CoMission

WORKBOOK

Groups That Start Groups

Getting to the third generation — and knowing why most people stop at the first.

Print it, write in it, and take it to the group.

comission.cc

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The law underneath everything

REMEMBER

People reproduce only what they've seen done and believe they could do themselves.

THE FOUR STAGES, AND THE LAW UNDER ALL OF THEM

These describe a group's life, not how it studies — that stays Eat → Digest → Grow at every stage.

1. Seed	Protect. Seekers and new believers learning to obey for the first time — do not rush them into an established congregation's rhythms.
2. Seedling	Encourage when invited. Obeying out loud, facilitating a first session. Pastoral care when they ask; not your presence at every meeting.
3. Growing plant	Come alongside. A second and third group appearing, leadership gifts emerging. Advocacy and private strengthening, never management.
4. Fruit-bearing	Partner as equals. Self-sustaining and multiplying. Step down from oversight, then send them back into the rooms you protected them from.

You have a healthy group. People come, they obey what they read, somebody is even leading well. A year later it is still one group. You have quietly begun to wonder whether it is the people.

It usually isn't the people.

Two gates, not one

People reproduce only what they have seen done, **and** only what they believe they could do themselves. Both gates have to open. Miss either one and the chain stops with you.

The first gate is obvious: nobody passes on a method they only heard described. The second gate is the one that quietly kills groups. Someone can watch you facilitate beautifully — warm, wise, never missing a question — and learn exactly one thing: *that takes a gift I don't have.* You cleared the seeing gate. You failed the believing gate.

Watch this chapter

NOTES

Model at the floor, not the ceiling

The fix is not recruiting harder. Most people are willing; they have simply never watched a version of this they believed was theirs to try.

So ask the question and then bite your tongue. Say “I don’t know — where do you see it in the passage?” out loud, on purpose. Let the silence sit past the point that is comfortable for you. Be visibly ordinary, so the honest reaction in the room is *that’s it? I could do that.*

That is not lowering the bar on truth. It is raising the bar on copyability, on purpose.

Reflect and Discuss

1. **Write the plainest, least polished thing you did in front of your group this month. Not your best moment — your most ordinary one.**

2. **Two gates have to open: they saw it done, and they believe they could do it. Which one is your group nearer to? Write what makes you say so.**

3. **Write the name of one person who was in the room when you did that ordinary thing.**

4. **"I will ask ____ whether they believe they could do what they watched me do, on ____."**

John 13:1-17

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   What does Jesus do for his disciples, and what does he tell them to do?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   What kind of service feels beneath you?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   Who will you serve humbly this week?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Who could you teach to serve by your example?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *Jesus, you knelt to wash your disciples' feet. Give me a servant's heart to do the same for others, not counting it beneath me.*

This study online

Seed — protect it

REMEMBER

> A seed transplanted into a sleepy congregation absorbs complacency before it develops roots.

SARDIS — A REPUTATION FOR BEING ALIVE

> **Revelation 3:1-2**
>
> To the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of the one who possesses the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I am aware of your deeds; you have a reputation for being alive, yet you are dead. Be vigilant and strengthen what remains, which is on the verge of dying, for I have found your deeds incomplete in the sight of my God.
>
> The Open Translation Bible (OTB), openbible.uk, CC BY-SA 4.0.

Jesus loved Sardis enough to wake it rather than abandon it. The same love that names sleepiness honestly is the love that keeps a seed from catching it too early. This is quarantine of a culture, never of people.

A brand-new group calls you, excited. Someone in it has just believed. They want to bring everyone to your church on Sunday — meet the family, they say. Every instinct in you says yes immediately.

Saying yes too soon may be the worst thing you could do for them.

A seed is supposed to look like this

Phase one is seekers and brand-new believers: curious about Scripture, learning to listen and obey for the first time, unsure of doctrine and unsure of almost everything except that something real happens when they open the Bible together. That is not weakness. That is exactly what a seed looks like.

The posture the phase asks for is **protect**. Pray for them. Celebrate every obedience, however small. And resist, for now, the urge to fold them into an established congregation's rhythms.

Watch this chapter

NOTES

Complacency is contagious

New disciples are the most impressionable people in the kingdom — full of zeal, full of fresh obedience. Put them too early into a room where nobody obeys out loud, nobody shares their faith and nobody expects to multiply, and they will learn that culture faster than that culture learns from them.

Quarantine of a culture, not of people

Nobody is being kept from anyone. Protecting is timing, not isolation. Keep the group meeting in the home where it started, keep the questions simple, keep the focus on obedience rather than doctrine. Let them pray for the sick, tell a neighbour their story, invite a cousin to read with them — every muscle a seed is built to grow.

