



PERSONALIZE THE SMALL GROUP PLAN GROUPWORDS

In their book, **Building a Church of Small Groups**, Donahue and Robinson write:

*Jesus never said, “All power in heaven and earth has been given to me.
Go therefore into all the world and complete the curriculum.”*

They’re right. As the Gospel has traveled throughout the world it has followed many different styles and has been translated into and expressed in many different languages. There have been both simple and detailed explanations of God’s work in human life. And just as we all have the same set of “**ultimate needs**” (joy, meaning, forgiveness, purpose, etc.) our “**felt needs**” are as individual as our fingerprints.

The same can be said for each individual small group.

I write a Small Group Plan each week. It has:

- An Introduction
- A Biblical Text
- Three Sections
 1. Open It / Introduce It
 2. Look At It / Study It
 3. Use It / Apply It
- Twelve To Fifteen Discussion Questions

That’s the “curriculum” I provide. If your group uses another published curriculum it will look very similar. But remember, my Small Group Plan or any discussion plan is aimed at the average Small Group, at the basic set of “**ultimate needs**” for the typical group. Don’t feel like you have to ask all the questions or follow the plan exactly as it is written. Personalize it. Use the distinctive “**felt needs**” of your group and make the Small Group Plan better. Give it the personality of your group as only you know.

- Don’t ask all the questions
- Change the questions
- Prepare additional questions
- Create new, spontaneous questions during the group meeting
- Use your own language or the language of your group
- And most important ... send me all your improvements so I can also benefit from your creativity !!