

Class Objectives – After this class you will be able to:

- Learners will be aware of different ways to categorize church-based curriculum.
- Learners will grow in a conviction to do ministry intergenerationally.
- Learners will catch a vision of the small group as a means of restorative engagement with the world.

Key Terms:

- Participant-centered curriculum
- Content-centered curriculum
- Transformative interdependence
- Survey
- Small Groups
- Facilitative Coach
- Spectator
- Helper
- Lecturer

Pre-lesson Recommended Reading:

- Chapters 19 of M. Anthony's *Introducing Christian Education*:
 - i. Gorman, Julie. (pp. 176-184). Small Groups in the Local Church.
- Harkness.
- Seaver.

Curriculum, Intergenerational Ministry and Small Groups

I. Curriculum Development and Application

A. Four broad areas of curriculum

1. Bible (Old and New Testament)
2. Theology (including church history)
3. Contemporary Issues (war, peace, ethics, decision-making, God's will, etc.)
4. Ministry Skills (how to, sharing your faith, Bible study)

B. Participant-centered (or affinity-based) curriculum and content-centered curriculum

1. participant-centered and content-centered curriculum are both valuable and should be used together
2. participant-centered: opportunities and challenges
3. content-centered: opportunities and challenges

C. Motivation and evaluation

II. Importance of Doing Ministry Intergenerationally

A. Material by Harkness

1. "participating in the life of a congregation provides believers with a worldview and understanding of all creation, the destiny of human beings, and basic attitude toward sin, forgiveness, justice, mercy, money, and values" (Harkness)
2. "enhances spiritual life"
3. "helps in obtaining the mind of Christ in decision-making"
4. "encourages and supports quest for God's presence and guidance"
5. the value of intergenerational ministry is proven by research

B. Intergenerational ministry need to be intentional

1. Some possibilities
2. Research on the stated wants of parents and teenagers

Please **PAUSE** the recording and complete the following **Activity** (14.1).

Consider the question, “How can we keep asking our people questions?” What mechanisms are in place in your ministry to invite others to give feedback? What does your ministry do with that feedback?

Using a SWOT analysis, identify internal Strengths and Weaknesses as well as external Opportunities and Threats of the way your ministry gathers and handles information from its people.

<u>Ministry:</u>	<u>Strengths:</u>	<u>Weaknesses:</u>	<u>Opportunities:</u>	<u>Threats:</u>

III. Small Group Ministries:

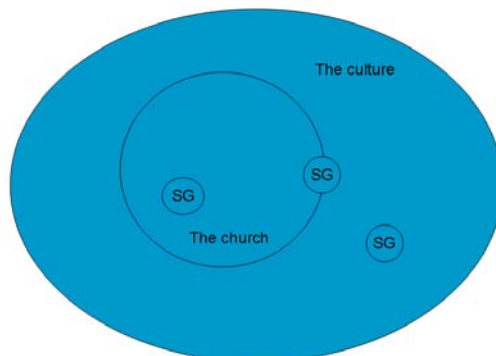
A. Mark 3:13-19

Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. He appointed twelve – designating them apostles – that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach and to have authority to drive out demons. These are the twelve he appointed: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter, James son of Zebedee and his brother John (to them he gave the name Boanerges, which means Sons of Thunder); Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

1. Rhythm: they came, were taught, were sent, came back, debriefed, were taught, were sent, came back...
2. They have names – they were real.

B. Small Groups in Kingdom Geography

Small groups in kingdom geography

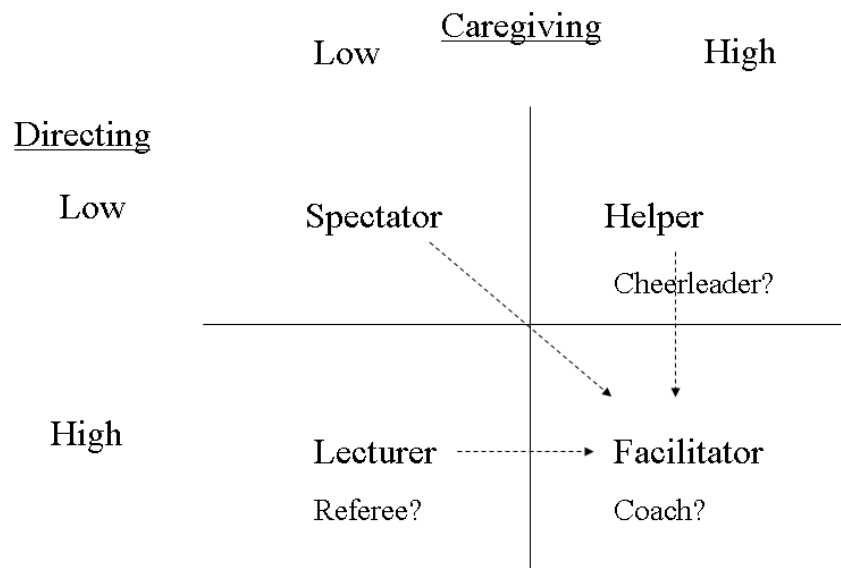


1. Kingdom Oriented Activities
 - mercy ministry
 - discipling communities
 - investigative Bible studies
 - citizenship: local, national, world
 - windows of cultural insight and contact
 - museums
 - poetry readings
 - book discussions
 - film/music discussions
 - concerts
 - public lectures

C. Leading small groups

1.

Potential Leader Roles



Participant Process Spectrum

Confrontation-----Avoidance
 Structured-----Flexible
 Personal focus-----Corporate focus
 Efficiency-----Satisfaction
 Consensus-----Divergence
 Edification-----Service
 The Material-----The People
 Talking-----Listening

2.