Reflect and Discuss

1. **Name one group you coach that is still in phase one — still discovering, still learning to obey out loud.**

2. **What have you been tempted to bring them into this month? An invitation, a programme, a meeting. Write it plainly.**

3. **If that group walked into that room next Sunday, what would they learn about obedience from watching it? Write what you actually expect, not what you hope.**

4. **"I will wait to introduce ____ to ____ until ____."**

NOTES

— DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

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The sower and the soils

Mark 4:1-20

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   What happens to the seed on each of the four kinds of ground?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   Which of the four soils looks most like your heart right now?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   What thorn — worry, money, or wanting other things — will you pull up this week so the word can grow?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Who could you retell this story of the farmer and the four soils to this week?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *God, make my heart the good soil — not the hard path, the rocky ground, or the thorns. Let your word take root in me and bear a harvest of thirty, sixty, a hundred times.*

This study online

Seedling — encourage when invited

REMEMBER

Pastoral care yes, takeover no.

THE FARMER SLEEPS

Mark 4:28-29

The earth produces crops by itself; first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the crop is ready, he immediately puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.

The Open Translation Bible (OTB), openbible.uk, CC BY-SA 4.0.

Between planting and harvest the farmer does not stand over the blade coaxing it upward. The growth is real, it is happening, and it is not his to force. Near enough to notice; far enough to let it grow on its own timing.

The group you protected for months is starting to obey out loud. Someone shared their faith with a coworker this week. Another prayed a whole sentence out loud for the first time. And now the facilitator calls you — not for permission, just to talk something through.

Your instinct is to finally step in and help. That is the right instinct for this phase. The question is what help means now.

Watch this chapter

NOTES

What has changed

Phase two is early growth: small obedient steps, first conversations with family and friends, a first session facilitated. They still need strengthening, but the shape of the need has changed. In phase one they needed protection from a culture that could smother them. Now they need accountability and encouragement, so the habit of obeying holds.

Both halves of the posture

Pastoral care, yes. When the facilitator calls confused about a passage, walk through it with them. When someone is struggling, pray with them. When they ask how to handle an awkward silence, tell them the truth: sit in it.

Takeover, no. The moment you attend every session, correct every answer, or quietly become the one everyone looks to before deciding anything, you have stopped mentoring and started running their group. A seedling that never has to stand on its own never learns to.

The question before every visit

Did they invite this, or did I decide they needed it? Ask it before every phone call, every drop-in, every piece of advice. And when they do something well without you, say so out loud, naming exactly what you watched them do alone.

Reflect and Discuss

1. Name one facilitator you coach who is in phase two right now.

2. Write one thing you have been doing for them that they never actually asked you to do.

3. Think of your last three contacts with that group. For each one, write whether they invited it, or you decided they needed it.

4. Write one specific thing that group did well without your help — in the words you will actually say to them out loud.

5. **"I will step back from ____ with ____, starting ____."**

NOTES

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The weeds and the mustard seed

Matthew 13:24-33

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   What does the farmer tell his servants to do about the weeds, and what does the mustard seed become?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   Where are you tempted to give up on something of God because it still looks small?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   What small act of faith will you plant this week, trusting God to grow it?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Who feeling small or discouraged could you retell the mustard seed story to this week?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *Father, thank you that your kingdom starts as small as a mustard seed and still grows into something great. Give me patience like the farmer who waited for the harvest instead of tearing up the field.*

This study online

Growing plant — come alongside

REMEMBER

Alongside, never over.

TAKEN ASIDE, PRIVATELY

Acts 18:26

He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained the way of God to him more accurately.

The Open Translation Bible (OTB), openbible.uk, CC BY-SA 4.0.

One conversation, two people, no audience. Barnabas did the same for Saul — advocacy, not absorption: he stood beside him and made his story credible to people who needed convincing. Neither of them folded anyone into a programme.

Something has shifted. The group you have been coaching has started a second group, then a third. Real leadership gift is showing up in people who could not have named a Bible book a year ago, and they are asking questions you cannot answer off the cuff — about doctrine, about disagreement, about what a healthy church looks like long-term.

They do not need protecting anymore. They need something harder to give.

The posture is come alongside

Phase three is the multiplying stage: disciples reproducing disciples, second- and third-generation groups appearing, a genuine hunger for depth that was not there before. Keep the study simple — that does not change — and begin modelling prayer, worship and Scripture memory alongside it.

