

Sabbath School Reimagined

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A look at how Small Groups and Sabbath School compliments each other.

- A. The church model to develop now
 - a. Latter Rain Model
 - b. Time of trouble Model
- B. The four objectives of the Sabbath School
 - a. Study of the Word
 - b. Fellowship
 - c. Community Outreach
 - d. World Mission Emphasis
- C. **Basic divine imperatives for a finished work**
 - a. “The Sabbath School should be one of the greatest instrumentalities and the most effectual in bringing souls to Christ.” Councils on Sabbath School Work. P.10.

Sabbath School Challenges

- A. Research reveals that nearly 20% of those who have been Adventists from 4 to 10 years never study their Sabbath School lessons.
- B. The comparison between members on the church books and Sabbath school attendance shows a large number of missing members.
- C. The majority of teachers have never had any training.

Other Basic divine imperatives for a finished work

- i. “The greatest help that can be given our people is to teach them to work for God, and to depend on Him, not on ministers.” —*Testimonies*, vol.7, p. 19.
- ii. “The work of God in this earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work, and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers.” - *Gospel Workers*, p. 352.
- iii. “Preaching is a small part of the work to be done for the salvation of souls. God's Spirit convicts sinners of the truth, and He places them in the arms of the church. The ministers may do their part, but they can never perform the work that the church should do.” - *Testimonies*, vol. 4, p. 69. {ChS 68.2}
- iv. *The dissemination of the truth of God is not confined to a few ordained ministers. The truth is to be scattered by all who claim to be disciples of Christ. It must be sown beside all waters.* Review and Herald, Aug. 22, 1899.
- v. *Ministers may preach pleasing and forcible discourses, and much labor may be put forth to build up and make the church prosperous; but unless its individual members shall act their part as servants of Jesus Christ, the church will ever be in darkness and without strength. Hard and dark as the world is, the influence of a really consistent example will be a power for good.* - *Testimonies*, vol. 4, pp. 285, 286.

Note: Could Small Groups Ministry be the missing link to a reimagined Sabbath School and Church Worship experience?

- A. “Prepare the Church through Transformation”
 - a. Prepare People Through Transformation
 - b. Prepare Individuals for Small Group Life
 - c. Prepare the Church for Small Groups
- B. “Prepare People through Transformation”
 - a. Three depths of change

Three Depths of Change: Developmental: Seeking to improve what they are already doing. Reading a book, going to a seminar.

Transitional: When we discover that old method do not work so new ones are needed. New Worship styles, buildings, etc. New Pastor or staff.

Transformational: Occurs when a church deals with external structures of programs, training, and systems. Also the Values that we employ that drives our churches, school and institutions. God has to be the one who changes the human hearts.

- b. Small Group transition or Small Group transformation
- c. A transformation of values
- C. Missing Values in the American Churches
 - i. Radical obedience
 - ii. Church loyalty
 - iii. Accountability
 - iv. Persecution
 - v. Diversity
 - vi. Salvation by grace alone
 - vii. Family spirituality
 - viii. Stewardship
 - ix. Submission to authority
 - x. Discipline
 - xi. Biblical knowledge
 - xii. Holiness

xiii. Elderly care

xiv. Patience etc.

D. “Prepare People through Transformation”

- a. Three depths of change
- b. A transformation of values
- c. Transformation through repentance
- d. A come-back congregation (Pantego Bible Church)
- e. Getting over slow death

E. “Prepare Individuals for Small Group Life”

- a. Jesus’ preparation strategy
- b. Preaching Small Group values
- c. Calling the crowd together for special prayer gathering
- d. Dealing with unhealthy patterns in the corporate body.

F. “Prepare Small Group Members”

- a. Create a Small Group discussion time
 - i. Preparation class
 - ii. Share Small Group Vision
- b. Create a prayer ministry training opportunity
- c. Develop short-term prayer and praise groups
- d. Prepare people in free market groups for a transformation into holistic small groups.
- e. Transform a regular Sabbath School program, Worship Service or Wednesday night into a time to share the values of Small Group Ministry.

G. “Prepare the First Small Group Leaders”

- i. Hidden Sin
- ii. Rebellion
- iii. Un-forgiveness

- iv. Marital Strife
- v. Mentor by the Senior Pastor
- vi. Focus on the quality of Group Leaders
- vii. Determine if the primary influencers are ready to enter into Small Group Ministry Life.
- viii. Pray over Key Influencers who seem unready.

H. “Prepare the Church for Small Group”

- a. Give permission to the Pastor to lead and equip
- b. Create room to develop leaders
- c. Stay the course (3-5 Years)
- d. Embrace brokenness
- e. Competing or Complementing Vision
- f. Church Polity issues
 - i. Episcopal Rule
 - ii. Presbyter Rule
 - iii. Congregation Rule
- g. Committee Structure

I. One Principle that make Small Groups Work

The Senior Pastor or a primary officer carries the vision for the church. While they do not dictate, the congregation does not dictate their job to them. He/she leads and the church governmental system allows the individual to lead.

Ellen White and Small Companies

“The formation of small companies as a basis of Christian effort is a plan that has been presented before me by One who can not err. If there is a large number in the church, let the members be formed into small companies, to work not only for the church members but for unbelievers also.” *Evangelism*, p. 115.

***“If Christians worked in harmony, advancing as one individual, under the direction of only one power for the realization of only one purpose, they would move the world”.* *Christian Service*, 75.**