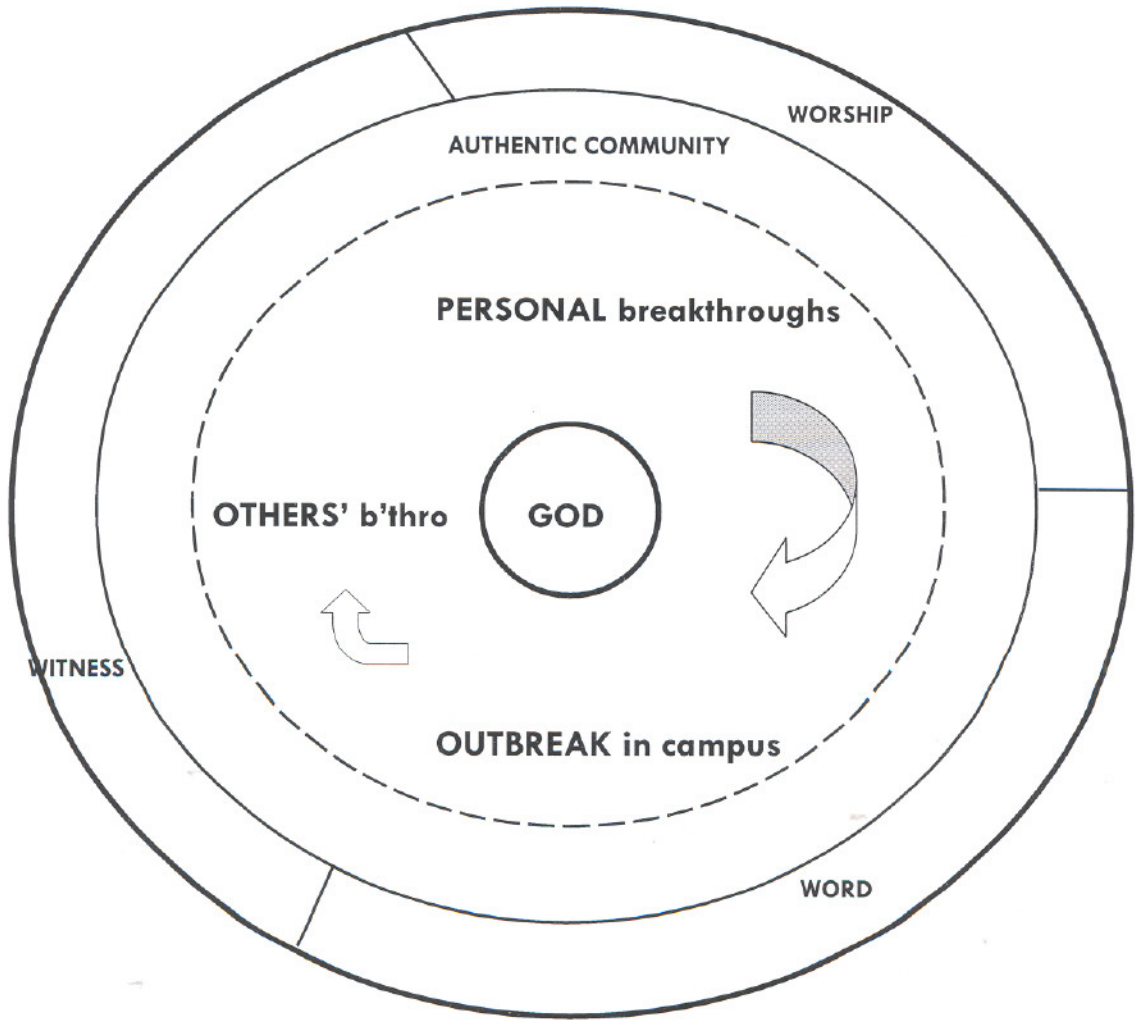




A RICH SOIL

Thus a CARE GROUP becomes the SOIL on which God can do marvellous things. Through AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY, members can be REAL and VULNERABLE, and can become AGENTS of SPURRING one another to WORSHIP God, honour His WORD and be His radiant WITNESS!

CGs can become the place for PERSONAL BREAKTHROUGHS and for there to be an OUTBREAK OF LOVE, so that OTHERS can experience BREAKTHROUGHS themselves.



How can you as the CG leader, BUILD such an AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY? Brainstorm together.



THE POTTER'S HOUSE

The Potter's House is a special place. Reading Jeremiah 18:1-6, one knows that the Potter's house is a place where things HAPPEN. The Hebrew word for "house" brings home the meaning of what it is like inside the house. The Potter Himself is a SKILLED creator, no mere apprentice. He seeks for a pot that is PERFECT in texture and shape. When He sees flaws in the clay, He BREAKS it and MOULDS it again until it seems right to Him. That is how PERSONAL BREAKTHROUGHS happen and CGs are such places!