Two pictures, and what each one rules out

Barnabas walked into a room of believers who did not trust the new convert Saul, and vouched for him. Advocacy, not absorption. He did not put Saul under a supervising committee; he stood beside him and made his story credible.

Watch this chapter

NOTES

Priscilla and Aquila heard Apollos teaching boldly but incompletely, and took him aside — privately, relationally. Not from a stage, not in front of the crowd he had just taught. Alongside, in a conversation, strengthening what was already strong.

Why this is harder than protecting

Coming alongside is more vulnerable than either protecting or controlling, because it asks you to stay close enough to be genuinely useful without ever taking the reins. You will be tempted here, more than anywhere, to mistake your comfort for their need — to add a requirement, a form, one more meeting, because it would make you feel better about where they are headed.

The growing plant needs your presence, not your management.

Reflect and Discuss

1. Name one group in phase three — already multiplying, already asking you questions you cannot answer off the cuff.

2. What have you thought about asking them for? A requirement, a check-in, a report. Write it, and write what it would do for you.

3. Read that back. Was it for their growth, or for your confidence? Write your honest answer.

4. Who needs a Priscilla-and-Aquila conversation from you — taken aside, privately, strengthening something already strong?

5. "I will offer to walk alongside ____ on ____, and let them decide what they need."

NOTES

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Shepherd the flock

1 Peter 5:1-11

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   How does Peter tell the elders to shepherd — and how are they not to do it?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   What kind of shepherd are you becoming — willing and eager, or pressured and controlling?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   Whom in your group or future plant will you begin developing as a shepherd this week, and what is the first step?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Whom will you tell the names of the future shepherds you are praying over?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *Chief Shepherd, the flock is yours, not mine. Make me an example rather than a lord, and raise up shepherds from among the very people we reach.*

This study online

Fruit-bearing — partner as equals

REMEMBER

DBS groups don't just reach the lost; they revive the found.

WHAT A FRUIT-BEARING GROUP DOES BACK IN THE ROOM

A church that receives one obedient, multiplying disciple has received a live coal — a single life obeying out loud in a room that has forgotten what that looks like.

1. Its stories	Members saying plainly, in a Sunday gathering, what they obeyed this week.
2. The question	After the sermon, out loud: how will you obey this? Asked by somebody with no title and no platform.
3. A class	Helps a stale Sunday school class become a discovery group — from inside it, by being in it.
4. More groups	Mobilises other believers to start their own. It needs your welcome now, not your permission.

There is a moment, if you have coached long enough, when the group in front of you no longer needs you the way it used to. Its leaders discern Scripture on their own. It multiplies without your involvement. It has a hunger for worship and sound doctrine that grew on its own timing, not because you scheduled it.

You did not build this. You protected it long enough for it to become this.

Not students. Not projects. Partners.

Every earlier phase asked something of you — protect, encourage, walk alongside. This one asks you to step down from whatever posture of oversight you still carry, even the gentlest version, and stand next to these leaders as genuine equals. That is not a hope by this phase. It is already true.

Watch this chapter

NOTES

Now send them back in

Here is the turn that surprises most coaches: these mature disciples are ready to go back into the sleepy congregations you once protected them from.

This is the whole arc completing itself. You protected a seed from a room's complacency. You watched it root, then multiply, then mature. And now that same seed walks back into that same kind of room — not as a pew-warmer waiting to be told what to do, but as a live coal.

Sardis needed waking, not replacing. So does most every sleepy congregation. And Jesus' method for waking a sleeping church was never a sermon from outside it. It was life, planted back inside it.

Reflect and Discuss

1. Name one leader or group ready for phase four — ready to walk back into a congregation as a partner, not a project.

2. What oversight are you still carrying with them, however gentle? Write it plainly.

3. Which room would you send them into? Write what that room would gain — and what it might cost them.

4. **"I will invite ____ to share their story with ____, on ____."**

— DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

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“Tell them what the Lord has done”

Mark 5:18-20

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   What does the freed man ask for, and what does Jesus send him to do instead?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   What has the Lord done for you that your family and friends have never heard?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   Will you write out this week, in a few sentences you can say aloud, what the Lord has done for you?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Who in your own home or town will hear it first, and when will you tell them?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *Jesus, you have done great things for me and had mercy on me. Send me home to tell my own people, even when I would rather stay with you.*

This study online

Running the arc backward

REMEMBER

> Most damage to young movements comes from running the arc backward.

LOOK FOR THE SIGNS, NOT THE BIRTHDAY

Phase is about maturity, not months. A group of eight months that is reproducing may already be phase three.

