

DEFINING THE WIN FOR YOUR SMALL GROUPS

Are your small groups stuck in molasses—they're not growing the way you'd hoped, but you don't know why? The solution may be as simple as "defining the win" for them. It means that everyone involved understands your goals.

So how do you do that? First ask yourself, and your adult leaders, what a *great* small group "looks like." Have you unconsciously defined your "win" too narrowly? For example, maybe a win for you happens only when your small group kids have a breakthrough moment where God's Word comes alive for them. Of course, those moments can

be rare because we're in the seed-planting business. A better win for your ministry might be helping your small group kids start to articulate their faith in an environment saturated with caring adults. That's a major win for a small group.

A win in your small group ministry can be as simple as:

- Pairing caring adults with teenagers.
- Trusting the Holy Spirit that more is sinking in than meets the eye.
- Seeing kids coming back for more.

■ Asking (not answering) questions that cause teenagers to consider God's perspective.

■ Knowing your kids were loved and not manipulated.

■ Looking a teenager in the eye and simply listening as long as he needs to talk.

■ Establishing a climate of honesty in the group.

The win for your small groups may vary from group to group. But as long as you know what success looks like, you'll find it more often. ■