If that is what a CG can become, a PLACE where God can do His handiwork, then we as His undershepherds need to make it a :



The HAVEN OF HOPE

where the soul that is weary, pain-filled or about to give up can find a new HOPE to move on. A place where God seems to be touching the right inner parts of him or her.



The FELLOWSHIP OF FUN

where everyone enjoys the God given fellowship and fun. A good medicine for the soul to BE together and just relax without fear or pretence.



The CAULDRON OF CHALLENGE

the place where every pilgrim realizes that he has NOT ARRIVED YET! Areas in his life are challenged by the Word of God and friends who lovingly encourage him to a step further.



The ROD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

where the WOUNDS of a friend is welcome and admonishment is seen as the loving thing to do when one keeps falling short of God's standards.



The SEAT OF SEEKERS

the home for every SEEKING heart. Welcomed into real, authentic company, the seeker as well as everyone else is not pretending and they can encounter life, and who Jesus is as honestly as they can.



The BAND OF BROTHER-KEEPERS

Cain asked God whether he was his brother's keeper (Gen 4:9). The question itself, "Where is your brother?" is an answer that is telling. We are our brother's keeper. Again, in examining the Hebrew word, the word is "brother-keeper" meaning to GUARD and PRESERVE. We are called to PROTECT if necessary and be one another's WATCHMAN.

Such a high calling indeed!



MADE NOT BORN

Authentic communities are made rather than born. The Potter's HOUSE needs to be BUILT! Much needs to be GIVEN and RECEIVED from one another. These are the essentials that cannot be compromised :



TRUST



SELF-DISCLOSURE



FEEDBACK



CONFLICT



SELF-LEARNING



HUMILITY



COMMITMENT TO ONE ANOTHER



FORGIVENESS



Think again, if this is all the CG is meant to be, how can we make it into such a dynamic Potter's HOUSE?



EVERY MEMBER CG

Making the place an AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY is the journey undertaken by the WHOLE CG, it cannot just be the burden of the CG leader. The leader is just the FACILITATOR of the Potter's house. Another word for it is CARETAKER. You as the leader do not own the CG. You facilitate the CG so that they can experience PERSONAL BREAKTHROUGHS and then you facilitate the OUTBREAK!



Brainstorm the difference between FACILITATORS and LEADERS as we often know them as.

LEADER

FACILITATOR

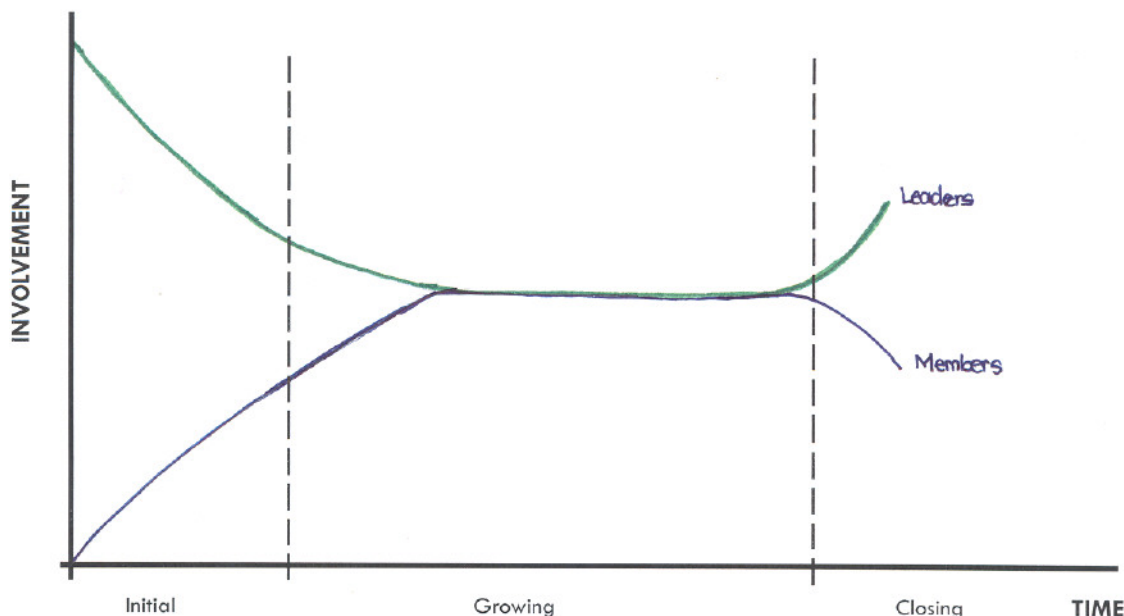
In order for the CG to be an EVERY MEMBER CG, they gradually need to OWN the CG as their own. Then, they will begin to care for its welfare. Again, you as the facilitator leader, need to facilitate this.