Issues and Answers

- Be quick to listen, slow to speak (James 1:19)
- Establish ground rules tied to evaluation (handout)
- Ask good questions - Begin with big themes
- Cultivate reflection and silence
- Pursue bunny trails
- Say "I don't know."
- Welcome creativity
- Respond to time-sensitive needs
- Affirm effort not just performance
- Encourage corporate responses to Scripture



3.

Helpful Ground Rules

- Assumptions (mine)- Scripture as authority, maturity goal and process, giving and receiving welcome
- Expectations (all) - respect, fellowship, unity in diversity, questions and guidance, leadership and followership, fun, prayer
- Contributions (all) - attendance and presence, preparation of meals and studies, roles, praying, confidentiality

4. Bloom’s taxonomy applied to Bible study

Asking Good Questions: Using Bloom and SOAR

Knowledge - identify, recite, list

Comprehension - interpret, paraphrase, illustrate

Transfer - construct, demonstrate, implement

Analysis - categorize, diagram, outline, compare

Synthesis - design, develop, plan, create

Evaluation - critique, appraise, rank, rate, assess

Bloom et al. (1956) Taxonomy of Educational Objectives

SOAR: Survey Observe Analyze Respond

5. SOAR applied to Bible study

Bible Study for Discerning People: <i>A Simple Summary.</i>	
Survey: Getting an overview of the whole. ¹	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read the entire book, preferably in one setting & several times. 2. Note your general or first impressions, & any questions. 3. Divide the book into main parts, giving a brief title to each.
Observation: What does the text say?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note any repetitions, contrasts, cause/effects, descriptions, lists, quotations, explanations, questions. 2. Note any facts: who, where, when, what, why. 3. Note verbs, pronouns, modifiers. 4. Note anything you have a question about.
Analysis (1): What does the text mean?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Define words, phrases, concepts. 2. Chart the flow of thought or argument. 3. Determine the significance or meaning of observations. 4. Check your interpretation with secondary standards.
Analysis (2): How does the text relate to the rest of Scripture?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To what has gone before & what comes after in the same book. 2. To any other book by the same author (if appropriate). 3. To the rest of Scripture. 4. Chart the flow of thought or argument throughout the book. 5. If appropriate, read the historical section in Scripture which covers the identical time period as the passage under study.
Response (1): What does it mean for us?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Since this is God's Word, what do we hear him saying and what are we going to do about it? 2. Are there promises, doctrines, or commands we should note? 3. For what should we give thanks? worship? confess?
Response (2): How does this engage our postmodern pluralistic world?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is taught here about how we know things? about God? about man? about the Fall? about redemption? about Christ? about history & where it's headed? 2. What alternative beliefs are presented by our culture? 3. Why do we believe the Christian answer to be true? 4. How can we talk about and live out the Christian position in a winsome & reasonable way in our pluralistic society? 5. What are the implications for the family? the church? the state? for our work? politics? relationships? our involvement with the media? the arts and beauty? leisure and rest? etc.?

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IV. “The Salvation Song” by the Avett Brothers:

A. Lyrics

*If you take my heart
 [Do not] leave the smallest part
 [I have] no need to live if [you are] to come up
 gone
 And as my life turns to a song
 And if and when I treat you wrong
 No I never want to hurt our family*

*And I would give up everything
 No, this is not just about me
 And I [do not] know a plainer way to say it,
 Babe
 And they may pay us off in fame
 Though that is not why we came
 And I know well and good that [will not] heal
 our hearts*

*We came for salvation
 We came for family
 We came for all [that is] good, [that is] how
 [we will] walk away
 We came to break the bad
 We came to cheer the sad
 We came to leave behind the world a better
 way*

*Now if [I am] [walking] through the rain
 And I hear you call my name
 I will break into a run without a pause
 And if your love laughs at your dreams
 Well [it is] not as bad as it seems
 Either way one of them has got to go
 And if you take of my soul
 You can still leave it whole
 With the pieces of your own you leave behind*

*We came for salvation
 We came for family*

*We came for all [that is] good [that is] how
 [we will] walk away
 We came to break the bad
 We came to cheer the sad
 We came to leave behind the world a better
 way*

*And I would give up everything
 And if you were to come up clean
 And see you shine so bright in a world of woe
 And they may pay us off in fame
 But that is not why we came
 And if it compromises truth then we will go*

*We came for salvation
 We came for family
 We came for all [that is] good [that is] how
 [we will] walk away
 We came to break the bad
 We came to cheer the sad
 We came to leave behind the world a better
 way*

Please complete the following **Activity** (14.2).

List several ideas, concepts, or pieces of information you learned during this lesson, and a corresponding opportunity within which you could immediately apply what you learned.

<u>Ideas, concepts, and information:</u>	<u>Opportunities:</u>

V. Questions for Consideration:

1. What is one step you can take to utilize your ministry’s strengths or to improve upon its weaknesses?

VI. Recommended Reading:

1. *Small Group Leaders’ Handbook: The Next Generation* by Jimmy Long
2. *The Big Book on Small Groups* by Jeffrey Arnold
3. *Community that is Christian: A Handbook on Small Groups* by Julie A. Gorman
4. *Making Small Groups Work: What Every Small Group Leader Needs to Know* by Henry Cloud and John Townsend
5. *Biblical Foundations for Small Group Ministry: An Integrational Approach* by Gareth Weldon Icenogle
6. <http://www.christiantoday.com/smallgroups/>
7. <http://www.ransomfellowship.org>