

# The Shocking Truth About Small Group Growth (Hint: It's Not About Your Killer Lesson Plan)

Ever feel like you're pulling an all-nighter prepping for your small group, only to have it fall flat? Like you're crafting this amazing lesson, the perfect blend of insightful commentary and thought-provoking questions, but something's still missing?

Yeah, we've been there too.

My friend Andrew Poe and I, we were on a mission to crack the code of small group growth. We surveyed leaders, analyzed data, and basically became small group ninjas, observing groups in their natural habitat. And what we discovered? Well, it totally blew our minds.

## The Prep Myth

Turns out, the amount of time leaders spent prepping their lessons had **zero** impact on the group's growth. Yep, you heard that right. Zero. Zip. Nada. Those meticulously crafted notes? The hours spent agonizing over the perfect icebreaker? Didn't matter.

## The Secret Weapon

So, what was the difference-maker? What was the secret sauce that separated the thriving groups from the ones that fizzled?

Prayer.

The leaders who consistently prayed for their group members, who brought their meetings before God, those were the groups that exploded with growth. It was like this unseen force, this spiritual fertilizer, was making everything flourish.

## Why Prayer Packs a Punch

Jesus put it best: "Apart from me, you can do nothing." (John 15:5). Think of it like a vine and branches. We, as leaders, are the branches. And prayer? That's how we stay connected to the vine, to Jesus, the source of life and power.

When we pray, we tap into that power. We invite God's presence into our groups, and that's where the real transformation happens.

## Ditch the Prep Frenzy, Embrace the Prayer Power

Ready to unleash the power of prayer in your small group? Here's the game plan:

- **Flip the Script:** Less time stressing over lesson plans, more time on your knees. Make prayer the main event, not an afterthought.
- **Pray Like Jesus:** Remember the Lord's Prayer? Use it as a guide. Pray for your group members' needs, their struggles, their families.
- **Go Bold:** Don't hold back. Bring those deep needs before God. He loves to move mountains!
- **Stay Focused:** Use prayer cards, apps, or whatever works for you to stay on track and pray specifically.
- **Pray Together:** Encourage your group to pray for each other. It builds unity and creates a spiritual powerhouse.

Look, we're not saying ditch the lesson prep altogether. But let's be real, a perfectly planned meeting can't hold a candle to the power of prayer. So, let's shift our focus, unleash the unseen powerhouse, and watch our small groups come alive!