How can we help our CG members to OWN the CG. Brainstorm some ideas.

How do you grow to become more of a FACILITATOR of the CG, rather than it's ALL-DOING LEADER? The difference is in the degree of INVOLVEMENT in running the CG. One such help will be to know at which STAGE the CG is at, and then to increase or decrease personal involvement appropriately. This will enable members to TAKE OWNERSHIP of the CG as OUR CG! Decreasing involvement is not equivalent to decreased commitment to the CG. It just means allowing each member to PARTICIPATE and CONTRIBUTE to the CG, its running, the care of members, and the CG's welfare.

A graph of a leaders and members involvement according to the different PHASE the CG is in, will probably look like this :



➤ INITIAL STAGE

When the CG is at the INITIAL stage (or in its GENESIS), MAXIMUM INPUT is needed from the CG leader, who will be largely responsible in BRINGING THE GROUP TOGETHER, HELPING TO SET DIRECTIONS, and FEEDING them.

➤ GROWING STAGE

The CG will quickly move on to the next stage which is the GROWING stage (inclusive of the STORMY and SPURRING phases). Here is when the leader needs to see himself as more and more a FACILITATOR, allowing the members to BE THEMSELVES, PLAY THEIR ROLES, SETTLE THEIR OWN CONFLICTS and FEED ONE ANOTHER.

➤ CLOSING STAGE

At this CLOSING stage, the CG is going to END. Memembers need to be prepared to SAY GOODBYE to one another and their experience with each other. Here the CG leader needs to take the initiative again, to help usher in this PROCESS of GOOD GOODBYES.



NOW IS THE TIME!

The CG is a dynamic place! It becomes such a place where God can work because we :

WORSHIP

It is not a time filler to sing a few songs before we do something together. CG is NOT a place of DOING, but rather a place of BEING. Being in God's presence! Worshipping together is inviting the Lord Himself to take His place. Much care needs to be given to this facet of the CG.

WORD

GOD WANTS TO SPEAK. Often Bible study becomes a ritual and we just want to get it over and done with. Yet, the irony of it is the HUNGER in most of our hearts to HEAR GOD. Let the POTTER SPEAK through His Word and let it minister to us.

As such, the one facilitating the reading and understanding of God's Word needs to be PREPARED. Bring members to God's Word and let them EXPERIENCE God speaking to them and their situations. We will never be the same again!

WITNESS

Don't forget, there is a CALL UPON OUR HEADS. God's call upon our lives even as we spur one another on in our own pilgrimages, is to allow the CG to EXIST FOR OUR NON-MEMBERS. What it exactly means is that even as we continue to GROW, we need to be constantly MOVING OUTWARD, in otherwords experienceing an OUTBREAK!

It is too late to wait until all our members have their lives sorted out. Being Christian means that we will be sorting out things with our Father, right until the day we die. Christ's BLOOD is on our hands and we need to WITNESS to His redeeming love!



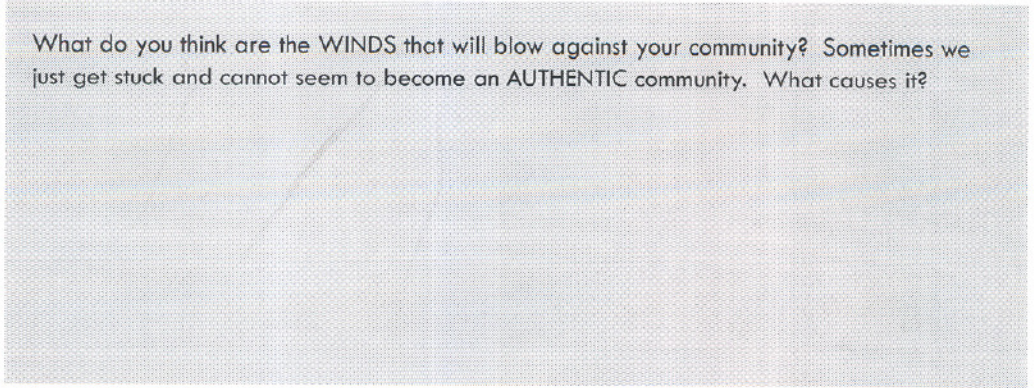
LISTENING PRAYER

What has God been saying to you in this matter of making the CG His HOUSE? How would you like to respond in prayer?

