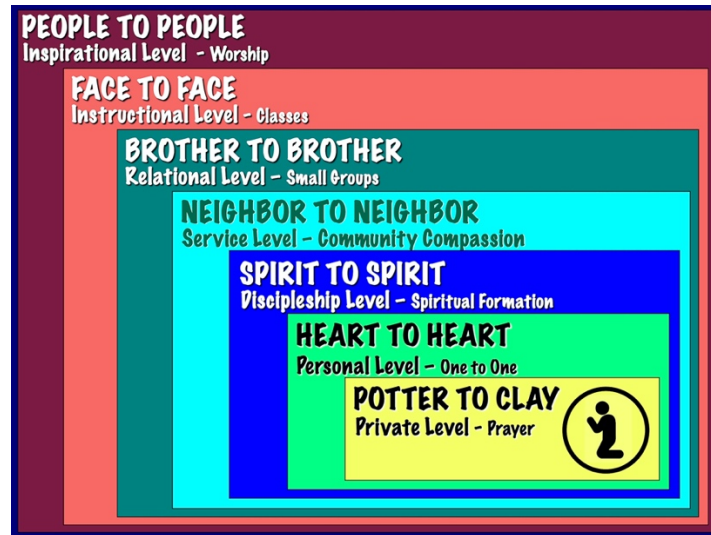




SMALL GROUPS IN ACTION GROUPWORDS

The small group experience is only one of several levels of Christian relationships. Picture yourself engaged on all seven of these levels —



Most “church members” will experience the first level, the largest gathering, corporate worship, “*People to People.*” Many will also experience the second largest level of fellowship and instruction that usually takes place in Sunday morning classrooms, “*Face to Face.*”

But as the levels of spiritual relationship become smaller, closer and more intimate — “*Brother ... Neighbor ... Spirit ... Heart ... Potter*” often there is a drop in involvement. Fewer Christians know the joy and the power of being in a group that is small enough that they are truly known, heard, appreciated and helped.

Mark 3:13-14

*Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him **those he wanted**, and they came to him. He appointed twelve designating them apostles that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach.*

Mark 9:30

*They left that place and passed through Galilee. **Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were**, because he was teaching his disciples.*

When Jesus arrived he did not begin the way movements usually do today. He did not plan an advertising campaign. He did not write a best seller and launch a multi-city speaking tour. He did not seek an audience with political leaders. No — he landed, immediately chose a small group and began to pour his life into those Twelve men. And even within the Twelve he focused on an even smaller group of three. Read through the gospels and see Jesus involved in every level of relationship.

Our challenge is to find our place within all the levels of spiritual relationships that we see in the life of Jesus and in the early church.