

Small Groups, Big Impact
**Small Group Leader
Report**

Your Small Groups, Big Impact Report

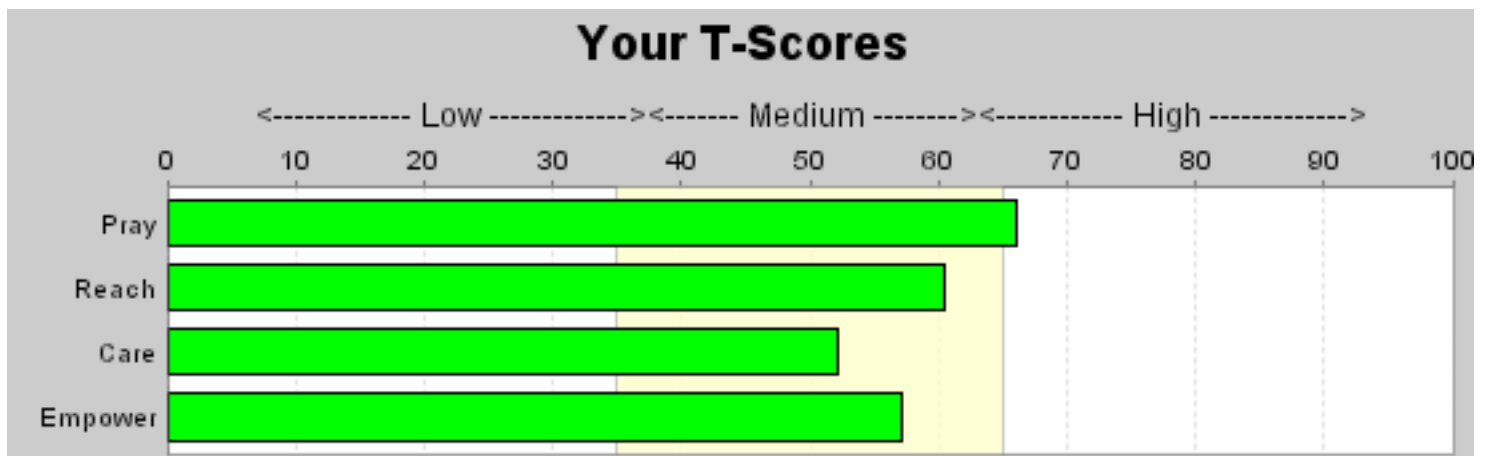
The *Small Groups, Big Impact* (SGBI) Leadership Assessment is designed to measure the strength of your small group leadership and how your group is doing in key areas. Its goal is to help you see strengths and weaknesses so that you can make adjustments and lead a thriving, growing group.

The extensive research behind the SGBI Assessment probed hundreds of different items to discover the elements needed for healthy small group growth. Using careful statistical analysis involving data from thousands of small groups in hundreds of churches, four underlying factors emerged as the keys to small group health and growth.

These four factors are identified by the four action verbs *Pray*, *Reach*, *Care*, and *Empower*. Explanations of each of these factors is given below. The scales for these four factors show how you and your group are doing in comparison to other leaders and groups around the world. If your score is 50 on a given scale, you are average. If your score is above 50, you are doing better than average. If your score is below 50, you are weaker than others on that particular factor.

Don't be discouraged by one (or several!) low scores. These merely reveal untapped potential - areas where you can make adjustments to have an even better group. Our prayer is that this assessment and your thoughtful reflection on the four key areas will help you be an even better group leader. We want all our small groups to make a big impact for Christ's kingdom!

Your SGBI Assessment Results



The following four sections are designed to help you get the most out of your SGBI assessment so that you can lead the best group possible. The four sections are:

Understand the Four Small Group Health Factors

An explanation of the four small group health scales and what impacts each one.

Respond to Your SGBI Scores

A few simple questions to get you processing your own scores.

Our Suggestions for You and Your Group

This section gives you personalized suggestions based on your specific strength and weakness.

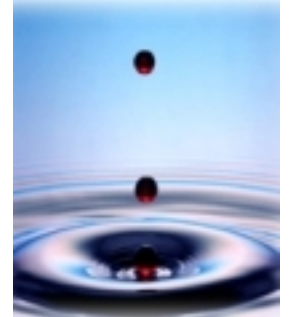
Your Action Plan

Questions to help you shape a simple action plan for improving your leadership and your group.

Understand the Four Small Group Health Factors

The paragraphs below give you a quick overview of the four small group health factors along with suggestions for improving each one. For an in depth understanding of each of the factors and how they cultivate small group growth, we recommend that you read the book:

Small Groups, Big Impact



(Publication pending.)

Pray

This factor measures your prayer and devotional life as a leader. The research reveals that leaders with a strong prayer life see considerably more people visit their group and more people brought to Christ through the influence of their group. To grow in prayer consistently take time to get close to God. As you do this, take some of this time to pray for the salvation of your unbelieving friends and family members. Also remember to lift up to God your small group members and their needs, and invite God to work in a special way in your group meetings.