3 - Shaping Against The Blowing Winds



What do you think are the WINDS that will blow against your community? Sometimes we just get stuck and cannot seem to become an AUTHENTIC community. What causes it?



BLOWING WINDS

As CG leaders sometimes we can try all we want to facilitate the forming of community, but the REALITY is that the group just doesn't seem to come together. The blowing winds are strong, but like any wind they cannot be seen only felt! The usual hidden winds are caused by UNMET NEEDS. They come in three forms :



PERSONAL NEEDS

Members have personal needs that need to be met, otherwise they can become stumbling blocks towards the community and the community would not be fulfilling its purpose.



GROUP EDIFICATION NEEDS

There is a reason the group is meeting together. They want to MATURE. Thus, the group needs to be EDIFIED as they each encounter God. Side-tracking will be just that, going off track! We will be no better than a social club.



GROUP DYNAMICS NEEDS

When different people come together, they rub each other differently. This doesn't usually show up when the group is beginning but may cause the CG experience to be one like dancing with porcupines! Thus, we need to attend to the group dynamics we see sensing.

All these 3 needs are diverse in their nature and indeed can be winds that blow away our CG life. As leaders, we need to be meeting these three needs in a BALANCED WAY.



**Individual
Needs**

**Group Edification
Needs**



PERSONAL NEEDS

List down every member in your CG. What do you think is each one's personal unmet needs currently?

GROUP EDIFICATION NEEDS

Where do you feel your CG members need to head this semester? As a group, how do you think God wants you to grow?

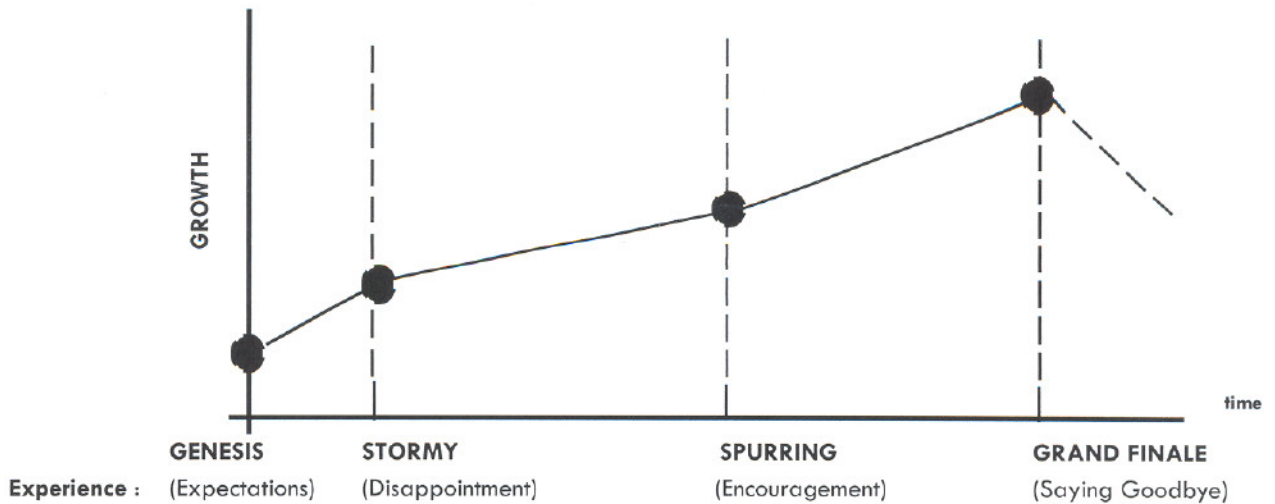
GROUP DYNAMICS NEEDS

How is your CG group life? How are the members relating to one another? What needs to change?



ANOTHER REALITY

People change and so do groups! The CG is bound to go through DIFFERENT STAGES in its growth to become an authentic community. Coming together is a long, arduous process comprising of ups and downs. Each stage becomes successful only with COMMITMENT, and serves to SHARPEN one another into refined persons. At each stage, the group needs will differ and as its CARETAKER, you will need to DISCERN where the CG is and HELP towards moving it on.



As members experience each of these stages, what do you think are the group needs at every point?

