

A Thriving Ministry: The Power of Small Groups

Exodus 18

November 13, 2022

Emphasis: When a church places a heavy emphasis on small groups, both the people and the congregation will thrive.

1. Small group ministry is *more effective* than staff-oriented ministry

References:

¹⁹ Now obey my voice; I will give you advice, and God be with you! You shall represent the people before God and bring their cases to God,
²⁰ and you shall warn them about the statutes and the laws, and make them know the way in which they must walk and what they must do.
²¹ Moreover, look for able men from all the people, men who fear God, who are trustworthy and hate a bribe, and place such men over the people as chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens. ²² And let them judge the people at all times. Every great matter they shall bring to you, but any small matter they shall decide themselves. **So it will be easier for you, and they will bear the burden with you. ²³ If you do this, God will direct you, you will be able to endure, and all this people also will go to their place in peace.**

-Exodus 18:19-23

¹⁹ ... You shall **represent the people before God and bring their cases to God,** ²⁰ and you shall warn them about the statutes and the laws, and make them know the way in which they must walk and what they must do.

-Exodus 18:19-20

Every great matter they shall bring to you, but any small matter they shall decide themselves.

-Exodus 18:22

²...It is not right that we should give up preaching the word to serve tables. ³ Therefore brothers pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴ But we will devote ourselves to prayer and the ministry of the word.

-Acts 6:2-4

²¹ Moreover, look for able men from all the people, men who fear God, who are trustworthy and hate a bribe, and place such men over the people as chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens. ²² And let them judge the people at all times. Every great matter they shall bring to you, but any small matter they shall decide themselves. So it will be easier for you, and they will bear the burden with you. ²³ If you do this, God will direct you, you will be able to endure, and all this people also will go to their place in peace.

-Exodus 18:21-23

²³ If you do this, God will direct you, you will be able to endure, and all this people also will go to their place in peace.

-Exodus 18:23

2. Small group ministry is *healthier* than staff-oriented ministry

References:

¹³ *The next day Moses sat to judge the people, and the people stood around Moses from morning till evening.*

-Exodus 18:13

¹⁷ *Moses' father-in-law said to him, "What you are doing is not good.*
¹⁸ *You and the people with you will certainly wear yourselves out, for the thing is too heavy for you. You are not able to do it alone.*

-Exodus 18:17-18

¹⁴ *And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.*

-1 Thessalonians 5:14

3. Small group ministry must be *intentional*

References:

²⁴ *So Moses listened to the voice of his father-in-law and did all that he had said.*

-Exodus 18:24

²⁵ *Moses chose able men out of all Israel and made them heads over the people, chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens.* ²⁶ *And*

they judged the people at all times. Any hard case they brought to Moses, but any small matter they decided themselves.

-Exodus 18:25-26

² *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

-Romans 12:2

³² *Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul...*

-Acts 4:31

⁴⁶ *And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes...*

-Acts 2:46

Conclusion and Application:

- **Question:** Will you commit to a small group ministry philosophy so that our church can become healthier and experience more effective congregational care?