



TOP TEN REASONS NOT(?) TO BIRTH A NEW GROUP GROUPWORDS

One of the best ways for a Small Group Ministry to expand and grow is for existing groups to “birth” new groups. But this can be difficult. In fact, the term “birth” has been carefully chosen over the terms “split” or “divide” because of the negative overtones connected with these terms.

Nevertheless, birthing a new group, however important, is often difficult. Why? Here are the top 10 (not so serious) reasons Not to give birth to a new group.

TOP 10 REASONS FOR A SMALL GROUP TO NOT “BIRTH”

- #10 “We already have 20 adults and 24 children ... and you want us to do what?”
- #9 “Our assistant leader hasn't finished his PhD”
- #8 “Thirty people is such a comfortable size”
- #7 “Isn't “birthing” just a nice word for “splitting?””
- #6 “We have just now found a way for eighteen cars to park in our cove”
- #5 “I like having a lot of people in our group ... I don't have to talk”
- #4 “We're going for a Guinness record: *World's Largest ... Small Group*”
- #3 “Why “birth” when we can just add on to our house?”
- #2 “It's hard to find an OB/GYN that our group can agree on.”
- #1 “Whenever we start talking about birthing, all the men pass out.”

Seriously, it is difficult to spend time with a small group, to see it grow larger and then take the next step of planting a new group. Comfort ... friendship ... routine ... habit ... these are some of the issues that make it difficult to “birth” a new group. But isn't “difficulty” always a part of growing? As one writer put it:

“Anything valuable — will be expensive”

There is no avoiding the loss of intimacy as a group grows larger. As some point the “small” group is no longer small, and what gave us our deepest memories of close friendship are being infringed upon by size.

So yes — it is “expensive” to have a Small Group Ministry. And part of the cost of maintaining the intimacy of a Small Group is for the Large Group to take the experience and leadership they have gained and plant a new “Small” Group. It's certainly worth thinking and praying about.