Reach

This factor measures a group's active desire to see others come to Christ. Groups high in outreach see eight times as many people come to Christ through the influence of their group and its members than groups weak in outreach. Many items contribute to a group's outreach focus, but the most important one is simply encouraging your members to spend time with unbelievers in order to build friendships and lovingly share Christ with them. As they do this, remind them to invite their seeking friends to your small group and to special events of your group or your church. A group's outreach also increases when members are consistently praying for their unbelieving friends, and when the group leader is modeling a lifestyle of relational evangelism.

Care

This factor measures how caring and close relationships are within your group. Groups high in this factor see considerably more people join their group. Loving relationships emerge in a group when the leader and other core members choose to grow in their care and friendships with other members. Fun group activities, caring prayer support between members, and sharing meals together also help group members grow in practical love for one another. Some uninformed people think that relationships will go deeper in a "closed group" that doesn't reach out to new people. On the contrary, however, the research reveals just the opposite - that members in groups with a clear outward focus on the unchurched actually experience closer relationships with one another as they fulfill their God-given mission.

Empower

This factor measures the extent to which you as a leader are looking for and encouraging the leadership potential of others. Groups with empowering leaders see more new leaders and new groups emerge from their groups than groups weak in this factor. To improve your group's health on this measure, ask God to open your eyes to the potential of every member. Then encourage each person's gifts and increasingly involve them in ministry and leadership within the group. As you do this, encourage as many members as possible to consider becoming leaders themselves and have them take small group leadership training. On the other hand, groups that score low on this measure are ones where the leader does everything by himself or herself.

Respond to Your SGBI Scores

This section is designed to help you begin to reflect on the health of your group and your SGBI Assessment results. In the section following this one we'll give you specific suggestions based on your own scores, but more important than our suggestions are your own conclusions and ideas. Perhaps this assessment simply reinforces what you were already sensing about your leadership and group strengths and areas for growth. Or, maybe you found some surprises. Either way, we hope you have new clarity as you pray, discuss, and discern the next steps to leading a vibrant group.

We encourage you to prayerful and thoughtfully reflect on where your group is and where God would like it to go. The questions and suggestions below are starting points for you to consider as you seek God's best for your group.

Who are one or two people with whom it might be helpful to process your SGBI assessment?

Do you feel like the SGBI assessment scores accurately express the strengths and weaknesses of your leadership and your group? Why or why not?

Our Suggestions for You and Your Group

High *Pray* / Low *Care*

Your highest score was *Pray*, the factor measuring your personal prayer life, and your lowest score was *Care* which measures how close and caring the relationships within your group are. We suggest that you leverage your strength in prayer to improve the level of care within your group. Start by personally praying for your group members to grow in their love for and friendship with one another. Ask God to deepen the level of support that members offer one another in their personal struggles and in times of needs. In the weeks and months ahead plan group events where members can have fun together and share life in enjoyable and meaningful ways. Food is often an important element in relationships. So be sure to plan parties, cookouts or potlucks where you can grow in friendship with each other and also invite new people who need relationship with Christ and his community. To deepen the level of care and trust in your group, consider using one or more of the following excellent resources:

ReGroup: Training Groups to be Groups



This video (DVD) will help impart fresh vision and skills for vibrant and caring group life; available at: <http://www.willowcreek.com/grouplife/prod.asp?invtid=PR30286>

Network



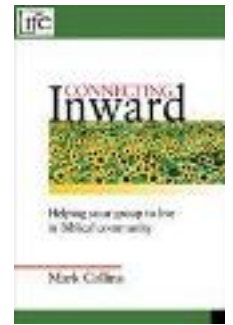
A great resource for discovering spiritual gifts and empowering people for ministry. Learn more about this kit at http://www.willowcreek.com/wca_prod.asp?invtid=PR26038&f=x.

What If... Our Small Group Made a Difference in Our Lives



Find it at: http://www.smallgroupexchange.com/Store/Adult_Small_Groups/2866/What_If__with_Alan_Danielson/xcid=1001.

Connecting Inward: Helping Your Group to Live in Biblical Community



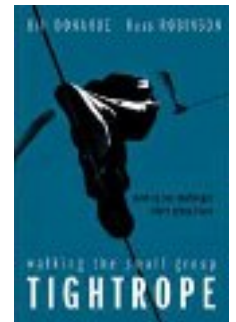
Pursuing Spiritual Transformation: Groups

A small group study on community: http://www.willowcreek.com/wca_prod.asp?invtid=PR13514.



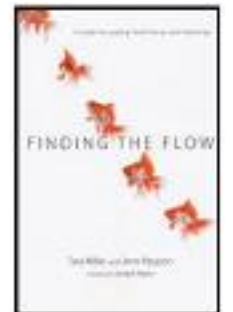
Walking the Small Group Tightrope: Meeting the Challenges Every Group Faces

A good resource on managing priorities and people in small groups:
http://www.willowcreek.com/wca_prod.asp?invtid=PR23106.



Finding the Flow: A Guide for Leading Small Groups

To develop leader skills rather than giving out to-do's:
http://www.christianbook.com/Christian/Books/product?item_no=810949.



Your Action Plans

What do you see as the next steps for improving your leadership and the health of your small group?

What help or resources do you need to help you put these plans into action?

Who do you need to talk to or pray with in order to receive the ideas, encouragement and support that you need? When do you plan to meet with them?