



To Build Or Not to Build Your Class or Group

24 Important Things to Consider

By Conrad Barrett

If you really want to grow your class or group there are certain things you must do, otherwise your group will begin to reduce itself and you may not understand why. In life and especially in leadership the results of “do’s” and “don’ts” become obvious. The law of sowing and reaping is very noticeable in churches.

Good people are sometimes frustrated because they do not see growth in their Christian efforts. Nowhere is this more commonplace than in the area of leadership. Sometimes good teachers and leaders become discouraged because the level of work, which they do, does not result in the amount of return, which they expect. This information will help the leader or teacher focus on specific areas where growth or failure is made.

12 WAYS TO GROW YOUR CLASS OR GROUP

1. Have a desire to see it grow. No growth will happen unless you desire it.
2. Have a love for all the people whom you lead or teach. People are individuals and anyone can sense whether he or she is liked or not. Sometimes ways and not words communicate this best. Remember all people are sensitive and how they feel about you and your group will determine whether they stay or leave you.
3. Prepare for the task. People know when the leader is prepared. Nothing will retard or kill your group faster than standing before them unprepared. Prepare the heart and mind to teach or lead. Only the Holy Spirit can make Christians work effective. The flesh at its best will always be inadequate. A prepared heart is a praying heart and there can never be a substitute for prayer. Jesus is ready to help the humble and obedient heart. Never fail to inquire of the Lord. A prepared mind is one that has studied and knows the material well. It is obvious to everyone when such preparation has been done.
4. Treat all your people with equal respect. They deserve it and know when you make a difference in them. Mistreated class members will usually leave the class and that loss will probably be forever.
5. Never suggest by work or actions that you are better than anyone else. While there are differences that make us all delightfully unique they should never be exploited to the point of making us feel that we are better or worse than someone else.

6. Make and keep an up-to-date roster of your class or group. Include addresses and phone numbers. Don't share this list with anyone who would exploit it for reasons other than for class building. Remember that list is made up of people to whom God has allowed you to minister. Treat it respectfully.

7. Call your absentees and keep in touch with them as much as possible. Let them know that they are missed. Know as much as possible about people without being nosy. **Keep it confidential.**

8. Help your group or class in whatever way you can, especially when they are ill or sustain special needs.

9. Welcome all visitors. They can become a regular part of your group. If you grow you must have visitors and visitors must be made to feel at home in your class or group.

Encourage your people to help grow your group by asking them to get involved by inviting others. It will be amazing to see the amount of growth when people work together.

10. A great leader is also a great follower, and will work with other leaders and other church groups to help build the work of the Lord.

11. Never be a party to gossip or malicious talk. The Bible warns against these things.

12. Always be faithful to your group or class by attending it regularly. The leader who comes and goes at will and does not attend his or her class regularly will see a noticeable decline in attendance. Many classes suffer because leadership cannot be depended on, and the result is usually disastrous.

12 WAYS TO SHRINK YOUR GROUP

1. Show little or no interest in your people as a group or as individuals.
2. Don't prepare for your lesson or for whatever you plan to do. Just show up and a disaster will probably happen.
3. Arrive late. This has a tremendously bad influence on a group especially if you do it often. Most people are on time.
4. Don't organize yourself or your materials. Confusion will certainly follow this type of thing.
5. Develop "cliques" among the group. Nothing is more confusing or devastating for a group.

6. Blame others for your shortcomings. A critical spirit can kill your influence quickly. Be bossy and watch your class leave you. Criticism usually creates a problem and is seldom a blessing.
7. Be lazy. The Bible speaks to the lazy. They are usually fruitless and miserable and can make others frustrated and miserable. No lasting good comes to the lazy.
8. Spend good time and energy talking about you. People can be bored easily when the leader speaks too often about himself (herself). This can hinder attendance.
9. Don't call your absentees. Soon they will assume you don't really care and will gradually drift away.
10. Don't pray for your group. They sense it when you do or don't.
11. Show interest only in what you do and not in the work of others.
12. Attend only the things you are a part of. Never spend time with other church ministries.

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