GENESIS

STORMY

SPURRING

GRAND FINALE

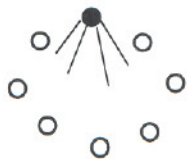
What can help them move on to the next phase in their group life is :

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| → Genesis | - SELF DESCRIPTIVE, GET ACQUAINTED exercises |
| → Stormy | - TRUST BUILDING exercises |
| → Spurring | - DEVELOPING GIFTS and ENTRUSTING service to members |
| → Grand Finale | - EVALUATING, CELEBRATING and APPRECIATING activities |

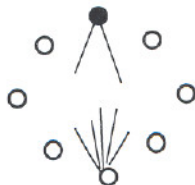


DISASTEROUS SNAPSHOTS

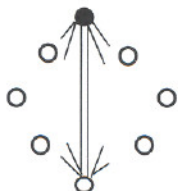
To further drive home the point, you as facilitator are an AGENT who sets the ATMOSPHERE of the group. A leader who is insensitive to where the group is ends up frustrating everyone. The snapshots below paint for us a picture of what can actually be the scenario in our CGs :



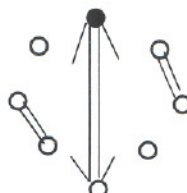
Senior Lecturer



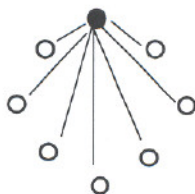
Junior Lecturer



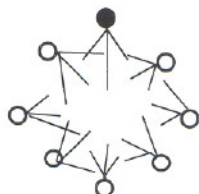
A Cozy Dialogue



3-Cozy Dialogues



School Teacher

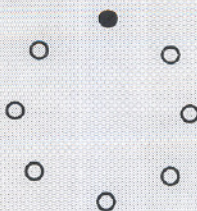


Free-For-All



Brainstorm together the ATMOSPHERE (strengths and weaknesses) of each of these snapshots.

How would a GOOD ATMOSPHERE look like to you? Fill in the lines of communication that might help to set this atmosphere?





A RICH RECIPE

Just to note too, that what adds to the excitement of being a CG leader is not just UNMET NEEDS, or the PHASES the CG goes through, or the LINES OF COMMUNICATION, but also the kinds of PERSONALITIES that colour our CG life. Each brings into the CG joys and pains, strengths and weaknesses. As a leader, you need to respond to each WITH DIGNITY and know that you have been called to minister to each DIFFERENTLY.

Here goes the list of personalities, and it is not exhaustive :

- ⚡ The AWKWARD CRINGER**
- ⚡ The WITHDRAWING INTROVERT**
- ⚡ The NOISE MACHINE**
- ⚡ The JOKING JESTER**
- ⚡ The SULLEN STARER**
- ⚡ The NOSY PARKER**
- ⚡ The PLAYFUL PETER-PAN**
- ⚡ The DOMINATING CENTERPIECE**
- ⚡ The HOKEY-POKEY MAN**
- ⚡ The DOGMATIC BASHER**
- ⚡ The WHINY COMPLAINER**
- ⚡ The POOR-ME MARTYR**



Does this list remind you of some of your CG members? We do not want to LABEL them, but write down your members and what they are like. How can you encourage each one in and through the CG?



A DISCERNING WIND-BREAKER

For real bonding to take place, the CG needs to be facilitated through the different stages, and each different personality brought together in TRUE BONDING with one another. For bonding to take place, there needs to be :

A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

A COMFORTING PRESENCE

AN ACCEPTING ATMOSPHERE

A REAL ENCOUNTER

AN EMPOWERING COMMUNITY

This also will lead towards ownership of the CG. Thus as a leader, DISCERNMENT is the keyword! Being "IN TIME" or *kairos* as spoken of in Ecclesiastes 3: 1-11 will indeed bring about BEAUTY. As leaders, we need to know the SEASONS of our CG so that we can lead with discernment. How do we become that?

Where are they?



BONDING

What do they need?



How can I help?



LISTENING PRAYER

Discernment is one thing the Lord would like to bestow upon you for YOUR OWN GROWTH as a CG leader. How would you like to respond in prayer for yourself and your CG?

4 - A Paradox Of Laying Down Our Lives

Aesop's fables record for us many paradoxes. One such story is that of a huge, solid old OAK tree compared with some thin, waving REEDS by a riverside. There came a violent thunderous STORM which did not abate for hours. Finally, a loud thud was heard and the old oak tree which had stood tall and mighty was no longer standing tall but had been UPROOTED. When the storm finally abated, the oak tree look up and saw the thin reeds STILL STANDING and waving in the wind. What a paradox, something so unlikely happens!

Yes, a paradox is something contrary to received opinion, seemingly absurd but nevertheless true! Leading a CG is often like a paradox. There is no tremendous FANFARE about it, though many go in with many dreams and visions. Often, these are uprooted. What stands is the faithful, sowing and giving heart that ministers in the Name of the Lord.



What is your DREAM for your CG, each member?

What kind of CG leader do you want to be? Be specific.



