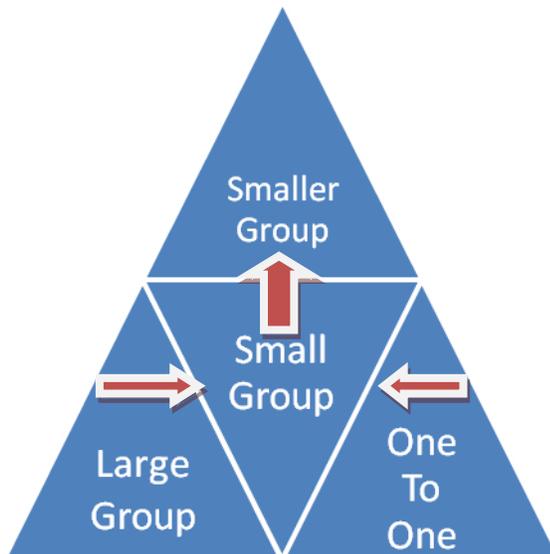




## Ministry Can Be Simple

By Pastor Jeff



The longer I serve as a pastor the more I am convinced that for ministry to be effective it must be simple. In our annual church family meeting this past January, we spent a few minutes looking at the four ministry spheres that the Lord Jesus served in while here on earth. Because Jesus' simple ministry plan is so essential for your spiritual growth, joy and power, I want to review Jesus' four spheres of ministry.

**Large Group** – A casual reading of the gospels show that the Lord Jesus was a master communicator, ministering to large groups. Thousands flocked to Jesus to hear His teaching. For example, in Mark 4: 1 we read, “He began to teach again by the sea. And such a very large crowd gathered to Him that He got into a boat in the sea and sat down; and the whole crowd was by the sea on the land.

**Our parallel** to large group ministry is, of course, our Sunday morning worship service. When we gather we come with excitement and expectation to meet God through His word, the worship, and the fellowship.

**One on One** – As busy and as important as Jesus was, He always made time for the individual in need.

He spoke one on one to any who needed the gospel (See John 3, 4, 5, 9) or were in need of encouragement (John 11).

**Our Parallel** is that each of us must minister one on one to those in need of evangelism or encouragement. Each of us can have a powerful personal ministry.

**Small Group Discipleship** – Think about the importance of small group ministry in light of this fact:

*Jesus, the greatest preacher and the most component personal worker who ever lived used a small group to disciple the apostles.*

We read in Mark 3:14, “And He appointed twelve, so that they would be with Him and that He could send them out to preach,” The 12 were the first Christian discipleship group.

**Our Parallel** – Now if the Lord Jesus used a small group as his method of choice for making disciples, do we think that we can do better with our human methods? Following Jesus' model, we must make our small group ministry the very best it can be. Small groups are not an appendage or a luxury to the church and your Christian life. They are the very foundation for your fellowship, prayer, and spiritual growth.

**Smaller Groups** – As impactful as the small group of 12 was in developing the apostles as disciples, we often see Jesus taking Peter, James and John aside in a smaller group for deeper instruction (Mark 5, 9, 14). They became the leaders of the apostles.

**Our Parallel** – That practice tells us that it is critical to break out the leaders for more specific and in-depth instruction. We have begun doing this with our current leadership team.

**Conclusion** – My dear ones, please join me in helping to implement a simple and effective ministry that follows Jesus' pattern! In the months to come, our newsletter will help your involvement in each of the four spheres. But for now simply ask yourself, “Do I treat any aspect of our church ministry in a casual way?” “How can I reprioritize so as to more fully be evolved in this simple but life changing ministry of Mountain View Bible Church?”