1. Obeying?	Are they still learning to obey out loud, or already teaching somebody else to do it?
2. Discerning?	Are they curious about doctrine, or already handling it soundly without you in the room?
3. Reproduced?	A real, distinct new group — not more people in the same one. This is what separates phase two from phase three.
4. Who decides?	Do their leaders look to you before every decision, or occasionally, by choice?

You already know the four postures — protect, encourage when invited, come alongside, partner as equals. Knowing them is not the hard part. The hard part is that they only work in order, and it is astonishingly easy to hand a group the wrong one.

Watch this chapter

NOTES

Two ways backward looks

A brand-new group, barely a month old, is invited into full partnership — joint projects, a shared platform, equal billing at the next outreach. That is the phase-four posture handed to a phase one. The seed has no roots yet, and it absorbs whatever culture surrounds it, including busyness dressed up as ministry.

Now the opposite. A group that has been reproducing for two years, whose leaders read Scripture more carefully than most seminary graduates, is still treated as fragile — checked on constantly, corrected gently but constantly, never quite trusted to stand alone. That is the

phase-one posture handed to a phase four. The plant is ready to bear and nobody will stop watering the roots long enough to let it.

Both mistakes come from good intentions. Both do real harm.

Maturity, not months

The question you are actually asking, every time you assess a group, is not *how long have they existed* but *what have I watched them do.* Look for the signs, not the birthday — and then bring the posture that matches what you found, not the one you have got used to giving.

Reflect and Discuss

1. Name one group you coach, and write which posture you have actually been giving it.

2. Answer the four questions in the panel for that group. Write the answers, not your impression of them.

3. Compare the two. If the posture and the phase do not match, write which direction you are off.

4. **"I will re-assess ____'s phase, honestly, on ____."**

— DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

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Fruit and foundations

Luke 6:43-49

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   What is the difference between the man who builds on rock and the one who builds without a foundation?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   What does the fruit of your words and actions say about what is stored in your heart?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   What one thing Jesus said have you heard but not yet done — and will you do this week?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Who do you know whose life is being shaken and needs a foundation on the rock?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *Jesus, I don't want to just call you 'Lord, Lord' — I want to dig deep and build my life on your words. Change my heart so that good fruit grows.*

This study online

Six ways a movement dies

REMEMBER

Multiplication dies from good church habits, not from opposition.

THE SIX, AND THE BETTER WAY

1. Experts only	Only church leaders and trained experts may really lead. Better: a format an ordinary person can lead on day one.
2. Teaching only	Studies with no action step. Better: end with a real "what will you do this week".
3. Complication	Buildings, budgets, production. Better: as simple as homes in Acts.
4. Control	Holding on instead of releasing. Better: release as he sent the seventy-two.
5. Outside money	Waiting on foreign funds and direction. Better: use what is already local.
6. No follow-up	Nobody asks what came of the commitment. Better: ask weekly, never with shame.

None of what follows is a list of sins. That matters enough to say first, because everything on this list is something most of us were trained to do in ordinary church life, and trained to do with a clear conscience.

This is not criticism of anyone's church. It is a diagnosis, offered the way a doctor offers one — so you can catch it early.

Watch this chapter

NOTES

Multiplication dies quietly

We all want a nation full of disciples of Jesus. And still, even with the best intentions, certain habits quietly block the very multiplication we are praying for. None of the six feels like failure while you are doing it. Most of them feel like faithfulness. That is exactly what makes them dangerous.

The root underneath all six

Almost every one traces back to one root: control. We add, complicate, teach and stay too long because we trust ourselves more than we trust the Word and the Spirit.

That is not an insult. It is the most natural instinct a caring leader has. It just happens to be the one that quietly stops the chain.

Reflect and Discuss

1. Read the six again, slowly. Which one are you most tempted toward yourself? Write it.

2. Where does it show up in your own leadership? Write the specific behaviour, not the tendency.

3. Underneath most of the six is control. Write what you are actually afraid would happen if you stopped that behaviour.

4. "I will correct ____ in my own leadership, starting ____."

— DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

CoMission

Sent out two by two: the person of peace

Luke 10:1-11

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   How does Jesus send the seventy-two, and what kind of person are they to look for in each town?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   What fears keep you from going out like a lamb among wolves?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   Who will you pair up with this week, and which home or place will you visit together?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Who might be your person of peace — someone who welcomes you — and how will you find out this week?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *Jesus, you still send workers ahead of you. Send me out, and lead me to the person of peace you have already prepared.*

This study online

The same six, one living room at a time

REMEMBER

> The habits that kill a movement are practiced or prevented one living-room circle at a time.