HOITY-TOITY

Oh yes, all of us at some time or other harbour VISIONS OF GRANDEUR, thinking that we can do better than our predecessors. Often, we see the failings of others, and when we are given the opportunity, we harbour hopes of outshining them.

Leading a CG can also become a matter of building up. The question is, BUILDING WHAT? Self, programmes, or your members? Sometimes our EXPECTATIONS are also so high : expectations of our members, of ourselves and also of God; that we simply squeeze the life out of the CG and face many disappointments.

As leaders we need to be aware of the TEMPTATIONS we face. They are similar to those that Jesus faced after having fasted for forty days (Matthew 4:1-11).



Temptation to be RELEVANT

What is best when you are hungry? Food, off course! Well, that was how Satan tried to tempt Jesus away from His fast. For us, it is the need to be RELEVANT to our members' needs even at the expense of going against God's wishes. We then often fall into the trap of ENTERTAINING and FEEDING our members JUNK FOOD.



Temptation to be **DRAMATIC**

MISUSING THE PROMISES OF GOD is another trap that Satan tried on Jesus. Jump down from the highest tower, and the angels will rescue you. Jesus plainly refused! What about us? God promises us resources, but we often use them to attract attention to ourselves. Sometimes WE LOOM BIGGER than Christ, and often HIDE His GLORY!



Temptation to be **POWERFUL**

Finally, it is the TRAP OF ACQUIRING POWER that Satan uses on Jesus. Worship me, and all the kingdoms will be yours. How tempting to be POWERFUL. We as leaders often have these HIDDEN CRAVINGS for power and to lord it over others. The disciples had it, and so do we!



Think, what may be some of your OWN TEMPTATIONS as a CG leader. What may be your AGENDA for your CG?



PARADOX LEADERSHIP

The advice of a master to his disciple was to pour tea into a teacup until he was told to stop. The pupil continued pouring until the tea overflowed from the cup. Still the master did not bid him to stop. The pupil became more bewildered as the tea began to wet other things and when he couldn't stand it any longer, he blurted out, "What are you doing?" His master answered him, "You are like that teacup, you are too full of yourself and I cannot teach you anything."

Being a LEADER carries the call to LAY DOWN OUR LIVES! What good would our death be. Picture a shepherd laying down his life for his sheep. Through his death, the sheep will live. John 12:24 calls for the seed to die in order for it to bloom into many more seeds. Yes, this is the paradox, DIE in order to GIVE LIFE.

Finally, in order to LEAD, one needs to learn to BE LED. Jesus' final call to Peter in entrusting the leadership of the church to him, was to ask him to, "Follow me!" (John 21:15-22). Yes, the leader is first and foremost a FOLLOWER of the Lord Jesus, OUR CAPTAIN.

The way of leadership leads down the road of paradoxical living. Jesus' commission to Peter in John 21 verified that :

+ **"FEED MY SHEEP"**


The shepherd is no lord, but a SERVANT who finds pastures for his sheep. Listening to what they need, he is called to lead them to where they need to go. If it is to green pastures, then be it so; or if it is to the quiet waters then that is where they must head. Our call is to "FEED MY SHEEP", the Lord's beloved sheep.

+ **"KENOSIS" LAYING DOWN OUR LIVES**

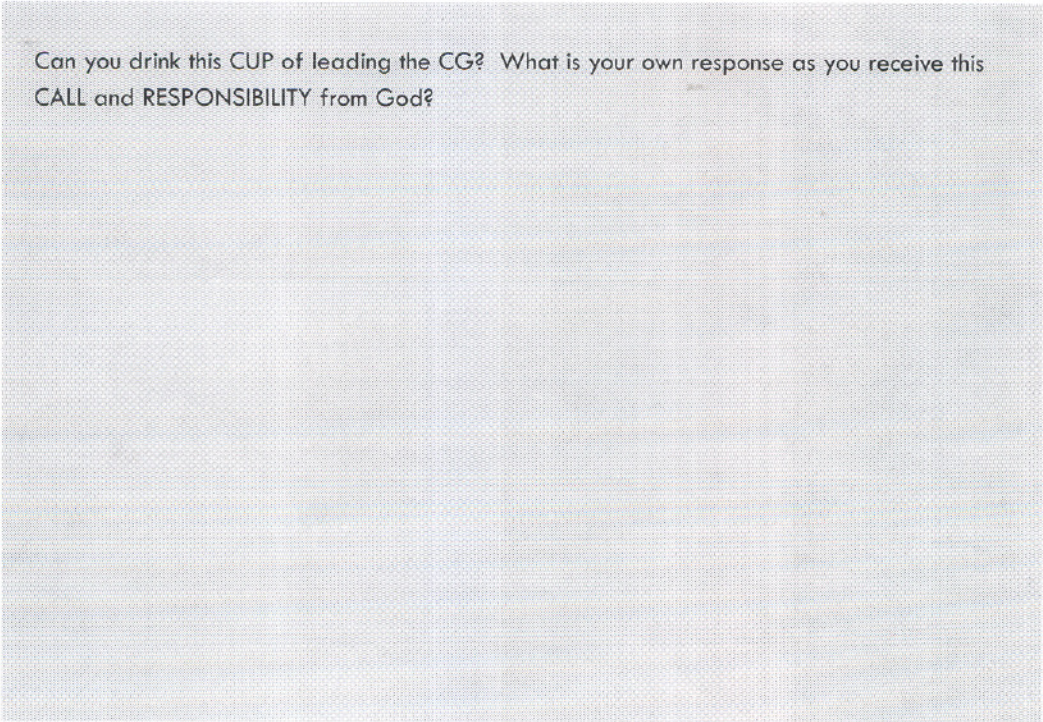
Early on in John 10:10, Jesus already spelt out the standard for a shepherd. He likened Himself to the Good Shepherd, who laid down His life for His sheep. Peter could already envision what his call entailed. To be a shepherd means, to lay down his life - to empty himself ("kenosis"). You and I too have this call upon our heads, to LAY DOWN OUR LIVES in humility, emptying ourselves.

