



Who Are We?

Main Point: We change the world with Jesus as we find our people.

The goal of this training is to provide you with direction, helpful information, and practical tools that'll set your small group up for success.

This training is made up of 4 key sections: Gather, Grow, Give, and Goals, and these sections include 1-3 short video modules. These 4 sections will be the framework needed to build and lead a thriving small group. This training also includes a bonus section on *Launching & Leading a Groups online*.

Teaching

Why small groups? Why are they significant? Why do they matter? Groups matter because we want to change the world with Jesus. This is an assignment that Jesus has given us all as Believers. Actually, this is what Jesus said to His disciples in what is known as the Great Commission in Matthew 28:16-20,

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

What is Jesus saying here? Jesus essentially says, "Use my power and authority to change the world by changing lives." But I want to notice something... Jesus entrusted this commission to a group of people, and not a single individual. He gave this charge to a group of people that for three years had gathered around His presence and His activity. They had become friends; they had become family. They had become a small group of people that knew one another intimately and knew Jesus intimately.

And we know from reading the book of Acts that these disciples committed themselves to doing life together even after Jesus left the earth, and they were known as the "ones who turned the world upside down".



What's the point? The point is that "We change the world with Jesus as we find our people."

This is why our Groups mission statement here at the Vineyard is "Change the world with Jesus, together." Because what Jesus and His disciples model for us is that community is the environment where life change and impact begin.

We do not have an independent faith; we have an interdependent faith. Just like we see modeled in the Bible, individuals make up "small groups", small groups make up a "church", churches make up "the Body of Christ". And in the same way, each small group in the Vineyard is an important part of the Vineyard Body.

So as small group leaders you are a part of something way larger than yourself and what you are doing impacts the lives of the individuals in your small group, but also impacts and contributes to our broader Church and our communities.

So as leaders our goal is to create a space where people can belong, be, then do. First, groups at the Vineyard are places of belonging, then they are a place where people can be themselves and learn about who God created them to be, and finally they are a place where people can learn to do what Jesus has called them to do. This is what Jesus modeled. He welcomed His disciples to join His space before they ever did one miracle or good deed. He made them feel safe and like they belonged. Then he allowed them to be authentically themselves and practice with Him how to be all that God had called them to be.

This is what people are looking for. People are longing for belonging. They're looking for friends and family. They are looking for ways to impact the world around them and make it better. And over the next 4 sections of this training, we will share with you how to create a small group that will help people in our church and community belong, be, and do -- a group where individuals can find their people.

