

# CONNECTING ADULTS *into* Groups

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## | NOTES

### INTRODUCTION

Within a small groups ministry, one of the biggest questions that needs to be answered is, “How will people get into groups?” We’re constantly asking ourselves this question and trying to learn from our experience as well as from our attendees. In this breakout, we’ll discuss what drives our connection strategies and the methods we employ to connect people into community.

### I. OUR BELIEFS ABOUT CONNECTION HIGHLIGHT A TENSION.

- A. We believe that in order to grow spiritually, you need to be \_\_\_\_\_ relationally.
- B. Connecting into intentional community is \_\_\_\_\_ for many people.
- C. The church has an opportunity to create systems and environments that help people connect.

### II. THE PRIMARY WAY WE ADDRESS THIS TENSION IS GROUPLINK.

- A. GroupLink is an event that allows people to connect with others in their same stage of life and area of town to form Community Groups.
- B. We strategically position GroupLink events in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ based on the rhythm of our culture.
- C. GroupLink offers a solution to a challenge we have not found another way to solve well.
  - 1. GroupLink enables connection for everyone regardless of \_\_\_\_\_ availability.

2. Groups that form without leaders are called Formative Groups.
3. Groups Directors walk alongside each group to help identify a leader.

### III. SHORT-TERM GROUPS ADDRESS ANOTHER AUDIENCE.

- A. Short-Term Groups were created as bridges to long-term community.
- B. These groups meet for six to eight weeks around a specific \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. We launch groups at strategic intervals throughout the year for people that are hesitant to join long-term groups.
- D. We connect people \_\_\_\_\_ instead of at an event.
- E. We offer a limited number of topics:
  1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_
  4. \_\_\_\_\_
  5. \_\_\_\_\_
- F. We've experimented with two formats:
  1. Traditional small groups
  2. \_\_\_\_\_ gatherings

## IV. WE GENERATE INTEREST THROUGH MANY CHANNELS.

A. Andy inspires our attendees to connect through an annual \_\_\_\_\_ message.

B. Series websites \_\_\_\_\_ the importance of community.

C. We utilize numerous channels to augment our marketing:

1. Bulletins
2. Announcements
3. Videos
4. Social Media
5. Lobby Presence

## CONCLUSION

There is no single best way to connect people into small groups. The most effective connection methods will be based on your individual model, culture, and the desires of your attendees.

## RECOMMENDED RESOURCES:

*GroupLink Starter Kit* – North Point Resources  
[insidegrouplife.org](http://insidegrouplife.org)

[groupresources.org](http://groupresources.org)

[northpoint.org/grouplink](http://northpoint.org/grouplink)

[tinyurl.com/grplnk](http://tinyurl.com/grplnk) (for GroupLink resources)

*Creating Community* by Bill Willits and Andy Stanley

*Community: Starting Well Small Group Study* – North Point Resources

*Casting Vision for Groups* (Sermon Kit with 3 Messages) – Andy Stanley