+ **"SOMEBODY ELSE WILL LEAD YOU"**

Similarly too, Peter was cautioned that he was used to leading his own life, but in his old age somebody else will lead him to where he would not want to go. Jesus was trying to warn him of the kind of death Peter would face. More than that, Jesus was helping Peter see that his life was not in his hands. The call was reiterated, "You, follow me." You and I need to allow Jesus to LEAD US and be LORD ("Yahweh", "Kyrios") of our lives.

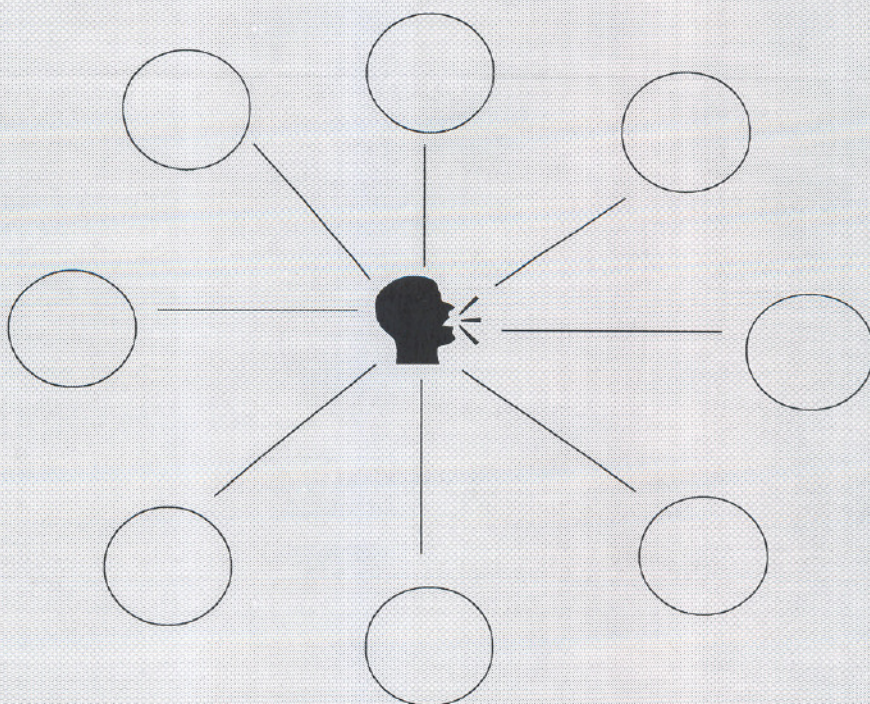


Can you drink this CUP of leading the CG? What is your own response as you receive this CALL and RESPONSIBILITY from God?





Brainstorm together, what you think are your different roles, as a CG leader?



MULTI-COLOURED ROLES

How then can you become a leader who can **SHEPHERD** your flock with care? Pastoral ministry to CARE for your CG members is a MULTI-COLOURED thing. At different times you play a different role for them, sometimes encouraging them, at times rebuking, and more often than not spurring them forward. You and I need to remember we are just **GOD'S INSTRUMENTS** who are best when we model **OPENNESS** and become **SENSITIVE LISTENERS** to God, our members and ourselves.

