

## Small Group Mechanics

1. Hillside small groups will begin with a leader(s) and 6-12 members.
2. It's suggested that each group will begin with the Hillside starter material.
3. Members commit to the group for 12-18 months (depending on the preference). At the end of the time period, discuss changes and give members an "out."
4. Leaders should see themselves, not simply as a Bible study leader or "one-man-show" but as an equipper, as people grow best when they actively participate in ministry.
5. Members of small groups should see themselves, not as consumers, but active participants – filling needed roles in the small group. Some possible roles:
  - a. Discussion leader (can be shared)
  - b. Prayer director/facilitator
  - c. Communication with group members outside of group
  - d. Outreach planner
  - e. Special events or social planner
  - f. Food/hospitality coordinator
  - g. Other
6. An important part of a Hillside small group is outreach. Each group should be actively, regularly serving in the community and looking for opportunities to share with unbelievers and even add them to your group. This may mean giving to worthy causes, but also physically getting out into the community.
7. Each group should be careful, but intentional about adding people to your group, keeping in mind:
  - a. If a group becomes too large (14 or more), it becomes less effective.
  - b. If people are added too fast, intimacy takes a step back.
  - c. If the same group meets for too long, without some change, there's a tendency to stagnate.
8. Small group leaders, should identify a person or persons they feel are suited to lead another group. Train them by:
  - a. Talking with them about training to become a small group leader in the future.
  - b. Investing time, helping them understand the job of being a small group leader.
  - c. Encourage them by affirming their gifts.
  - d. Helping them by observing them in action and giving helpful feedback.
  - e. Challenging them in their walk with the Lord.
9. Small groups are "practicing communities" that challenge people to live out faith daily by staying in touch during the week, praying for each other, encouraging one another, and challenging each other. Helping each other become more Christ-like is the goal of Hillside small groups.