THE MOVEMENT KILLER, IN ONE LIVING ROOM

Correct by asking, never by telling. "What did the group obey last week?" opens the door gently, and puts the diagnosis in their hands.

1. Teaching	Professionalising, in miniature — the facilitator turns the study into a mini-sermon, because that is what leading well was modelled to look like.
2. Materials	Over-complication, in miniature — a commentary added "just to help", a devotional slipped in alongside the passage.
3. The chair	Controlling leadership, in miniature — one person leading every week, because handing it off feels risky.
4. No reproduction	A group that has met faithfully for a year, loves each other deeply, and has never once helped a member start something new.

Zoom out far enough and a movement dies from professionalising the ministry, controlling leadership, dependence on outside money. Zoom back in, into an actual living room on an actual Tuesday night, and you find the same disease in smaller clothes. Nobody names it a movement problem in the moment. It just looks like one facilitator who talks a little too much.

Set the two lists side by side

The habits that kill a movement are practised or prevented one living-room circle at a time. Protect the DNA in the smallest unit and the movement inherits the protection.

Watch this chapter

NOTES

Why the small version matters more, not less

It is tempting to think of the living-room version as low-stakes — just one group, easily corrected later. The opposite is true. Every group that facilitator ever coaches learns its habits from watching this one. If professionalising is quietly modelled here, it is copied into the next generation of groups before anyone upstream notices a pattern.

Diagnose by asking, not by telling

The correction is never a lecture and never an accusation. *You're doing it wrong* closes a person down. *What did the group obey last week?* opens the same door gently — and it does something a lecture cannot: it puts the diagnosis in their hands instead of yours.

Reflect and Discuss

1. Think of one group you are close to right now. Which of the small-scale killers is quietly present in it?

2. Write the sharp correction you are tempted to say in your head — the one you would never say out loud.

3. Now write the question you will ask instead. Not a softer statement — an actual question.

4. **"I will ask ____ this question — not tell them this fix — on ____."**

DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

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The fellowship of believers

Acts 2:42-47

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   What four things did the first believers devote themselves to, and what did God do among them?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   Which mark of that first community do you long for most in your own group?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   What will you share with your group this week — time, food, possessions, prayer?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Who could you invite into this fellowship so they can see what God is doing?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *God, thank you for the first believers, who devoted themselves to the teaching, the fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayer. Make our group a family like that, and add to us those who are being saved.*

This study online

Counting generations

REMEMBER

Churches produce what they measure. Measure generations.

THE FOUR NUMBERS, AND WHICH ONE IS NEW

Report them publicly, with the same seriousness your church already gives attendance.

1. In a group	How many people are in a discovery group. You already know how to count this one — it looks like attendance.
2. Facilitating	How many are facilitating a group. Also familiar, and still a first-generation number.
3. Groups from groups	The one almost nobody tracks, and the one that changes everything. A church can have dozens of healthy groups and one generation.
4. Shared this month	Asked week over week, of every facilitator you coach. A different kind of asking than the first two require.

What does your church report on Sunday? Attendance, almost certainly. Maybe an offering total. Both numbers measure something real. Neither one tells you whether a single disciple you reached this year has gone on to reach someone else. You can grow those two numbers for a decade and still have exactly one generation.

Watch this chapter

NOTES

Churches produce what they measure

Attendance, budget and buildings measure gathering — how many people showed up and how well you paid for the room. Movements measure something else entirely: generations. And a church almost never starts counting generations by accident. Somebody has to decide to put a new number on the board.

Paul gave us the scoreboard nearly two thousand years ago. *What you have heard from me in the company of many witnesses, entrust to reliable individuals who will be able to teach others as well.* Count them: Paul, to Timothy, to faithful men, to others. Four generations, one verse.

Celebrate the group that started a group

When it happens, say so loudly and publicly — the same way you would announce a baptism. And notice what makes this celebration different from every other one your church has given: **you were not in the room when it happened.** That absence is the actual proof the method worked.

Reflect and Discuss

1. **Write what your church currently reports on a Sunday. All of it.**

2. **Over the last twelve months, how many groups you coach have started another group? Write the number, and the names.**

3. **Who will track the third number, and where will it be reported? Write the person and the place.**

4. **"I will start counting ____ generations, publicly, starting ____."**

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Four generations

2 Timothy 2:1-7

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   Count the generations in verse 2 — who passes the message to whom?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   Which generation are you in right now, and who is your Timothy?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   Which faithful person will you begin entrusting what you have learned to this week?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   How will you train that person not just to learn, but to teach others also?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *Father, let what I have received not stop with me. Help me entrust it to faithful people who will teach others also — four generations in one verse.*

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