The roles we are often called to play :

- ✦ **Their PEER** : just being **ONE OF THEM**, sharing the same journey.
- ✦ **Their PROPHET** : **CHALLENGING** them back to God's ways.
- ✦ **Their PRIEST** : **MEDIATING** in prayer for them and hearing God.
- ✦ **Their PASTOR** : **MINISTERING** in the present, to their real needs.



LISTENING PRAYER

Many hard things have been said about being a PARADOX LEADER. But the JOY of serving God is seeing ourselves TRANSFORMED. How would you like to respond in prayer to God, after all has been spoken?

5 - Setting The House In Order

Getting the house in order is no small matter. Having dreams and visions for our CG is one matter, preparing to be a leader is another, but the CG needs to be a **READY VESSEL** to be prepared for God to do His work. Work starts at the beginning, even before the **GENESIS** of the CG, to discern and prepare. Areas that need to be looked into are the CG's Plans, the CG's Bible Study, the CG's Group Life, and the CG's Covenant with one another.



FOR OUR TIMES

The CG plans need to be **TAILOR-MADE** according to the **TIMES** the CG and the CF is going through.



THE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP FLOW

As leaders, we need to be in the mainstream of the Christian Fellowship and the **DIRECTION** it is heading. Then there will be continuity of shaping the members.



THE MEMBERS' NEEDS

Where are your members **INDIVIDUALLY** and **COLLECTIVELY**? What are their **NEEDS** for **NURTURE**?



THE CARE GROUP DYNAMICS NEEDS

Determining at which phase the CG is at - **GENESIS**, **STORMY**, **SPURRING**, **GRAND FINALE**. Then, determining suitable **ICE-BREAKERS** or **ACTIVITIES** to develop authentic community.



WHOLESOME CARE GROUPS

Care Groups are not social clubs, they are the **POTTER'S HOUSE** for God to transform and mould us. Remember to have all components included - **WORSHIP**, **WORD**, **WITNESS** in the **CGs**.



OWNERSHIP OF THE CARE GROUP

Members need to **OWN** the CG. Therefore, it would help if they were **PARTICIPANTS** in planning for their CG. Maybe, the direction can be temporarily set and the details threshed out at the CG meeting.



RESOURCES

There are plenty of **RESOURCES FOR PLANNING** for CGs - Bible Study guides galore; Ideas for Ice Breaker activities; CG Handbooks with more ideas.



EVALUATING

Looking at yourself as the CG leader and evaluating how things went will make you a better leader. Also, evaluate how well the group functioned. Recognise informal roles members played. Plan for **IMPROVEMENTS** the next time around.



COVENANT

Get ready a CG **COVENANT** where everybody can make a commitment to the CG and to one another. This can be an incentive to be committed to the CG. Do so only if you feel your members are open or ready for such a thing.



WORD TO LIFE

Bible study in the CG is not meant to be a rhetorical activity just to be over and done with. This is the time we can hear God SPEAKING to us, our lives and our situations. Shape the group atmosphere in such a way that it becomes a WORD TO LIFE encounter and a LIFE TO WORD encounter.



Characteristics :

IMMERSED IN THE WORD IMMERSED IN THE WORLD

- 1) Real QUESTIONS - real ANSWERS**
- 2) Real STRUGGLES - real HOPE**
- 3) Real NEEDS - real FULFILLMENT**
- 4) Real GUILT - real FORGIVENESS**
- 5) Real BROKENNESS - real HEALING**
- 6) Real SEARCH FOR MEANING - real FRUITFUL LIVING**

Bring your members to the WORD and let it SPEAK to them DIRECTLY. Do not be their TEACHER, rather a FACILITATOR of studying God's Word INDUCTIVELY.



SEMESTER :

YEAR :

CF Theme :

Identified Needs of Members :

GOALS for CG Members This Semester :

Programme Planning :

Week 1 -

Week 7 -

Week 2 -

Week 8 -

Week 3 -

Week 9 -

Week 4 -

Week 10 -

Week 5 -

Week 11 -

Week 6 -




Week 12 -



COVENANT

I, hereby agree to make this covenant with all of you my CARE GROUP members whom I shall consider as my family here in campus.

I shall OWN and PARTICIPATE in this family through GIVING and RECEIVING

-  AVAILABILITY
-  AFFIRMATION
-  OPENNESS
-  HONESTY
-  SENSITIVITY
-  CONFIDENTIALITY
-  PRAYER
-  NURTURE (through God's Word)

My signature below signifies my COMMITMENT to this COVENANT made to this family with the following members;

- | | |
|----|-----|
| 1. | 7. |
| 2. | 8. |
| 3. | 9. |
| 4. | 10. |
| 5. | 11. |
| 6. | 12. |

.....
Signature

.....
Date