

WCI:Small Group - Participant Guide

Form Your Group

WCI:Small Group is conducted like a traditional christian education experience over sixteen weekly sessions. The invitation is open to any who want to participate. If the group starts to get more than ten participants you may want to consider running multiple sessions

Each group will need to designate a lay convener. This person will be responsible for the process along with the pastor. They should work in partnership.

Our Lay Convener

Name	Email	Phone Number

Meeting Schedule

Each weekly meeting is scheduled to last about 90 minutes. They will follow the same basic format throughout the sixteen weeks. You will be guided by a series of booklets and videos. Everyone will need copies of *WCI Core Process* and *Whole Discipleship*. The group leaders will need copies of *Wesleyan Small Group*, *Spiritual Formation Booklet*, and *Creating Next Steps*.

Basic Meeting Format

- Wesleyan Small Group Questions
- Weekly Activity
- Prayer Partners
- Closing

Weeks 1-4

Theme: Gather & Pray

Resource: Wesleyan Small Group booklet.

1. Introductions & Establishing a Covenant
2. Spiritual Formation Activities
3. Establish Prayer Partners
4. Spiritual Formation Activities (Discuss optional spiritual gifts assessment, listed on page 2)

Weeks 5-9

Theme: Learn & Imagine

Resource: WCI Core Process Booklet & Videos

5. The Church Today
6. Mission of the Church
7. What Are We Doing ?! (Pre-Reading: Monographs by Gil Rendle, listed on page 2)
8. Environmental Protection
9. Faith Sharing.

Weeks 10-15

Theme: Learn & Imagine (cont)

Resource: Whole Discipleship Workbook

10. Introduction & Part 1: Crafting a Definition
11. Part 2: Discipleship Guides
12. Part 3: Wesleyan Small Groups

- 13. Part 4: Local Ministries of Mercy & Justice
- 14. Part 5: Core Practices
- 15. Part 6: On Ramps & Conclusion

Week 16

Theme: Act & Reflect

Resource: Creating Next Steps

- 16. Part 1: Nudge Nudge & Part 2: What's Next? (Consider booklets listed on page 3)

Articles & Optional Books

Monographs by Gil Rendle (Download: www.wholechurch.org/participant-area/learn-imagine/):

- *Three Essential Types of Leadership Conversations*
- *Getting to the Why: Turning Intentions Into Outcomes*
- *Counts, Measures and Conversations: Using Metrics for Fruitfulness*

Two books are utilized in the WCI:Full Strength process you may consider adding to your process.

- *Adapt to Thrive*, by John Flowers and Karen Vannoy.
- *Transforming Evangelism*, by Henry H Knight III and F. Douglas Powe Jr.

Additional Options

Readiness 360 Survey

You may participate in the Readiness 360 survey as part of the WCI:Small Group if you wish. Visit <http://www.wholechurch.org/participant-area/learn-imagine/> to download the Readiness 360 Launch Guide. You should identify one or two people responsible for following the guide and deploying the survey. (About Readiness 360: readiness360.org)

Celebration Day

Around week nine you may want to have a celebration day event. This is a time for all people from your church to gather and hear about what you are learning. It is best to have a meal and table conversation where people commingle at tables. Ahead of time, invite members of the WCI group to share responses to the following:

- What is the most exciting thing you've learned as part of this process?
- How is your team growing in discipleship through the process?

As tables, ask people to reflect on the following questions:

- When where you most proud to be part of your church?
- What most excites you about your church's future? What most worries you?

Date	Location

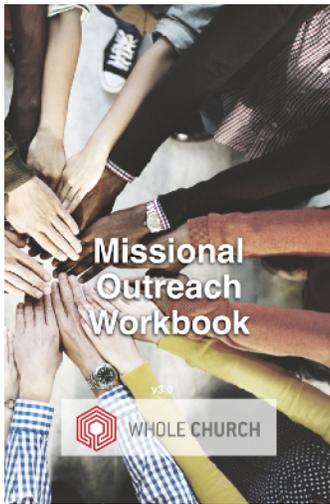
Spiritual Gifts

During the Gather & Pray phase each person should complete the Spiritual Gifts assessment. Discuss the assessment during one of your sessions. What surprised you? What do you feel called to do in response? *Online Assessment:* <http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/exploring-your-spiritual-gifts>

Group Multiplication

Being part of the WCI process should lead to action. The intention is for participants to feel empowered and equipped to lead change in their church and community. It is very likely that individuals will feel pulled in different directions. That is good! What it means is that it is time for your team to multiply.

WCI Related Booklets

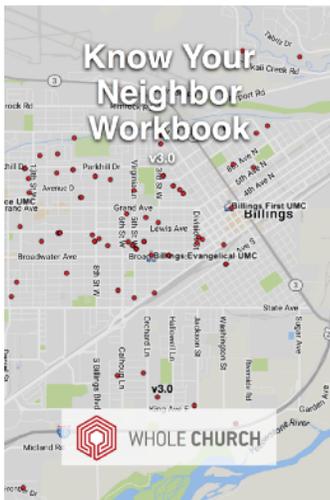


<http://www.wholechurch.org/resources/missional-outreach/>

Every follower of Jesus has the inescapable call to participate in works of mercy and justice. This call predates Jesus' earthly ministry and is expressed clearly in the following passage from the prophet Micah:

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8, NIV)

You cannot call yourself a Christian and ignore suffering or injustice. Participating in acts of mercy and justice are as much a part of discipleship as are worship and prayer. Unfortunately, in many churches today, what passes for ministries of mercy and justice (often called "missions") is the collecting and sending of small sums of money. However, mission is much more than money. In Matthew 25, Jesus personalized our call to acts of mercy and justice by saying when we reach out to others, we are reaching out to him. Do we want to encounter Jesus from afar or up close and personal?



<http://www.wholechurch.org/resources/know-your-neighbor/>

The mission field for the contemporary church is no longer a far-off place. It is no longer sufficient to call and send missionaries to bring good news to people an ocean away. Every neighborhood, city, or town is now a mission field. In the United States, following the same path as Western Europe, more and more people are being born, raised, and moving into adulthood never having participated in Christian community. More and more people, soon to be a majority, have never attended worship, Sunday school, or church camp.

At the same time our existing congregations are becoming more disconnected from their communities. How many committed laypeople have strong relationships with those outside of their church circles? We have become cut off to the point that we do not even know who is in our communities.

Better understanding your community is a required step for any congregation seeking to better live out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Oftentimes it is not what we are saying but how we are saying it that causes our outreach efforts to fall flat. Like in Acts 2, our job is to translate the message of the good news into a language our neighborhood can hear.